

Sample Letters for Castle Rock

(v 1) For letters to the Council, or its individual members

Dear _____ (or) Gentlemen:

I write to express my concern and objections to the recently adopted policy of beginning the Town Council's public meetings with prayers spoken by members of the local clergy.

While it is commendable that Council members seek inspiration from a higher power to improve their deliberations and decisions on behalf of the Town's residents, I believe it is inappropriate to mix the Council's secular town business with religious prayers. Might not prayers, if you believe you need and want them, be performed in a separate room before the public meeting begins? Or meetings might begin with a moment of silence, to be used for prayer, or to organize one's thoughts, or for any other purpose.

A public prayer from one faith or sect both gives the impression that town government has an official (or established) religion, and that residents professing that faith are considered first-class citizens, while others of different beliefs, or no religious beliefs, are considered second class. These may ask if their business before the Council will be considered as fairly as that of the "first class" citizens.

I hope that a change in policy, as I have suggested, will prevent feelings on the part of some town residents that the Council has gone beyond its proper secular functions to enter into the realm of religious expression.

Sincerely