

From: [Adam Benefield](#)
To: [Melissa Cranford](#)
Cc: [Shane Saum](#); [Charles West](#); [Brad Bullock](#); [Art Rodriguez](#); [Lindsay Askew](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Notice of Special Meeting - Name Clearing Hearing
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 12:36:25 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Outlook-pzziannj.png](#)

Ms. Cranford,

Thank you for your February 18, 2026 letter. Before I can confirm my availability for the tentatively scheduled special meeting on Monday, March 2, 2026 (which I understand is currently being set for 6:30 p.m.), I need clarification on the scope of the proceeding and confirmation of the procedural rights that will apply.

1. Right to Counsel / Representation:

Your letter states that I “may appear and present any evidence” I believe relevant. Please confirm that I may have legal counsel present and participate on my behalf, including during any portion of the meeting conducted in executive session.

2. Nature and Scope of the March 2 Proceeding:

Please confirm whether the March 2 meeting is intended to be:

- **(a)** a preliminary proceeding limited to the Council’s initial consideration of whether the pending sworn complaint(s) allege grounds for removal and warrant a later evidentiary hearing; or
- **(b)** a combined proceeding in which evidence will be taken and the Council may proceed to a determination of discipline that evening.

If the City intends to take evidence on March 2, please also confirm what procedural rules will apply (e.g., whether witnesses will be presented, whether I will have the ability to question witnesses, and whether any rights under the Charter removal process will be invoked).

3. Name-Clearing Hearing – Scope and Intended Outcomes

My January 26, 2026 request sought a name-clearing hearing. Your letter indicates the City intends to “resolve” that request at the same meeting as the preliminary hearing on the pending complaints. Please clarify the scope of the name-clearing hearing, what specific allegations or statements the City contends will be addressed, and what action (if any) the Council anticipates taking as a result of that portion of the agenda.

Given that my January 26 notice of claim involves potential litigation-related issues affecting both the City and certain individual officials, I intend to proceed carefully and with a full understanding of the structure, legal basis, and potential outcomes of the March 2 proceeding before confirming attendance and determining whether counsel will appear with me.

Respectfully,

Adam C. Benefield
Councilman, Place 2
City of Lago Vista
M) [REDACTED]
www.lagovistatexas.org
5803 Thunderbird
Lago Vista, TX 78645



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From: Melissa Cranford [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 5:13 PM
To: Adam Benefield <Adam.Benefield@lagovistatexas.gov>
Cc: Shane Saum <Shane.Saum@lagovistatexas.gov>; Charles West <Charles.West@lagovistatexas.gov>; Brad [REDACTED] Art Rodriguez [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Lindsay Askew [REDACTED]
Subject: Notice of Special Meeting - Name Clearing Hearing

Dear Mr. Benefield:

The City of Lago Vista is in receipt of your letter dated January 26, 2026, seeking a name

clearing hearing related to events which occurred at the City of Lago Vista City Council meeting which occurred on December 4, 2025. As you know, there are also pending complaints filed by Robert Owen and Gene Harris regarding your actions at that meeting. To resolve your request and meet the City's ordinance requirements for a preliminary hearing on the pending complaints, we are tentatively scheduling a special meeting on **Monday, March 2, 2026**, with the time pending. Per the City's ordinance, you may appear and present any evidence you believe relevant to the underlying complaint(s) and associated matters. Because Mr. Bullock is named in your complaint, Messer Fort partner Art Rodriguez will be appearing on behalf of the City. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

KIND REGARDS,

MELISSA H. CRANFORD
PARTNER



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