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CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER TIMES

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Another forecasting tool is scrapped



An aerial view shows flash flood damage along the banks of the Guadalupe River in Kerrville, on July 11. CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

Experts: Government cuts damage U.S. status as global science leader

Dinah Voyles Pulver USA TODAY ry that with the additional cuts planned by the Trump administration, the nation's weather and climate research programs won't be able to keep up.

The latest blow was the announcement by the U.S. Navy that it would no longer transmit data from aging satellites past June 30, roughly 15 months earlier than expected. Later, the department extended the deadline to July 31. Without those satellite images, hurricane forecast accuracy could be compromised, say current and former scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Polar researchers, who use the images to measure the extent of sea ice, hope to acquire the same data through a Japanese government satellite instead.

In any other year, the satellite snafu might not have gathered much attention. But this summer, it exacerbates mounting concerns about the accuracy of weather prediction amid contract cancellations, staff reductions and other Trump administration efforts to reduce the federal bureaucracy. "You can't keep taking tools away from people and expect them to get the same result," said Andy Hazelton, a hurricane scientist at the University of Miami. Hazelton had been hired as a

Public comment rules changing

Kirsten Crow Corpus Christi Caller Times USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

Changes to public comment at the Corpus Christi City Council — a period allocated to residents to address their elected representatives — will take effect July 15.

Historically, public comment has been held at noon — a time set aside in which residents could discuss items on the council's agenda, as well as any other city topics, for as many as three minutes.

There was also an option for residents to speak on specific items, when the council reached those topics on the agenda, also for as many as three minutes.

The council last month voted to adjust those policies — a decision that proponents suggested would help make the meetings more efficient and also give opportunity for more residents who have jobs to participate.

Below is a breakdown of the amended procedures, according to a city news release.

Public comment on specific agenda items

• Public comment will not be held at noon.

• Public comment on specific agenda items shown on the council's agenda for that day will be allowed when

The heart-wrenching July 4 flooding in Texas served as a stark reminder of the importance of accurate and timely weather forecasts.

As extreme rainfall events grow more intense, such tragedies are expected to increase. Further improvement to forecasts is critical, but meteorologists wor-

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the council reaches the item on the agenda.

• Speakers on specific agenda items may have as much as three minutes to address the council on the topic. However, the "Mayor may further limit time at any meeting as needed."

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Cyclists and walkers anticipate first ride over New Harbor Bridge

Katie Nickas

Corpus Christi Caller Times USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

It was a pleasant surprise for the first cyclist who pedaled over the new Harbor Bridge shared-use path on July 11.

Jonathan Martin, a retired physician and cyclist from Corpus Christi, rode his bike over to where the path's entrance ramp begins at Lake and Sam Rankin streets from Ocean Drive. Martin said he'd been looking forward to the day the walk and bike trail would open to the public.

"It's good to see this opening finally," he said. "It's been a long time coming. I rode over the bridge two weeks ago, and my wife and I rode over to Portland and back after church."

Just after 10 a.m., staff members of

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Jonathan Martin, a Corpus Christi cyclist and retired physician, rides on the shared-use path on the new Harbor Bridge on July 11. Martin was the first person to cross the path after it opened at 10 a.m. that day. KATIE NICKAS /CALLER-TIMES

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