

City Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 02/18/2020

City Council Committees, Study Sessions, and Study Items

Staff Lead: Susan Paine and Diane Buckshtnis

Department: City Council

Preparer: Maureen Judge

Background/History

In the past several years, the Council has reviewed and changed its process for conducting Committee Meetings and Study Sessions. In 2014, a Council-hired consultant produced a document outlining the differences in meeting type entitled: Creating Efficiency through City Council "Study Sessions."

This proposal is to add a standing "Study Item" section to our regular meeting agenda. By adding this section to the agenda, the full Council would maintain the normal business meeting duties. The addition of a study item allows the full Council to ask questions on this topic and provide feedback pertinent on the topic. The addition of "Study Item" as a weekly agenda item would accomplish:

- allowing a Director to give full Council a preview of a project/program that would benefit from an abundance of discussion,
- allowing full Council to indicate to the Director if there are aspects that need fuller exploration, etc., and
- allowing the assigned Council Committee members to get input and questions from their colleagues when that issue comes before the Council Committee.

Staff Recommendation

N/A

Narrative

Proposal: Each week, when there is no committee meeting, the formal Council agenda will include at least one "Study Item" topic. These topics are meant for discussion purposes and not for deliberation or voting. This would alter the allowance of a study item to be voted upon. The regular schedule of the once-monthly Council Committee meeting would be retained. The hope of and presumed benefit of having a weekly "Study Item" on our agenda would include:

- an additional opportunity for the full Council to ask questions prior to the topic reaching the full council at decision time,
- providing an opportunity for the full Council to get an early preview of a major City project,
- keep the existing Council Committee structure that allows for a deeper review that is topic specific,
- improved community transparency, and

- maybe some efficiencies for staff.

Attachments:

Creating Efficiency through City Council Study Sessions