



Agenda Report

May 14, 2007

TO: Vice Mayor Haderlein & Councilmembers
FROM: Mayor Bogaard
SUBJECT: Possible Changes to Council Committees

RECOMMENDATION:

Following discussion, I recommend that the Council approve in principle certain changes in the committee Council arrangements currently in effect, specifically sunsetting the Municipal Services Committee and enlarging the purposes of the Finance, Economic Development and Technology, and Public Safety Committees. Following Council consideration, the City Attorney would review existing ordinance provisions regarding Council committees and draft appropriate changes to reflect Council's action.

BACKGROUND:

The installation of two new Councilmembers offers a good time to review the purposes of Council committees to determine that all subjects of current importance from the Council viewpoint are appropriately "assigned" for committee consideration, before such matters come to Council for final action. The suggestions set forth below are based upon my observations, certain suggestions from Councilmember Tyler, and preliminary discussions on my part with the City Manager.

Depending on the Council's action, it might be appropriate to modify the names of certain committees to reflect better the purpose and scope of responsibilities.

With respect to Municipal Services, the committee was first formed in the 1990's to devote special attention to the issues involved in deregulations proposed by the California legislature. Such deregulation is no longer on the horizon, and the importance of having a standing committee is therefore reduced. The suggestion is that Municipal Services be sunsetted, with certain decisions having financial implications be handled by the Finance Committee and other items involving smaller amounts sent directly to the Council. The City Manager has given some thought as to how this might work and will, perhaps, mention it during our discussion.

With respect to Finance, no changes are suggested except, as noted above, matters involving financial implications that arise from the electric and water utilities and the sanitation department.

With respect to Economic Development and Technology, it is suggested that affordable housing, including projects in which the City is directly involved, be added to the charge of the Committee. It is recognized that affordable housing is one of the City's primary challenges and the opportunity for staff and the Council to consider related questions with frequency seems desirable. This "assignment" could influence what projects go to the Community Development Committee based on existing practice, but no formal change in the charge of CDC seems appropriate at this time.

Regarding Public Safety, it is suggested that in addition to recognizing that parks and recreation are areas of ongoing responsibility for the Committee, it is suggested that the City's evolving relationship with public education be added to its charge. This would allow frequent discussion at the committee level of various issues and opportunities in our work with PUSD. The subject of open space, which has been discussed extensively in recent times, appears to be within the jurisdiction of the Environmental Advisory Commission, and no change is suggested at this time. Open space, which seems to be a separate subject from parks and recreation, could be assigned to a Council committee in the future if it is helpful to do so.

With respect to Legislative Policy, no changes are suggested at this time.

Following Council's discussion regarding the possible changes set forth above, it will be my effort to formulate recommendations for committee assignments among Councilmembers.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The recommendations in this report have no fiscal impact on the City.

Respectfully submitted,



BILL BOGAARD
Mayor

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