

Agenda Report

June 14, 2001

TO: Vice Mayor Little & Councilmembers
FROM: Mayor Bill Bogaard
SUBJECT: Modification to Council Standing Committees

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

- 1) Review the description of each standing committee (Attachments 1-5), which reflect recommended modifications based on my review of the existing committee structures and our recent Council discussion; and
- 2) Adopt such descriptions with any further changes approved by the Council.

BACKGROUND:

The Council standing committees are an important means by which the City Council performs its duties of leadership, policy-making and review. Committee meetings provide an opportunity to examine larger issues in greater detail than is normally possible during regular Council meetings.

Recently, City Council has discussed the existing committee structure and has offered comments and suggestions for possible changes that would align the committees with current City operations and activities, and provide enhanced opportunities for Councilmembers to be informed. For staff to provide the committees with substantive, correct and timely information, it is helpful to have their roles be described in clear and correct terms.

Based on my review of committee operations and the Council discussion, I am proposing certain modifications in the current committee structure. Such recommendations are set forth in Attachments 1-5 which reflect the existing provisions of the municipal code for each Council committee, as well as the modifications that are being proposed.

In terms of approach or process for the review of Council committees, it continues to be my suggestion as we first complete the modification of the committees as described herein. Thereafter, I intend to identify chairs of each committee, followed by the appointment of committee members.

The following comments might be helpful in connection with the review of the proposed modifications to the existing Council committees, and are offered to facilitate Council determination of the matter.

Finance Committee

No substantive changes are proposed in regard to the Finance Committee, although the role of audit committee is amplified. The modifications reflected on Attachment 1 are technical changes to make provisions of each committee description which cover the same point consistent with the other committee descriptions.

Business Enterprise Committee

I recommend that this committee be renamed the "Economic Development and Technology Committee", and that the committee scope be modified as reflected in Attachment 2. Certain other technical changes are reflected to make the various Committee descriptions consistent.

Legislative Committee

No substantial changes are recommended for this committee, although it is recommended that its name be changed to "Legislative Policy Committee" and its scope be stated to include both legislation and proposed rulings of administrative agencies, such as the AQMD. Certain other technical changes are reflected to make the various Committee descriptions consistent.

Public Safety

It is recommended that minor changes be made in the description of this committee, based on the Council discussion that indicated the scope of this committee currently extends, by prior interpretation, to both traditional public safety matters such as Police and Fire Administration and other City programs that are educational and preventive in nature. Thus, code enforcement matters and programs administered by Human Services are presently within the scope of this committee. Certain other technical changes are reflected to make the various Committee descriptions consistent.

Deregulation Committee

It is recommended that this committee be renamed the "Municipal Services Committee", and that its scope be modified consistent with the Council discussion which appeared to reflect consensus that topics to be considered by the Committee relate to the operation of the electric utility, the water utility, and the sanitation service. Certain other technical changes are reflected to make the various Committee descriptions consistent.

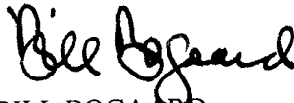
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I believe these changes reflect the bulk of the comments during the recent Council discussion and I have in mind that changes in the future will be appropriate based on thinking of the Council at the time. My hope is that these changes will facilitate the work of the Council in pursuing its duties.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Bogaard". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

BILL BOGAARD
Mayor

BB:jls