

Agenda Report

Date: May 17, 2001
TO: City Council
FROM: Mayor Bogaard
SUBJECT: Council Standing Committees

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

- 1) Review the description of each existing standing committee (Attachments 1-5); and,
- 2) Consider modifications to such descriptions in accordance with preliminary suggestions included in this report.

BACKGROUND:

City Council has over time raised questions about the existing committee structure and has suggested that modifications be considered that would reflect new developments in City operations and provide enhanced opportunity for Councilmembers to be informed about such operations. The standing committee process is an important aspect of City Council review, providing an opportunity to examine larger issues in greater detail than would be possible during regular Council meetings. For staff to provide Council with substantive, timely information, it is important that the roles of the committees be clearly stated.

The current descriptions of the standing committees are attached as Attachments 1-5, which attachments also contain staff comments from an agenda report dated January 25, 1999.

It continues to be my suggestion in regard to our consideration of the standing committees that we first go through the process that is described in this report. Thereafter, it would be appropriate to identify chairs of each committee, and thereafter to appoint its members. My hope is that we would be able to complete the process and make changes and appointments effective no later than July 1.

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I am aware that various Councilmembers have considered possible recommended changes and expect that these suggestions will be presented during our discussion. The following comments are offered to begin discussion and to facilitate Council determination on these matters.

Finance Committee

I am not aware of suggested changes in the scope or method of operation of this Committee. During our discussion, I suggest that we confirm this conclusion or consider any comments and suggestions that might be made by any Councilmember.

Legislative Committee

I am not aware of suggested changes in the scope or method of operation of this Committee. During our discussion, I suggest that we confirm this conclusion or consider any comments and suggestions that might be made by any Councilmember.

Business Enterprise Committee

To get the discussion underway, I offer the suggestion that the scope of this Committee be expanded to include the subject of technology, and that the name of the Committee be changed to Economic Development and Technology Committee. A description of various aspects of technology which might be included within the scope of this Committee is set forth in Attachment 6. This statement was prepared by staff at an earlier time in regard to possible formation of a new committee on technology. My sense at present is that adding this subject to the existing Committee is a satisfactory and workable way of allowing Councilmembers to study this important and emerging area.

Public Safety Committee

I am aware of various suggestions for expanding the scope of this Committee to provide Councilmembers a better opportunity to be informed on additional areas of City operations, such as human services, workforce development, code enforcement, and recreation programs. I expect these proposals to be presented during the course of our discussion.

Deregulation Committee

For sometime now, we have recognized that the climate has changed in regard to the electric industry and that important questions about the structure of the water industry are also coming under active consideration. To begin our consideration of possible changes

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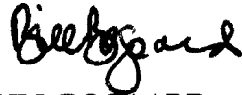
in this Committee, I suggest that its name be changed to Municipal Services Committee, and that consideration be given to expanding its scope to bring some of the major functions of Public Works into the same kind of informational process now being done for Water and Power. The details of this possible modification should be discussed during our Council meeting.

Our time for this discussion on Monday, May 21, will be limited, but I hope that some decisions can be made and others considered in preliminary form for prompt action in future meetings.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Bogaard". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

BILL BOGAARD
Mayor