



City Council Work Session Alternatives

March 2, 2011



Agenda Items

- ▶ Post “pre-selected” items but also include a general posting allowing discussion on any item on the upcoming City Council agenda
 - ▶ Reduces staff resources...only staff to support “pre-selected” items
 - ▶ Builds in flexibility to accommodate last minute questions...staff may not be there to respond to questions that are NOT “pre-selected”, but they can always respond afterwards

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Briefings

- ▶ **Initiated by Mayor and Council** - Provides opportunity for staff to brief Council on issues requested by the Mayor/Council.
 - ▶ Need to allow for sufficient time to prepare briefing...a minimum of 30 days.
 - ▶ Processing: Briefing requests must be supported by a minimum number of Council Members (with the exception that the Mayor would not need to seek endorsements to request a briefing...consistent with ability to call Special Council meetings)
- ▶ **Initiated by Staff**
 - ▶ Most briefings typically offered during Regular Council meetings would now be held during Work Sessions

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Logistics – Frequency and Day

- ▶ **FREQUENCY - On the same week as a Regular Council meeting**
 - ▶ Provides opportunity for discussion, questions, and answers just a few days before the item is up for consideration on the Regular Council meeting
- ▶ **DAY OF THE WEEK - Tuesday mornings**
 - ▶ Gives staff more time to respond to questions that come up in Work Session prior to the Regular Council meeting
 - ▶ May conflict with some Council committees

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Logistics - Location

- ▶ **Boards and Commissions Room**
 - ▶ More informal setting; Limited room for staff/citizens
 - ▶ *Recommended if "Pre-selection" option is selected.*

- ▶ **Council Chamber**
 - ▶ More space; More formal...could reformat floor plan (set up Council at tables on the floor instead of on the dais) for more of a "work session" feel
 - ▶ *Recommended if "Pre-selection" option is NOT selected.*

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Questions/Comments/Discussion

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