

Government that Works For All

Discussion Topics for Consideration

Boards & Commissions

- ☐ Align to Strategic Outcomes
- ☐ Consistency in operations and administration
- ☐ Deadline for nominations to be submitted for Council approval
- ☐ Ethics and conflicts of interest for members
- ☐ How are they used by other cities?
- ☐ How do they communicate with Council?
- ☐ How can we build in a sunseting mechanism for each?
- ☐ Member decorum
- ☐ Process for bringing recommendations to Council or Committees
- ☐ Quantity/Growth
- ☐ Review of legislatives authority and purpose of Advisory Councils (Associated entities)
- ☐ Use of staff resources
- ☐ What is their focus? Scope?

Communications

- ☐ Bulletin board utilization options *
- ☐ Close the feedback loop... community needs to know what results from their input
- ☐ Communications between Council and staff
- ☐ Community Engagement Task Force Report - Recommendation status *
- ☐ Use of working groups
- ☐ People who live in the area under discussion need to be given more value. Staff needs to physically go to the places where they are and walk the areas with the community.
- ☐ Roles of CPIO & Council offices to be more proactive; Fill gaps in community conversations

Council Committees

- ☐ Austin Energy Oversight - Separate meeting versus during Thursday Council meetings
- ☐ Align with Outcomes?
- ☐ Member appointment process
- ☐ Are they effective and/or should they be eliminated?
- ☐ Audit and Finance - What happens to audit recommendations that staff disagrees with?
- ☐ Challenged to put faith in committees because of ideological differences among members
- ☐ How do we handle a public hearing at committee for an item, the item is amended, and then public wants to comment again before final Council vote?
- ☐ Opportunities to use to improve full Council meeting efficiency via delegation
- ☐ Trust in committees
- ☐ Mechanism to easily know what committees are passing
- ☐ Which are required by Charter?

Council Meeting Efficiency

- ☐ 3-minute time limit for Council member comments
- ☐ General meeting management
- ☐ Speakers process *
- ☐ Updated data on meeting length, etc. *

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Discussion Topics for Consideration

Items from Council

- ☐ One on one meetings between Council sponsor and responsible department(s)
- ☐ Briefings on bi-monthly/quarterly basis
- ☐ Feedback loop between Council and staff
- ☐ How the work with Strategic Direction 2023
- ☐ Impact on staff bandwidth
- ☐ Improved way to search for resolutions *
- ☐ Process through committees before coming to full Council?
- ☐ Quantity
- ☐ Resolution status tracking *
- ☐ Resource impact statements

Strategic Plan/Budget

- ☐ Biennial budgeting
- ☐ Consider median family income (MFI) on district basis (ex. City property tax bill as a % of MFI)
- ☐ Department programs/activities - Better understanding of work underway & related funding
- ☐ Fee waivers process *
- ☐ Government that Works For All Strategies and Metrics - Refresher discussion
- ☐ Increase/improve transparency of how City dollars are spent
- ☐ Library fees for non-city residents
- ☐ Process for reconsideration of programs/Program reductions
- ☐ Proposed budget at the effective tax rate in order to better determine what we are truly willing to pay more for
- ☐ Strategic Direction 2023 - Operationalization/Next steps
- ☐ Zero Based Budgeting

Other

- ☐ Post 2018 Election - Council transition processes
- ☐ Process for Council Members to be appointed to external boards and commissions
- ☐ Deferred maintenance of facilities
- ☐ Extent of leasing throughout organization
- ☐ City grants for arts groups - Notification of opportunity to apply and clarity on award process
- ☐ Policy topic discussion agenda
- ☐ Open Data
- ☐ Smart Cities - Next steps
- ☐ Bandwidth and well-being of staff
- ☐ Staff opinions on pain points

** Items that staff will begin immediately*

Improvements, Efficiencies, and Reports That Staff will immediately Begin Work On

Improve Communications between Council and Staff

- **Improve reporting on status of responses to Council Resolutions. Consider use of a data portal or other ways to make searchable and available to the general public.**
- **Pursue option for City Manager to participate on Council Message Board.**
- **Improve readability of Subject Line on Emails from City of Austin Communications to Official Distribution DL to more easily discern content and locate in searches**
 - Recent email sent 10/8/2018 3:33 PM with **Subject:** [Memo to Mayor/Council from Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department RE: Staff Response to Resolution No. 20170817-055 regarding a University of Texas study of gentrification, displacement, and mapping of vulnerable neighborhoods.](#)
 - Suggest abbreviate "Memo to Mayor and Council" to **MMAC**.
 - **Revised Subject: MMAC Brief Topic (Resolution or Ordinance #) – Department Name**
 - E.g., [MMAC UT Study Gentrification & Displacement \(Res. 20170817-055\) - Neighborhood Housing and Community Development.](#)

Council Meeting Efficiency

- **Identify ways to more efficiently work through the public hearing and public comment portion of Council meetings (e.g., process to inform next speakers to be on deck, early warning light on podium to signal that speaking time allotted is almost expired).**
- **Review process for fee waivers granted as outlined in Resolution 20021003-040 from the Mayor and Council fee waiver budgets to determine any efficiencies in processing and reporting.**
- **Provide a report on the length of Council meetings over the past three years.**

Other

- **Review legislative authority and purpose for Advisory Councils identified as Associated Entities and make recommendation to Council.**
- **Status Report on Implementation of Recommendations of the Community Engagement Task Force.**
- **Continue working with Arts Commission to improve the arts award process and report back to Council.**