

# Improving Council Transparency

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# Consent Agenda

- Consolidates “uncontroversial minor” items
- Discussed, voted, approved en masse
- Expedites city council meetings
- Very practical approach

















# Secrecy Problems

- Printed copy of consent agenda not available with regular agenda at council meetings
- Process can hide bad policy, hidden consent

# Online Secrecy

- Not published online with regular agenda at <http://www.siouxfalls.org/council/view-meetings>

## City Council Meetings

Name	Date	Links
City Council Meetings	4/11/2018	<a href="#">Agenda</a>    <a href="#">Minutes</a>    <a href="#">Video</a>
City Council Meetings	4/3/2018	<a href="#">Agenda</a>    <a href="#">Minutes</a>    <a href="#">Video</a>
City Council Meetings	3/20/2018	<a href="#">Agenda</a>    <a href="#">Minutes</a>    <a href="#">Video</a>
City Council Meetings	3/13/2018	<a href="#">Agenda</a>    <a href="#">Minutes</a>    <a href="#">Video</a>
City Council Meetings	3/6/2018	<a href="#">Agenda</a>    <a href="#">Minutes</a>    <a href="#">Video</a>
City Council Meetings	2/20/2018	<a href="#">Agenda</a>    <a href="#">Minutes</a>    <a href="#">Video</a>
City Council Meetings	2/13/2018	<a href="#">Agenda</a>    <a href="#">Minutes</a>    <a href="#">Video</a>
City Council Meetings	2/5/2018	<a href="#">Agenda</a>    <a href="#">Minutes</a>    <a href="#">Video</a>
City Council Meetings	1/16/2018	<a href="#">Agenda</a>    <a href="#">Minutes</a>    <a href="#">Video</a>

# Recommendations

- More transparency
- Publish consent agenda online
- Print consent agenda for council meetings

# Agenda Format

- Overall sections are too long
- Should be divided into 3 sub-sections
- 1) Alcohol licensing
- 2) Zoning
- 3) City Business (sounds better than miscellaneous)

# Agenda Transparency

- Agenda references “an ordinance”
- Online agenda already includes link to referenced documents
- Good work

# Influencing Decisions

- Most council decisions made long before the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading
- Public input is mostly ceremonial at 2<sup>nd</sup> reading
- Allow public input at the 1<sup>st</sup> reading
- More likely to influence decisions



# Enjoy Winter – While We Can



# Bonus Photo

