

Improving Council Procedures

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Goals

- Improve access to meetings
- Promote democratic government
- Increase transparency
- More respectful meetings

Improving Meeting Access

- Email meeting notice and agenda to interested citizens, employees, officials
- Valuable for emergency meetings, unusual meeting times, infrequent board meetings
- Agenda should include instructions for email signup
- I shouldn't need software to monitor the board meeting website to get meeting announcements
- Odd meeting times should be announced at the preceding meeting

Ethics Board Transparency

- Schedule outside working hours so citizens can attend
- Move meetings to Carnegie Town Hall
- Town Hall allows for displaying images, documents, PowerPoints
- Videotape meetings for the record
- Important meetings need visibility, access, record

Council Voting

- Usually yes or no is the best vote
- People may need time to ponder, get evidence
- Delay is OK
- Sometimes abstaining prevents moral dilemma
- Ordinance 30.017 Voting procedure "City council members may not abstain from voting, but may absent themselves from the meeting ..."
- Recommended replacement "City councilors (and the mayor) may abstain from any vote. If this results in a lack of quorum, the measure shall be deferred to the next council meeting."

Respectful Meetings

- Ordinance 30.018 Decorum "... a member shall neither, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings ..."
- A councilor was repeatedly interrupted at a recent meeting
- Mayor enforces decorum
- 30.019 Enforcement of decorum "Upon instructions of the mayor, or acting mayor, law enforcement shall place any person who violates the order and decorum of the meeting under arrest"

Selective Decorum Enforcement

- Rules prohibit naming individual councilors during public input
- That's enforced
- Rules also prohibit interrupting the meeting
- Not enforced last week when councilor on majority side interrupted councilor on minority side

More Powerful Council

- At large councilors should be full time, not part time
- Would provide more time to study issues, recommend solutions
- Better counter balance to powerful administration

After Meeting Meeting

- Mingle inside after the official meeting
- The best part of the meeting
- Reduces conflict, adversarial thinking
- Provides insight, motives, camaraderie

Enjoy
Life,
Physicality,
Music

