



Charlotte City Council
Budget and Effectiveness Committee
Meeting Summary
Tuesday, January 26, 2020

**COMMITTEE AGENDA
TOPICS**

- Agenda Overview
- I. Review of the Citizen Advisory Committee on Governance (CACG) Recommendations
 - II. Council Virtual Meeting Provisions
 - III. February Budget Workshop Agenda

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Committee Members Present: Ed Driggs (Chair), Julie Eiselt (Vice Chair), Dimple Ajmera, Malcolm Graham, Renee Johnson.

Staff Resources: Kelly Flannery, Chief Financial Officer

Meeting Duration: 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Agenda
2. Review of the Citizen Advisory Committee on Governance (CACG) Recommendations
3. Council Virtual Meeting Provisions
4. February Budget Workshop Agenda – DRAFT

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Review of the Citizen Advisory Committee on Governance (CACG) Recommendations

Strategy and Budget Director, Ryan Bergman asked for Committee feedback on CACG recommendations which included four-year terms by way of referendum, with staggered elections, with the option of Mayor and Council terms being considered separately and if it should be considered by referendum or by vote of City Council.

Council member, Julie Eiselt recommended putting the recommendations on a survey for public input. Council member, Dimple Ajmera asked about what the timeline would be for redistricting considerations and reassessment of the at-large/district representative makeup of Council. City Attorney, Patrick Baker said he was told there is better than 50% chance that there will not be time to do redistricting in the fall. Redistricting is required by law. Once the information is received it will be brought to Council. Census data may be received mid to late summer. Chair, Ed Driggs instructed

the Committee to focus on actionable items. Term limits were removed from the discussion. Compensation was determined to be part of the budget process for the Manager's recommendation. Driggs recommended that due to the timeline, four-year terms, staggered elections, and method of implementation should be brought to full Council for consideration soon. Council member Graham agreed and was concerned with the number of items that could be considered for referendum. Driggs asked Bergman to highlight Graham's point to be included in the exposition and itemize the recommendations for consideration. Graham also noted, to Eiselt's point, that the Governance Committee already did a survey. Bergman said the survey yielded 641 responses that he would make available to the Council.

Vote: Ajmera motioned to bring the recommendation of four-year terms and staggered elections to full Council without delay. Johnson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ajmera requested staff's feedback on the impact of increased compensation on the budget. Bergman explained that compensation should be part of the normal budget process and implemented in the new budget cycle or the beginning of a term. Graham added that it would be a minimal impact on the budget. Driggs said this could be recommended to be incorporated in the budget process, no current Council action is required.

Council Virtual Meeting Provisions

Deputy City Attorney, Lina James referred to the current laws regarding electronic, remote and telephonic meetings. "Remote meeting" is a new term defined in the emergency declarations statutes. The remote meeting law provides notice and access to the public to participate and for Council to participate remotely as long as a state wide emergency declaration is in place. This doesn't apply to local declarations. James highlighted that even if Rule 28 is changed it still leaves the question of a quorum or physical presence and voting. After a statewide emergency has ended the rules would return to the default procedures. The language was revised in Rule 28 for Committee meetings regarding being unavailable due to illness or injury so that it could be for any other reason potentially and reduce the number of advanced hours that would be necessary to give advance notice to two from the previous 48 hours. Changes were made in subsection B of Rule 28 as well to expand reasons for meeting remotely.

Driggs summed up that the issue at hand was if Council's right to meet remotely is subject to any conditions and what accommodations can be made, such as the possibility of meeting twice per quarter.

Vote: Graham made a motion to refer to full Council to impose time limits to virtual meetings with further discussions on the topic to address what will occur after the state of emergency has concluded. Eiselt seconded the motion which passed 3 to 2 (Driggs, Graham and Eiselt voted yes; Ajmera and Johnson voted no.)

February Budget Workshop Agenda

Strategy and Budget Director, Ryan Bergman informed the Committee that next Wednesday at 1:30 pm will be the first of three Budget Workshops and shared the proposed agenda for the first one for input from the Committee. The proposed agenda included:

1. General Fund Revenue Update
2. Advanced Planning Program
3. Summary of Bond Programs
4. Five-year Capital Investment Plan Scenarios
5. Budget Engagement Strategy

Bergman highlighted the five-year Capital Investment Plan (CIP)Scenario since there is a lot of freedom for Council to populate the next couple of bonds. The first part of the CIP discussion will include the Advanced Planning Program. Cost estimates will be provided for a number of road and intersection projects. Bergman was excited to announce his plan to build some of the early cost estimates on roads and intersections into the typical year-to-year program to get an overview of the impact of doing one road project every two bonds for example. This will reveal which programs the Council prioritizes and the funding levels they anticipate so that the five-year CIP will be based on this feedback.

Johnson asked Bergman to provide information on facilities costs and how much has been saved by meeting virtually. Driggs stated that proposed agenda is accepted to be utilized at the February 3 Workshop.

Meeting adjourned at 3:58 pm.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for February 16.