



Work Session: Council Retreat Options

November 26, 2018

Community Auditorium

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Purpose and Intent

- Solicit comments from Council on the format, location, and emphasis for the 2019 Council Retreat.



Background

- The City Council has historically held a Retreat every year.
- The Retreat is not required by the Charter or Council Rules.
- The Retreat is a public noticed, formal Work Session. The press often attends.

Background

- The Retreat normally occurs the first Saturday in February.
- The Retreat's intent has been to establish objectives. The objectives are refined in subsequent work sessions with City Council and passed by resolution in March.
- The objectives are used by staff to prepare the budget.
- State law requires the Retreat to be held within the City limits.

Background

- The Retreat is generally 5 working hours.
- The format has historically been:
 - Department Accomplishments & Priorities 90 min
 - Clarify, remove, or add Council Goals & Objectives 120 min
 - Open Discussion/Team Agreement 90 min
- The open discussion portion of the agenda is often truncated due to extended discussion of goals and objectives

Example

#	COUNCIL OBJECTIVE		DEPT.	COUNCIL DIRECTION
1.1	Watershed land acquisition financial plan	2016	PW	Conduct a Work Session to review viability of reserving a portion of timber sales to acquire lands within the watershed.

- Status: Watershed land acquisition financial plan passed October, 2018, dedicating \$375,000 to watershed acquisition fund and establishing a process for future contributions.
- Staff recommendation: Objective complete, remove from list.

Considerations

- Staff Accomplishments and Priorities could be briefed during City Council meetings instead of the Retreat. This would allow more time for Goals and Objectives and Open Discussion.
- What is the primary purpose of the Retreat? Is it goals and objectives, strengthening Council relations, both, or something else?
- What are Council's expectations of the Retreat? (Staff expectations are to get a clear picture of Council's priorities to aid in budget preparation.)
- Is the length of the Retreat too long, too short, or just right? Start and Stop times? Frequency?
- Is the location conducive to the Retreats objectives? If not, any suggestions?
- Is there anything not on the agenda that should be added?
- Should the Council objectives be prioritized?
- Other comments?

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