



City of CHARLOTTE

TO: Mayor Lewis and City Council Members

FROM: Gregg Guetschow, City Manager

SUBJECT: Renewing Council Policies

DATE: July 7, 2016

In September 2015, the City Council approved four Council policies that were a part of an initiative designed to make city government more transparent and accountable. It was hoped this initiative would foster a better understanding of the governmental process on the part of the citizenry. Because the changes to agenda procedures were quite different from those then in place, Council decided to establish a one-year sunset date for these policies to insure a review.

In general, I believe that the policies have been implemented without significant problems. The need for two readings of resolutions has helped to insure that there are adequate opportunities for citizens to learn of actions that Council is contemplating. We have not seen as much use of new citizen comments options as I had expected but they have been used.

Your agenda includes four new Council policies that would replace those due to expire. In each case, I have added a new sunset date in 2020 to insure another review takes place. We have not placed sunset dates in Council policies in the past but this seems like a sound practice. Other changes are summarized below.

Policy 2016-02 – Citizen Comments. A minor change was made to the language to require the web page describing citizen comments to be maintained.

Policy 2016-03 – Procedure for Considering and Adopting Ordinances. Language was added to excluding zoning map amendments from the sunset date requirement.

Policy 2016-04 – Order of Business at Council Meetings. The report from the High School Liaison was eliminated as a regular agenda item. Council members were added to the list of those who might make special presentations. “Expedited Resolutions and Ordinances” was changed to “Fast Track Resolutions and Ordinances” because it is easier to pronounce. Provision is made for distributing the list of claims and accounts a few days ahead of the full agenda packet to provide Council members more time to seek information about specific claims.

Policy 2016-05 – Resolutions. This policy has only minor grammatical changes from the one it replaces.