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CARBONDALE

All Ways Open

**Friday, September 15, 2023
City Council Retreat**

The City Council Retreat is a meeting that is open to the public. The purpose of a Retreat is to encourage discussion of policy matters in a more informal setting. There is no action taken during the meeting other than to convene and adjourn.

The Retreat will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the SIU Student Center, 1255 Lincoln Drive, Carbondale, Illinois, in the Old Main Room located on the second floor.

Please silence any electronic devices to avoid interruption of the discussion.

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Subject **1.1 Roll Call - Introductions**

Meeting Sep 15, 2023 - City Council Retreat

Type

Originating Department:

Background:

2. Citizens' Comments

Subject **2.1 Comments from Citizens**

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Type Procedural

Citizens may address the City Council for up to four minutes and will be accepted for a maximum of 30 minutes

3. Review Progress of Vision 2025

Subject **3.1 Review Progress of Vision 2025**

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Type Discussion

Council will have the opportunity to review Vision 2025 Goals, discuss, and re-prioritize prior to accepting. Acceptance of any modified goals will occur during a regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

The Council will review the progress on each of these eight strategic goals.

4. City Council Meeting Efficiency

Subject **4.1 Discussion About How to Conduct More Effective and Efficient Public Meetings**

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Type Discussion, Information

Originating Department:

Background:

The Open Meetings Act states that "Any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body." [5 ILCS 120/2.06(g)] In an effort to run more efficient and effective City Council meetings, Staff have been researching options that balance the right for the public to address their elected officials, as required per the Open Meetings Act, with the need to conduct business not only more expeditiously, but also to ensure that the thread of the subject matter at hand is not lost by either the voting body or the audience. It is important to note that City Council meetings are not synonymous with Open Town Hall-style meetings. The purpose of the City Council meeting is to complete the business of the body that is set out in the agenda, which is not always easy to do as meetings run long and later into the evening. Items are being deferred to accommodate longer discussion periods which leads to missed deadlines for applications/grants/bids, etc., as well as increases the backlog of subjects to be addressed by the Council. Additionally, longer meetings are a deterrent to those interested in attending, but who are not able to sit through 3 or 4-hour meetings for a particular item due to employment, childcare, or other obligations. Finally, it should be considered that few among us will make the best decisions or express opinions clearly and thoughtfully as the evening wears on; repetitive remarks and confusion become more common as the progress of business slows down.

Options to Consider

- Require the completion of a speaker's card prior to the start of the meeting
 - Purpose - Those attending for the purpose of commenting on either agenda items or other city-related business would have an opportunity to do so; it could help to limit the emotions of the room leading to repetitive comments or moderate the momentum of an increasing number of speakers.
 - Comments could be opened to other members of the public if time permits
 - Exceptions would be for public hearings, the purpose of which is to hear input from citizens, invited speakers who have presentations for the Council, or applicants/petitioners seeking approval on specific agenda items.
- Utilize the citizen comment section of the meeting for both agenda items and other city-related business comments
 - Purpose - This would provide the citizens' input for the Council's information and consideration, but would expedite meetings and limit the tendency toward back-and-forth discussions or debate between the audience and Council. If the Council would agree that additional citizen comments were necessary on a particular subject matter, they could request those by a majority vote or by providing advance notice in the agenda that the subject in question is intended to compel additional citizen input.
- Amend the rules of participation to require that comments must be about matters that are relevant to city governance
 - Matters that the corporate body does not have the authority to address are not in order and take time from other public commenters.
- Eliminate the ability of the public to pull items from the Consent agenda
 - In nearly every community polled, and even in discussion with the Illinois Public Access Counselor Sarah Pratt, this is largely unheard of. Generally speaking, the only persons allowed to pull an item are those who vote on the item, as this is a representative governmental entity.
 - If we were to allow the public to ask questions about items on the agenda prior to the Consent Agenda, those questions could be addressed as the Consent Agenda items are read out. Further, Council members could also request answers be provided prior to the vote.
- Establish and adhere to specific orders of procedure
 - If the Council decides to keep public comment on each and every item, whether the procedural order is to provide public input prior to Council discussion or the reverse, maintain consistent rules of order to eliminate the propensity of devolving into discussion behaviors or debate.
 - There are a number of communities that codify more simplified rules of order which eliminates the necessity for and the arcane nature of Robert's Rules of Order.

5. Human Resources in a Post-pandemic World

Subject **5.1 Human Resources in a Post-pandemic World**

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Type Discussion, Information

The City Manager will brief the City Council about possible policy changes as it relates to the following:

- Identifying and Addressing the Impacts of Generational Shifts
- Policies and Practices
- Organizational Challenges

6. Impressionistic Summary

Subject **6.1 Impressionistic Summary - An Opportunity for the Council to Comment on the Retreat**

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Type Discussion

Facilitator John Washburn will solicit feedback from participants and summarize the accomplishments of the retreat.

7. Adjournment

Subject **7.1 Time of Adjournment**

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Type

Originating Department:

Background: