

City of St. Petersburg

Council Procedures Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 23, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.

Room 100

Members and Alternates: Jeff Danner, Chair, Herb Polson, Vice Chair

Jim Kennedy, James Bennett, Leslie Curran

Alternates: Bill Dudley, Wengay Newton, Karl Nurse

Staff: Tish Elston, Deputy Mayor, John Wolfe, City Attorney, Mark Winn, Asst. City Attorney, Pat Beneby, City Clerk Beth Herendeen, Director of Marketing, Mike Ramsey, Manager of TV, and Terri Lipsey Scott, City Council Administrative Officer

Call to Order

Jeff Danner, Chair

Approval of Agenda

Approved

1. New Business Referral

Televising Committee Meetings (Nurse)

Staff Presentation: Beth Herendeen, Dir. of Marketing

A request to televise Council Committee meetings was referred to the Procedures Committee by Council Member Nurse. The justification was to ensure transparency and for the citizens of our community to have access to the decision making process of City Council. A presentation was made by Beth Herendeen which included an approximate cost and manpower to achieve the suggested goal. An approximate cost for televising Council Committee meetings with closed caption, staff and in Council Chambers would run \$1,820.40 for 10 hours per month; without closed caption in Council Chambers would be approximately \$380.50. The cost for televising Council Committee meetings in Room 100 with closed caption would be approximately \$2,041.50, without closed caption in Room 100 - \$601.00.

Action: Refer to City Council: *After much discussion Council resolved to televise three council committee meetings, Budget, Finance and Taxation, Public Services and Infrastructure and the Housing Services meetings. This programming will be on a 90-day trial basis. The Chair will have the discretion to request televising any other Council Committee meetings to include L.A.I.R, Procedures Committee Meetings and Committees of the Whole.*

2. Referral

Amending Resolution - Open Forum (Danner)

Staff Presentation: Mark Winn, Asst. City Attorney

A resolution was presented by Asst. City Attorney Mark Winn at the request of Chair Danner to modify City Council's current resolution regarding Open Forum. The amendment was to afford citizens the opportunity to speak twice per month, three (3) minutes each during City Council meetings.

Action: Refer to City Council: *Request to consolidate and amend the City Council Policy regarding Open Forum. In addition the Chair will have the discretion to determine placement of Open Forum on City Council's agenda.*

Procedures Update

Terri Lipsey Scott provided an update regarding the creation of a City Council Policy/Orientation manual. The manual will include City Council policies, procedures and protocol.

Meeting Adjourn

Next Meeting Date

August 20, 2009

A RESOLUTION CONSOLIDATING AND AMENDING THE CITY COUNCIL POLICY CONCERNING THE OPEN FORUM PORTION OF THE AGENDA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the purpose of public hearings is to allow persons an opportunity to speak on specific issues and the purpose of open forum is to solicit views from a diverse cross section of the community on subjects not appearing on the printed agenda; and

WHEREAS, City Council has established policies for the open forum portion of the agenda in several different resolutions and the Procedures Committee has recommended that these policies be consolidated into one resolution and amended.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida, that this Council hereby establishes and amends the policy concerning the open forum portion of the agenda to be as follows:

1. Open forum shall be held on the first and third City Council meetings of each month unless there are only two meetings in a month in which case open forum shall be held on both meetings.
2. Only City residents, property owners, or business owners may speak.
3. Issues are limited to those which relate to City government.
4. Speakers shall not discuss matters which are the subject of public hearings or quasi-judicial matters which are on the agenda for the same meeting.
5. Speakers may speak only once at each meeting and shall be limited to three minutes.
6. Only the individual wishing to speak may sign the Open Forum sheet, individuals may not sign up for other persons.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions in conflict with this policy relating to open forum are hereby superceded.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Approved as to form and content:

City Attorney (designee)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, REQUESTING, FOR A NINETY -DAY TRIAL PERIOD, THAT CERTAIN MEETINGS OF CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES BE TELEVISED; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Sec. 2-351 of. City of St. Petersburg Code has as an objective of the television origination and transmission facilities operated by the city the providing of "... live and/or delayed (taped) coverage of other public meetings related to the operation of the City government.."; and

WHEREAS, City Council wishes, on a ninety day trial basis, to broadcast the following meetings, on regular basis, on the City's television station: (1) the Housing Services Committee; (2) the Budget, Finance & Taxation Committee; and (3) the Public Services and Infrastructure Committee; and

WHEREAS, City Council wishes, on a ninety day trial basis, to authorize the Chair of City Council to provide that any meetings of the following committees be broadcast on the City's television station: (1) the LAIR Committee; (2) the Council Procedures Committee; and (3) the Committee of the Whole.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida that this Council requests that the Mayor provide for following on a ninety day trial basis:

1. That the following meetings be broadcast on the City's television station on a regular basis: (1) the Housing Services Committee; (2) the Budget, Finance & Taxation Committee; and (3) the Public Services and Infrastructure Committee.

2. That, upon the request of the Chair of Council, any meetings of the following committees be broadcast on the City's television station: (1) the LAIR Committee; (2) the Council Procedures Committee; and (3) the Committee of the Whole.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect beginning with the meetings taking place on August 20, 2009 and shall no longer be effective after November 18, 2009 unless extended by resolution of City Council.

Approved as to form and content:

City Attorney (designee)