



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA – City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: February 9, 2026

ITEM TITLE: Video Recording and Broadcasting of City Council Work Sessions

BACKGROUND:

This item was discussed at the February 2, 2026, City Council Work Session. Following that discussion, the Council directed that this item be placed on the agenda for a formal vote to determine the future policy.

Currently, while our regular City Council meetings are recorded and broadcast for public viewing, our work sessions are not.

DISCUSSION:

During the February 2 discussion, the Council reviewed the request to provide public access to these sessions. Council discussed the importance of transparency and allowing the community to see the collaboration involved in municipal governance.

However, significant concerns were also raised regarding the functional purpose of work sessions. As noted during the discussion, the primary value of these meetings lies in the opportunity for candid, exploratory conversations between staff and elected officials. There is a strong concern that broadcasting these early-stage discussions could inhibit the creative and adaptive problem-solving that occurs in this setting. Additionally, public confusion may arise if preliminary ideas explored during a work session are mistaken for final, settled policy.

This item allows the Council to cast a formal vote on whether the benefits of broadcasting outweigh the potential impact on the open exchange of ideas during work sessions.

RESULTS:

The City has established priorities during strategic planning sessions. This item supports the Vision from that session of **promoting and encouraging community involvement and engagement**. This item helps achieve that vision by initiating a dialogue on how to balance transparency with the need for effective, candid planning during staff and Council work sessions.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

There are no specific financial considerations for this item, as all necessary equipment to perform this task is currently in place.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends a motion to record and broadcast City Council Work Sessions via video. A vote in the affirmative would support this item, and a vote in the negative would oppose this item.