



Finance Agenda Item

Meeting Date:	July 23, 2024
Agenda Item:	Ordinance and Policy Hierarchy
Staff Contact (name, email, phone):	Sara Marquardt, smarquardt@whitewater-wi.gov, 262-473-1387

BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what when, where, why)

1. The Council plays a crucial role in approving key policies that guide the governance and operations of the City. Their oversight ensures that policies align with the city's strategic objectives and legal requirements. However, requiring the Council to review and approve every single policy can be inefficient and time-consuming. This process can delay the implementation of important initiatives and burden Council members with administrative tasks, detracting from their ability to focus on broader legislative and strategic issues. To enhance efficiency, delegating the approval of more routine policies to appropriate departments or committees while reserving the Council's review for major or contentious issues can be a more effective approach.
2. Additionally, the City Manager serves as the chief executive officer, responsible for the day-to-day administration of city affairs.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

1. At the May 28, 2024, Finance Committee Meeting, the Committee instructed staff to create a hierarchy of Ordinances and Policies. This may be used to help determine which matters can be handled at the staff or committee level and which need to be presented to the full Council for consideration.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff is seeking direction from the Committee. Having the Council review every policy can undermine the efficiency intended by the City Manager form of government. The City Manager and staff are equipped to develop, implement, and manage routine policies, allowing the Council to concentrate on more significant legislative matters. By delegating the approval of less critical policies to the City Manager, the city may be streamline operations, reduce delays, and ensure that the Council's time is spent on strategic oversight and policy-making, in line with the intended balance of responsibilities in this form of government.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

1. State Statute regarding City Manager Form of Government
2. Ordinance and Policy Hierarchy Draft