



Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date: November 21, 2023

Agenda Item: Council Action Plan to Address Self-Governance

Staff Contact (name, email, phone): Sara Marquardt, smarquardt@whitewater-wi.gov, 262-473-1387

BACKGROUND

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

1. At the November 7, 2023 Common Council Meeting, the Council read the following statement:

- The Council is respectful that each individual council member has distinct, competing and divergent viewpoints designed to promote the best interests of the City and representation of the community.
- The Council intends to work on a plan to enhance the effectiveness of the Council as a body and as that body works with the employees of the City.
- The Council is committed to Roberts Rules as a guideline and the City's transparency ordinance
- The Council will explore and conduct training as to governance, conduct of meetings, and open meetings compliance, and encourage appointed officeholders to participate in such opportunities.
- The Council will explore standards of decorum and civility for its meetings
- The Council will work with the City Manager for development of an onboarding process for new elected and appointed officeholders
- The Council will set expectations for self-accountability – individual commitment to one another
- The Council will consider whether use of outside resources of benefit to this process including resources from CVMIC, the executive branch of the City, facilitators, or other resources.
- The Council's commitment to this plan is ongoing which the Council will address at subsequent meetings.

2. As part of the Council's intention to work on a plan to enhance the effectiveness of the Council as a body, HR was tasked with providing options and seeking resources for the Council to utilize in formation of the action plan. See attached example and resources.

3. HR was also asked to provide Robert's Rules of Order Cheat Sheets for use by all Council members and for distribution to Committee/Commission Chairs. The sheets are now available at each Council members chair.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

October 5, 2010 – Whitewater Common Council passed the Transparency Ordinance

April 17, 2018 – Whitewater Common Council passed the Good Governance Manual. Minor updates passed on June 8, 2020.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

Unknown

Depends upon Council plan

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council adopt and implement an action plan based on the example outline to address items identified in the November 7, 2023 statement.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Council Action Plan Example & Resources2. Middleton Parliamentary Procedure Presentation3. Good Governance Manual |
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