



AGENDA ITEM COMMENTARY

MEETING NAME:	City Council Meeting
MEETING DATE:	March 4, 2024
ITEM TITLE:	Consider and take appropriate action on discussion of Council Meeting video recordings
STAFF INITIATOR:	Terri Robinette, City Secretary

BACKGROUND:

During the discussion at our last Council meeting regarding making video recording available on our website, the Council directed staff to explore the security issues regarding a City Youtube channel and also web links to videos. We have had a discussion with our IT company VC3 regarding security. They do have other municipalities that utilize a Youtube channel for the posting of their Council meeting recording and then link to their websites for ease of access to citizens. Although there is never any guarantee of being “hack-free”, Youtube provides many security measures to keep accounts as safe as possible. VC3 can also help by putting in place additional security measures such as multi-factor authentication. The Youtube channel would be tied to a separate email account used only for this purpose and would have no direct access to any City server or City data. Youtube also allows for the disabling of audience comments so that inappropriate or irrelevant comments do not deter our audience’s attention to the content provided.

Once the Youtube channel is set up, we would embed a link to the agenda and minutes page of our website. All links would then open up Youtube in a new window. A permanent video would be hosted on an individual server at the City for a backup. If something were to happen to the Youtube posted video, we would also have an unaltered copy to use in its place.

We also could post previously recorded videos to the City Facebook page. Staff would prefer to only post to our website and not include Facebook so that Citizens can see the posted agenda, packet, and minutes along with the video. This gives Citizens all the tools available to follow what is happening at Council meetings and get a complete picture of the decisions made.

Section 551.128 of the Open Meetings Act provides that a governmental body has discretion to broadcast an open meeting over the internet except for a home-rule municipality that has a population of 50,000 or more. Once that population limit is reached, the governmental body must broadcast their meetings and must make that recording available within 7 days after the date of the meeting. That recording must then be kept for 2 years.

Please note that if a member of the governing body does join as remote participant (through Teams, Zoom etc), even at our current population we are required to make at least an audio recording of the meeting and to make that recording available to the public.

EXHIBITS:

COUNCIL ACTION/STAFF RECOMMENDATION: