



Agenda Item: Discussion Item

Title: WORK SESSION: Boards and Commissions Review

Administrative or Policy Goal:

Periodic review of municipal board and commission advisory structure considers efficacy, efficiency and improvements to and/or streamlining of services provided to residents and customers.

Background:

The City reviews its board and commission structure in an effort to ensure that the municipal board and commission structure is --

- a) properly aligned to the ever-evolving needs of the municipality and its residents,
- b) efficiently utilizing the time of the of 90 individual volunteers who participate in municipal governance through this medium, and
- c) legally sufficient in terms of both fulfillment of legal mission as well as operating in accordance with any recent changes in Wyoming State Statutes,

Council discussed the potential review and discussion of the board and commission structure off and on during 2018 and, most-recently, in early-2019 when a work session topic was formally set for the year. In preparation for this work session, Staff have conducted an initial review of the city's 16 boards and commissions with two apparent opportunities for improvement.

- 1) In 2017, the Public Works Director submitted a recommendation to the City Manager that the functions of the Traffic Commission be evaluated and streamlined to reflect modern management and engineering principles for municipal transportation systems, and to improve customer service. The Traffic Commission (TC) was created under a very old section of Laramie Municipal Code (LMC) Title 10.08 that pre-dates professional training and licensure for traffic engineering. Staff recommend re-evaluation of TC functions to modernize our municipal processes for traffic engineering/ management and to hasten the response time to resident inquiries, as well as to bring Laramie Municipal Code in line with State Statute.
- 2) The Downtown Development Authority is authorized under WY S.S. 15-9-201 and was formed under dispensation of the City Council many years ago to allow the pursuit of a taxing district for purposes of downtown development and redevelopment. With no tax approved by the property owners within the DDA District, discussion is warranted as to whether or not the DDA should continue - or whether it might be more properly reconstituted as a nimbler entity unencumbered by the statutory requirements of taxing governmental bodies.

Staff initiated discussion with the DDA many months back concerning whether or not there was any intent to pursue a tax initiative? The DDA has been gathering information about taxation from other districts and, is scheduled on August 13th, to review the DDA mission and consider surveying and hosting an open house with downtown business owners to discuss mill levy.

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Downtown Development Authority WY § 15-9-201

Traffic Commission LMC 10.08

Responsible Staff:

Janine Jordan, City Manager and Bob Southard, City Attorney