


MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Chester Murray, Interim City Manager 

DATE: January 12, 2010

SUBJECT: Council Meeting Time

PURPOSE

To discuss alternate meeting times for City Council meetings.

BACKGROUND

The issue was raised at a recent meeting to consider having at least one of the regular monthly Council meetings during daytime hours in an effort to make attendance more accessible for all residents, particularly for folks who don't want to drive at night. Council asked that this issue be put on a future agenda for discussion.

Some issues which come to mind for further exploration are:

- Take meetings "to the people" by having some off-site meetings
- Start the meetings earlier during daylight savings time so that it will remain light until the end of the meeting.
- Check with other cities that have daytime meetings to see if it has impacted attendance
- Use the website more to disseminate information rather than requiring attendance at meetings .
- Of course, our City Council members are part-time and several have other "daytime" jobs which might make attendance at early meetings difficult. How would a change in schedule impact their primary employment?
- Should any changes wait until the new Manager begins?

Alternatives could be instituted on a trial basis for a quarter and then evaluated to determine if a change should be made permanently.