

(17-300) Consider Reviewing and Updating the Rules of Order for City Council Agendas and Meetings. (Councilmember Matarrese)

Councilmember Matarrese made brief comments regarding the referral; stated that he does not think the referral is a high priority; stated matter could be addressed by the Open Government Commission (OGC).

Councilmember Ezzy Ashcraft stated that she wants the City Clerk's Office and the City Attorney's Office to be involved in any review of applicable rules and laws.

Councilmember Matarrese concurred.

Councilmember Oddie stated finding a way to improve Council meetings would be helpful for the public; suggested having a subcommittee of the Council rather than the OGC conduct the review; stated that he would be happy to be a part of the subcommittee.

Vice Mayor Vella stated the Council is trying to not sensor or sway the OGC's decision; Council should be cognizant of the public's ability to communicate with Council and ensure transparency is prevalent; there is no limit for staff time on presentations; staff time for presentations and the time estimate for each agenda item should be reviewed.

Councilmember Ezzy Ashcraft stated she would like to serve on the subcommittee.

Vice Mayor Vella stated her preference would be to not have a subcommittee, but to have the OGC provide an independent check.

Mayor Spencer stated that she does not support a subcommittee; stated the job should be handled by the OGC; the OGC should review the order of items on the agenda, which is an issue.

Councilmember Oddie stated issues, such as the Brown Act or the order of the agenda, are part of the Sunshine Ordinance; the way Council conducts meetings and staff presentation time is the responsibility of Council.

Mayor Spencer stated that she would like to hear from staff on how the matter should be handled.

The City Manager stated staff is currently discussing how to streamline staff reports and presentations; some items, such as the budget, will need a more detailed conversation.

Mayor Spencer stated that she does not support a subcommittee.

Councilmember Oddie stated the matter needs in depth analysis and introspection.

Mayor Spencer stated that she does not support a subcommittee; she would like the

issue to come back to the entire Council.

Vice Mayor Vella stated that she would like data to see how many meetings have gone past 11:00 p.m. and how many items run over time estimates; there should be a quick review of the past year to see what happened at meetings.

Councilmember Matarrese stated that he does not see why both the subcommittee and the OGC cannot review the matter.

Mayor Spencer questioned where is the matter in regards to priority; stated the matter will take staff time.

The City Manager responded the motion is not staff intensive because the subcommittee and the OGC would be working on the matter; the City Clerk and City Attorney's office will be resources for the OGC.

The City Attorney noted the City Clerk's and City Attorney's Office staff the OGC.

Councilmember Oddie stated in Oakland, there is a time limit for questions and deliberations for Councilmembers, which is something to think about for Alameda.

Councilmember Matarrese moved approval to have a City Council subcommittee and the OGC to review the rules of order, with the OGC meeting timing scheduled within the workload of the City Clerk's and City Attorney's office.

Councilmember Oddie seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous voice vote – 5.

Councilmember Oddie inquired about the members of the City Council Subcommittee.

Councilmember Matarrese responded that he has no preference and does not need to serve.

Councilmember Oddie volunteered to be part of the subcommittee.

Councilmember Ezzy Ashcraft also stated she wants to be a part of the subcommittee.

Mayor Spencer stated that she does not support formation of a subcommittee; however, she would prefer that she and Vice Mayor Vella be on the subcommittee.

Councilmember Oddie inquired whether Councilmember Matarrese is fine with him and Councilmember Ezzy Ashcraft serving on the subcommittee, to which Councilmember Matarrese responded in the affirmative.

Councilmember Ezzy Ashcraft stated Mayor Spencer objects to the formation of a subcommittee.

Mayor Spencer stated her preference is to always include the Mayor and Vice Mayor in this type of subcommittee; her preference is to include all Councilmembers; if the limit is only two members on the subcommittee, she would prefer the Mayor and Vice Mayor.

Councilmember Ezzy Ashcraft stated there cannot be more than two people serving on the subcommittee due to the Brown Act.

Mayor Spencer stated that her preference would be to have the Vice Mayor and herself if there is going to be a subcommittee.

Councilmember Oddie inquired whether there is going to be a motion.

Councilmember Matarrese moved approval of Councilmember Oddie and Councilmember Ezzy Ashcraft being the subcommittee members.

Councilmember Oddie seconded the motion, which carried by the following voice vote:
Ayes: Councilmember Ezzy Ashcraft, Matarrese and Oddie – 3. Noes: Mayor Spencer – 1. Abstention: Vice Mayor Vella – 1.