

Budget Issue #2

BUDGET ISSUE SUMMARY FORM**Budget Issue Title:** Broadcasting Council Study Sessions**Lead Department:** Office of the City Manager**1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated it?**

This issue considers whether or not to broadcast Council study sessions on the City's public television channel (Channel 15), similar to the manner in which it currently broadcasts general business meetings of the City Council and Planning Commission. It was prompted by Councilmember Meyering's request to broadcast a particular study session in the fall of 2013. Staff's response at the time was to "podcast" the meeting (i.e., produce an audio recording). At that time, staff indicated that while broadcasting study sessions was worthy of exploration, there were fiscal and logistical impacts that needed to be considered prior to setting this precedent.

2. How does this relate to the General Plan or existing City Policy?**Policy 7.2.1 Community Engagement— Goals and Policies**

Goal A: Achieve a community in which all community members are well informed about local issues, City Programs and Services.

Policy A.1 Assure that all community members have reasonable access to City information, services and programs within budgeted resources.

Policy A.3 Ensure an integrated approach to informing community members about local issues, City programs and services that reaches segments of a diverse community.

Goal B: Achieve a community in which all community members can be actively involved in shaping the quality of life and participate in local community and government activities.

Policy B.2 Simplify processes and procedures to make it easy and convenient for community members to participate in City activities and programs.

3. Is the budget issue a: PROJECT _____ OPERATING X

4. **If the issue is operating, specify the change in service objective(s) that would result (from what, to what). If the issue is a project, write N/A.**
Broadcasting Council study sessions would not change any City service objective; rather, it would allow staff to better achieve the existing objectives identified under #2 above.

5. **Origin of issue:** Council X Councilmember Meyering

Board and Commission _____ Board/Commission: _____

Staff _____ Department _____

6. **Projected cost (list rough annual cost of budget item):**

Operating Issue \$ 1,323 (Annual Operating Costs)

Capital/Project \$ _____ (Project Cost)

\$ _____ (Associated Annual Operating Costs)

The hourly rate for broadcasting meetings in the current contract with KMVT is \$44.10. This projected cost is based on an average of 30 hours of study session meetings per year (15 meetings at two hours each) which amounts to \$1,323. The KMVT contract expires in June 2014 at which time new rates will be set.

7. **Recommended funding source:**

New revenue source General Fund

Service level reduction _____

Other _____

Please describe recommended funding source: _____

8. Staff evaluation and recommendation of proposed budget issue:

Evaluation: Staff believes that the broadcasting of study sessions would provide a beneficial service to the community. Study sessions are generally conducted for complex policy items, allowing Council the opportunity to delve deeper into related issues prior to taking formal action. Broadcasting study sessions would allow the general public greater access to these informative meetings, helping them to not only form their own public opinion regarding the subject(s) being discussed, but to understand Councilmember concerns, questions, and perspectives.

It should be noted that the City's technological capabilities limit this type of broadcast to meetings conducted in the Council Chambers. Therefore, if this service is adopted, Council will need to weigh occasionally the importance of broadcasting a particular study session versus the importance of conducting that study session at a specific alternative venue (e.g., a dog park study session at Las Palmas Park, a library expansion study session at the library).

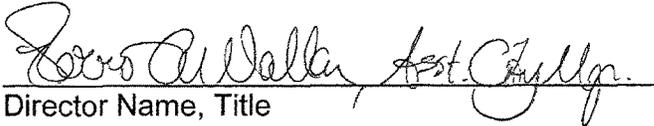
Given the relatively minor expense involved, staff recommends that the service simply be adopted if staff can find a way to absorb the expense or otherwise cover it within the proposed two-year budget. The existing contract with KMVT expires in June 2014 and staff will be re-negotiating in the near future.

Refer budget issue for consideration in Recommended Budget X

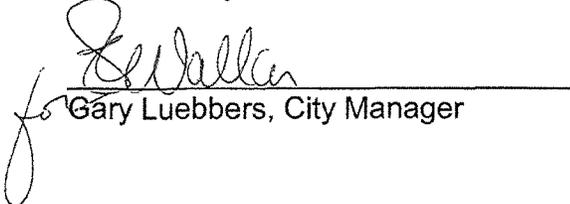
Defer budget issue to future fiscal year

Drop budget issue

Reviewed by:


Director Name, Title

Reviewed by:


for Gary Luebbers, City Manager