



APRIL 17, 2018
OROVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Agenda Item 8.1: Additional Agenda Material
Oroville Observations and Suggestions

From: Tom Lando, Interim City Administrator

1. The City has great staff and is headed in a positive direction even with limited resources.
2. The City Council should consider amending the Charter to make a number of changes:
 - a. Consideration should be given to switching to a manager form of government. At the current time both control and accountability are too diverse. The advantage of a City Manager form of government is a clear line of responsibility. The City Council concentrates on policy and directs two people- the City Manager and City Attorney. As it is department heads can ignore the administrator and worse yet appear to get conflicting direction from multiple sources.
 - b. Consideration should be given to eliminating the elected treasurer position. Again, having clear lines of responsibility and accountability. Elected staff makes that very difficult even with a very good person in that position.
 - c. Consideration should be given to simply creating the Park Commission in the Charter instead of vesting such specific authority in that commission. The Council should be the hub of all policy for the City.
 - d. Consider eliminating a separate election for the Mayor. The Mayor is the ceremonial head of the City and runs meetings, having a separately elected position may imply more decision making authority than actually exists. The revision could include simply that the top vote getter is appointed the Mayor for the next two years.
 - e. The Council may want to discuss if there is a desire in the future to reduce the Council size to five. There are arguments for both keeping the current number and also for reducing to five members. Many cities consider five to be more likely to reach consensus. Although perhaps not a problem in Oroville, it can also reduce the likelihood of factions developing on the City Council.
3. Each council member is elected because of positions they have outlined to the voters. The key to a smooth functioning organization is to be able to disagree without being

disagreeable. Easy to say very difficult to do. While there is a code of conduct, it is only as worthwhile as the individual council members voluntarily adhering to it.

4. The Council should consider regular work sessions, such as the ones you have set up for the budget. These meetings typically can focus on one or two items in both a more in depth and relaxed fashion.

As a possible method to facilitate this, perhaps every other month rather than having a mid-month meeting, the City Council could meet in a work session to discuss one or two major items. This will allow more in depth discussion and should lead to more understanding and perhaps consensus on critical issues.

5. Most councils that have a number of people speaking to items not on the agenda will request that the next speaker be in line behind the person at the podium so that there is a smooth transition from one speaker to the next.
6. I would suggest the City Council consider starting the meetings at 5:30. It is difficult for the working person to settle in at home and then journey back out an hour or hour and a half later. Of course, it would also mean City Council might get home earlier itself. Depending on City Council members schedules, the council could consider holding closed sessions at 4, 4:30 or 5 (or even after the meeting).
7. The City Council should consider establishing an end time for your meetings, perhaps 9 pm. To extend the meeting beyond that time would take a majority vote of the Council. After 3- 3.5 hours of meeting most people tend to lose their concentration. Providing a framework around the meeting time helps in the setting of agendas so as to not overload the City Council.