

21. 21-242 Item Submitted by Councilmember Kalmick Approved - Elimination of two staff level committees — Environmental Assessment Committee (EAC) and Subdivision Committee

Councilmember Kalmick explained his opinion that the Subdivision Committee, which consists of staff and Planning Commissioners, was functional when created, but at this point, it just creates additional hurdles that increase project costs. He stated his intention is to ask staff to eliminate the Committee and change necessary code and policy.

Councilmember Kalmick described the Environmental Assessment Committee (EAC) as three staff members, including the City Attorney, holding a public meeting to discuss a position they have taken. He explained his opinion that the Brown "Open Meetings" Act does not apply to the EAC because it is composed of staff members, and they should just file a Notice of Action. He added that no one could say anything at an EAC meeting that would change a project outcome.

Councilmember Delgleize stated her support for the item because the issues discussed by these Committees are public and transparent with other options available in the process for the public to address any concerns.

Councilmember Posey stated his support for this item and shared his opinion this action dovetails with approved Consent Calendar Item No. 17 (21-221) regarding establishing an Ad-Hoc Committee to perform a formal review of the City's current Boards, Commission, and Committee structure. Councilmember Posey confirmed with Councilmember Kalmick that they are not aware of either of these Committee decisions ever being overturned.

Mayor Carr, Councilmember Kalmick and Chief Assistant City Attorney Vigliotta discussed the fact that they do not ever recall any members of the public attending any of these Committee meetings. Director Luna-Reynosa explained that for the Subdivision Committee, the action is a tentative tract map that goes before the Planning Commission with a Notice of Public Hearing for public input. The Planning Commission's recommendation goes before the City Council with another opportunity for public comment. She further stated that the EAC process follows the same path with several other opportunities for public input, and explained that most other cities do not have comparable committees.

Councilmember Mosey stated her opinion that these committees appear to be redundant and therefore she supports the item.

Councilmember Kalmick and Director Luna-Reynosa discussed the multiple opportunities the public has to be involved in these processes, and confirmed that Environmental Impact Reports, Negative, and Mitigated Declarations are disclosure documents which include public participation.

A motion was made by Kalmick, second Delgleize to recommend that the City Council direct staff to prepare the ordinances and/or resolutions necessary to comply with relevant State law to eliminate both the EAC and the Subdivision Committee and to roll those existing functions into the appropriate review body.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Peterson, Kalmick, Ortiz, Carr, Posey, Moser, and Delgleize
NOES: None