THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: November 15, 2022

Subject: Updating Council Committees

Staff Resource(s): Rachel Wood, Assistant City Manager and Sarah Gross, Deputy City Clerk

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution updating the scope and composition of City Council Committees and committing to conduct a regular review of Council Committee scopes following the annual City Council Retreat.

Review:

- City Council Committees review policy matters and inform and educate Council on City programs and community matters.
- The City Council Committee structure has remained largely unchanged since 2006.
- Considering the significant change that has occurred both organizationally and within the community since the Council Committee structure was established, review will ensure Council Committees are in alignment.
- City Council currently has six Council Committees, which include: 1) Governance; 2) Boards and Commissions; 3) Planning and Economic Development 4) Housing and Community Development; 5) Public Safety; and 6) Finance and Human Resources
- Based on the feedback received to-date, and an assessment of the City Council's vision and strategic priorities, staff is recommending to revise the Council Committee structure to include:
    1. Policy, Finance and Human Resources (combines previous Governance and Finance and Human Resources Committees);
    2. Boards and Commissions;
    3. Planning and Economic Development;
    4. Housing and Community Development;
    5. Environment and Safety (expanded scope of Public Safety Committee to include Environment) and;.
    6. Equity and Engagement (new Committee)
- Additional details on the scopes of the proposed Council Committee structure can be found in the attached resolution and presentation.
- The proposed resolution revising the City Council Committee structure also recommends that the City Council conduct a review of committee scopes and structure following each annual City Council retreat.

Council Goals:

- Clean and Healthy Environment
- Connected & Engaged Community
- Equitable & Diverse Community
- Financially Resilient City
- Thriving Local Economy
- Transportation & Accessibility
- Well Planned & Livable Community

Committee(s):

- Council Worksession - May 10, 2022
- Governance Committee - September 13, 2022 - Review and feedback
- Governance Committee - October 11, 2022 - Approved 3-0 with recommendation to add food systems security to Environment & Safety Committee

Pro(s):

- Enhanced alignment with current City Council Vision Focus Areas and Priorities.
- Helps provide clarity for topics and policy considerations that should be brought to each City Council Committee.
- Enhanced reporting on projects and programs aligned with City Council priorities and Vision Focus Areas.

Con(s):

- Revision to committee structure that has been largely unchanged since 2006 may cause initial confusion as staff and the community adjust to the revised scopes.

Fiscal Impact:

- No direct fiscal impact.

Staff Recommendation:

- Staff recommends approval of the revised City Council Committees based on the pros stated above.

Suggested Motion:

- Move to recommend that the Asheville City Council approve a resolution revising the City Council Committee scope and composition and committing to conduct a regular review of Council Committee scopes following the annual City Council Retreat.

Attachments

- Resolution
- Presentation

RESOLUTION NO. 22-_____

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES STRUCTURE

WHEREAS, City Council Committees review policy matters and inform and educate Council on City programs and community matters; and

WHEREAS, the City Council Committees structure has remained largely unchanged since 2006; and

WHEREAS, considering the significant change that has occurred both organizationally and within the community since the Council Committees structure was established, revisions will ensure Council Committees are in alignment with Council Priorities; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that City Council will review the Council Committees scopes, compositions and policy areas of review at or following their City Council retreat on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, City Council currently has six council committees, which are: Governance; Boards and Commissions; Planning and Economic Development; Housing and Community Development; and Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, based upon an assessment of the City Council's vision and strategic priorities, staff is recommending to revise the Council Committees structure to include Committees:

- Policy, Finance and Human Resources (combines previous Governance and Finance and Human Resources Committees);
- Boards and Commissions;
- Planning and Economic Development;
- Housing and Community Development;
- Equity and Engagement (new Committee); and
- Environment and Safety (expanded scope of Public Safety Committee to include Environment).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

City Council amends its City Council Committees structure as outlined in Attachment A.

Read, approved and adopted this 15th day of November, 2022.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney

ATTACHMENT A

Equity and Engagement

The Equity and Engagement Committee will review policy updates and make policy recommendations that ensure:

1) Fairness and equity in the provision of City resources and livelihood needs of all community members and groups; and

2) An equitable community that provides community members with the opportunity to be informed and engaged in the policy making process.

Policy Topics Covered:

- Equitable Investment
- Reparations
- Support for Disadvantaged and Minority Communities
- Racial Healing Grants
- Community Involvement in Decision-Making, Neighborhood Planning
- Neighborhood Matching Grants
- Citizen Survey
- Access to Opportunities
- Strategic Partnership Investments
- Engagement Initiatives
- Engagement Tools and Technologies
- Support Issues Pertaining to Persons with Disabilities
- LGBTQ+ policy considerations

FY23 Council Priorities:

- Neighborhood Resilience
- Reparations

Environment and Safety

The Environment and Safety Committee will review policy updates and make policy recommendations that ensure:

1) The contributions of natural resources to human well-being are explicitly recognized and valued and that maintaining their health is a primary objective;

2) Public health needs are recognized and addressed through provisions for healthy foods, physical activity, access to recreation, healthcare, environmental justice, and safe neighborhoods;

3) Building and maintenance resilience to climate change; and

4) The provision of public safety, including Police, Fire, and Emergency Management Services, as well as, intergovernmental relations and cooperation with law enforcement.

Policy Topics Covered:

- Green Building
- Facility Upgrades and Retrofits
- Fleet and Carbon Reduction
- Green Infrastructure, Flooding and Erosion
- Stormwater Management
- Trees and Urban Forestry
- Climate Change, Adaptation & Resilience
- Renewable & Alternative Energy
- Food Systems Security
- Water Use & Sanitation
- Parks and Recreation Operations and Planning
- Climate Justice
- Emergency Preparedness
- Public Safety

FY23 Council Priorities:

- Reimagining Public Safety
- Neighborhood Resilience

Planning and Economic Development

The Planning and Economic Development Committee will review policy updates and make policy recommendations that:

1) Support City Council's long-range vision and comprehensive planning goals;

2) Provide direction on development policies and processes and transportation standards that ensure sustainable development and redevelopment strategies;

3) Provide economic development strategies that enhance the health of the economy and improve the employability of Asheville residents; and

4) Ensure that all local proposals account for, connect with, and support the plans of adjacent jurisdictions and the surrounding region.

Policy Topics Covered:

- Land Use & Zoning
- Growth & Development
- Transportation & Connectivity
- Streets & Sidewalks
- Greenways
- Transit and Paratransit Service
- Infrastructure and Utilities
- The Arts & Culture
- Public Spaces
- Urban Design
- Historic Preservation
- Regional Transportation
- Regional Collaboration, Coordination & Communication
- Economic Development
- Economic Diversity & Jobs
- Real Estate & Public Benefits

FY23 Council Priority:

- Improve and Expand Core Services

Housing & Community Development

The Housing and Community Development Committee will:

1) Review policy updates and make policy recommendations that enhance the quality of life in Asheville and the livability of neighborhoods on all matters relating to the creation and maintenance of housing within the City, including public housing and affordable private housing;

2) Review policy matters relating to solving homelessness and the provision of services to unhoused individuals within the City; and

3) Oversee the City's investments of Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Funding Programs to address a wide range of community development needs.

Policy Topics Covered:

- Housing Affordability & Supply
- Housing Incentives
- Homelessness
- HUD - CDBG and HOME Investments

FY23 Council Priorities:

- Houselessness Strategies
- Equitable and Affordable Housing and Stability

Policy, Finance and Human Resources

The Policy, Finance, and Human Resources Committee will hear and review policy updates on:

1) Governance related matters and the policy development process;

2) City Council's Rules of Procedures, establishment of the Council Retreat Committee, and Council Committees;

3) The annual budget process, capital improvement programming and debt, financial reporting, annual audit, and fees; and

4) Policies related to Human Resources, including personnel and compensation.

Policy Topics Covered:

- Citywide policy initiatives
- Council Rules of Procedure
- Purview and Structure of Council Committee(s)
- Financial well being
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Debt
- Budget Process
- Annual Audit
- Land Use Incentive Grants
- Human Resource Policies, including employee compensation

FY23 Council Priority:

- Improve and Expand Core Services

Boards and Commissions Committee

The Boards and Commissions Committee will:

1) Review applications to boards and commissions and recommend appointments to City Council;

2) Provide guidance on establishing new boards and commissions;

3) Review amendments to board and commission establishing resolutions/ordinances;

4) Develop process timelines for appointments as needed; and

5) Review and make recommendations on board and commission related policies and evaluations.

Policy Topics Covered:

- Appointment process for boards and commissions
- Board and commission rules and procedure(s)

Council Priorities:

- All