



City Council Pending Requests for Information

City Council Meeting

December 3, 2024

File ID: 24-1558



Work Session Process

- Up to seven requests will be reviewed per meeting (one per Council Member)
- Staff will introduce each request
- The requesting Council Member will have up to two minutes to describe and justify their request
- Remaining Council Members will then have a maximum of one minute each to provide feedback and indicate their support for the use of City staff time to respond to the request
- Staff will respond to all requests where a consensus of at least four elected officials is established with an Informal Staff Report and/or Legal Staff Report outlining estimated cost to implement, estimated timeline for implementation of, and determination of strategic alignment of the request



Work Session Process - Continued

- If the requesting Council Member's request is satisfied with the report, the request is concluded with no further action. If the request is not satisfied, the request may be submitted to the Agenda Committee to enter the Council Committee Process as defined in Sec 2-30(c)(5). A consensus of six (6) Council Members is required for a resolution or ordinance to be placed on a future City Council agenda without going through the Council Committee Process.
- Staff time will not be allowed to work on any request that is concluded with no further action unless the request is resubmitted.



Item 1

Installation of rooftop and wall gardens and solar panels with batteries on City buildings.

Requestor: Council Member Beck

- a. **Council Member Request:** “As we continue building a more sustainable and operating-cost-efficient Denton, I propose we explore implementing greenroofs (rooftop and wall gardens), as well as rooftop solar/battery installations, for all new city government buildings and existing ones where structurally feasible. This initiative will not only benefit our environment but will also save taxpayer dollars through operational savings in the long run. It will also pilot feasibility for other institutions within Denton to similarly adopt such strategies.



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- a. **Council Member Request:** “The National League of Cities has had extensive workshops by the DOE and the EPA describing how rooftop gardens reduce building energy costs by insulating against heat in the summer and retaining warmth in the winter, lowering utility bills. They also absorb rainwater, reducing stormwater runoff and alleviating pressure on city infrastructure, which helps taxpayers avoid costly upgrades to our sewer systems as well as mitigating street and sidewalk runoff. Plus, by improving air quality, enhancing urban biodiversity, and providing habitat for pollinator insect species, these gardens contribute to a healthier community—both reducing public health costs and enhancing wildlife.



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- a. **Council Member Request:** “Rooftop solar with battery storage delivers immediate and ongoing savings by generating clean energy onsite - significantly reducing energy bills for public buildings - energy that can be accessed in peak load hours or during emergencies, improving resiliency and reducing taxpayer costs. Together, rooftop gardens and solar panels work synergistically—plants cool solar panels, increasing their efficiency by 10-25% thus driving even more savings.
- This dual strategy represents a cost-effective, forward-thinking investment. By reducing operating expenses for city buildings, taxpayers will see real, tangible savings year after year. Furthermore, the combination of green roofs and solar panels can extend the lifespan of roofing materials, cutting down on costly repairs and replacements. Strategies similar to this have already been implemented at the Embassy Suites Complex.



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- a. **Council Member Request:** “To advance this idea, I request an informal staff report (ISR) to analyze feasibility, projected savings, and cost-benefit impacts for taxpayers. Following that, we can discuss the findings in a council work session and chart the best path forward. This initiative is about saving money while creating a healthier, more sustainable Denton for generations to come.”

Date Requested: November 25, 2024

Format for Response: ISR

