

City Council Pending Requests for Information

City Council Meeting
August 2, 2022



Work Session Process

- Up to seven requests will be reviewed per meeting (one per Council Member)
- Staff will introduce each request
- The elected official that made the request will have up to two minutes to describe and justify their request
- Remaining elected officials will then have up to one minute to provide feedback and indicate their support for the use of staff time to respond to the request
- Staff will respond to all requests where a consensus of Council is established

Work Session Process - Continued

- The Agenda Committee will assist in scheduling items receiving consensus based upon priority offered by Council Members, work session availability, and readiness of the item.
- As guidelines for Council Members to note and offer their priority while supporting an item, the following general categorization could be used to indicate any Council Member's support to assist staff and the Agenda Committee:
 - **High** – Time-sensitivity of the item is significant; the item is critical to the community or organization; and/or the item is of such importance that it should take precedence over other scheduled priorities, projects, or items.
 - **Moderate** – The item is somewhat time-sensitive; the item has a valuable impact to the community or organization; and/or the item is important but should be integrated into work plans accordingly.
 - **Low** – The item is not time-sensitive; the item has an impact but it is limited; and/or the item should be scheduled into work plans where possible, but should not affect or delay other scheduled work.

Item 1

A Work Session to consider options for proof-of-concept electric vehicle transit downtown or electric bus circulator route between Brock Transit Center and Presbyterian Hospital.

Requestor: Council Member Davis

Council Member Request: "I am requesting a work session to consider options for proof-of-concept electric vehicle transit downtown, including option like the CARTS electric cabs in downtown Bastrop, TX or an electric bus circulator route between Presbyterian Hospital and the Brock Transit Center."

Staff Information: If the Council wishes to move forward with this request, staff will develop a Work Session for presentation.

Date Requested: July 7, 2022

Requested Format for Response: Work Session

Item 2

An Informal Staff Report on any current task force that is addressing the crisis of affordable childcare and what role the City of Denton is involved in said groups.

Requestor: Council Member Watts

Council Member Request: "I would like to give a two-minute pitch for staff to provide an informal staff report on any current task force that is addressing the crisis of affordable childcare and what role the City of Denton is involved in said groups. During the pandemic, 50% of childcare facilities did not reopen as the pandemic lessened and restrictions were lifted."

Staff Information: The Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team (DCWSLT), supported by United Way of Denton County (UWDC) staff, has an existing workgroup focused on childcare. The workgroup has been exploring barriers to access and opportunities to increase access to childcare both through funding for new centers and increasing funding for subsidized childcare at existing centers.

If the Council wishes to move forward with this request, staff will provide an informal staff report on the DCWSLT work group and what role the city of Denton is involved in this group.

Date Requested: July 21, 2022

Requested Format for Response: Informal Staff Report

Item 3

A Work Session to discuss the prevention of inquiries of an applicant's criminal history prior to making conditional offers of employment unless a law requires an earlier inquiry.

Requestor: Council Member McGee

Council Member Request: "I would like to propose a work session to discuss the prevention of inquiries about an applicant's criminal history information PRIOR to making a conditional offer of employment unless a law requires an earlier inquiry. This would apply to employers citywide and is aimed at "Bridging the Gap" between employers and potential employees. The federal government already does this and it applies to all federal agencies and their contractors. This is something that is encouraged by the Texas Workforce Commission and an increasing number of the top companies in the country. It's a good and fair best practice that I believe can and should be adopted in the city of Denton."

Item 3

Staff Information: A citywide ordinance banning inquiries into an applicant's criminal history until the end of the hiring process would follow a similar implementation process, and be bound by similar challenges, as the comprehensive non-discrimination ordinance. The City would need to consider how it is applied, what exclusions are necessary, the resources and expenses required to educate all of our businesses appropriately, handle complaints received and then investigate them, and determine a penalty provision if businesses are found to be in violation of the ordinance. To understand the sentiments of the business community, Council may consider holding a public hearing or otherwise providing sufficient time for the community to give its feedback prior to the consideration of an ordinance.

It is an employment best practice to not ask for or check an individual's criminal history until later in the hiring process (e.g. a conditional job offer) so it can be considered on a very individual basis (consider the nature of the crime, the time passed, the nature of the job). Therefore, it is likely many businesses are already using this practice, especially larger businesses with the resources and guidance to do so. Information on this topic from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is available [online](#). If the Council wishes to move forward with this request, staff will develop a Work Session for presentation.

Date Requested: July 28, 2022

Requested Format for Response: Work Session