

City of Independence

Discussion Regarding Digital City Council Packets

To: City Council
From: Mark Kaltsas, City Administrator
Meeting Date: June 14, 2016

Discussion:

The City Council previously discussed moving to digital City Council packets. Staff estimated the cost of printing paper City Council packets to be approximately \$1,000 per year without consideration for staff time (both police and City staff). Staff would like to further discuss paper replacement possibilities with the Council. Several options that could be considered are as follows:

1. City owned tablet. The City would purchase and own a tablet for each City Council Member. The estimated cost for the tablets is ~\$450 per tablet.
2. City Council technology stipend. The City would provide a technology stipend to each City Council Member for the purpose of purchasing a personal tablet/laptop. The stipend could be given all at once or paid proportionately throughout the year. Staff discussed this concept with several other cities and found that ~\$500 per year is a typical stipend.
3. City Council to use existing personal technology. Council Members would use a personal tablet or laptop.

With all three options, staff would work with the Council to utilize a cloud based storage solution for transferring and sending files to the Council. Staff has identified the most common method for uploading and sharing files and found a platform that would work across all tablets or laptops. In addition to the City Council, the Planning Commission has agreed to utilize digital packets. Staff is seeking additional direction/discussion from the Council relating to digital packets and technology.