DISCUSSION DRAFT
Purpose of / expectations for our Council roundtable discussion

The Budget Task Force work provides a foundation for the Council to develop a continuing process that enables us to ask questions and have intentional discussions about the our city services. How do our services and programs meet the needs of our municipality in the 21st century? Are we delivering needed programs and services in an efficient and effective way? Are we collaborating with our local and regional government and organizational entities effectively? Is the work we do as a city still meaningful to our residents?

This roundtable discussion is a beginning conversation to enable the City Council to:

→ establish a process for deliberating on the BTF and Council member recommendations from 9/21/15: what questions should we ask about each suggestion, how will we determine which ideas we want to discuss further and which need to be set aside in a "parking lot" or dismissed for the present time? who will champion agreed-upon recommendations and assist in moving them forward?

→ develop a process for Council to continue to submit suggestions for service and program changes; enable a procedure to vet these suggestions as part of our regular work; decide what information we would ask for, what would trigger further discussion or tabling of the idea, and who would be responsible for gathering the information if there is agree to pursue

→ develop a framework for aligning sales tax and user fee revenue with our general fund needs (over and above mental health and whole street and sidewalk infrastructure repair)

Additional framing questions from Dave Sage:

We must start asking a series of questions about our city programs and services including:
  • Is this a service/program the people of Bloomington are willing to pay for?

Is this a service/program only the COB can deliver?
YES
  • What are the stated goals/outcomes of this city program/service?
  • How are we measuring these goals/outcomes?
  • How do we know we're achieving the stated goals/outcomes?
  • How can the cost of the program/service be decreased?

  NO
  • Is/can the program/service be delivered by another entity? Town, County, ISU, IWU, private sector

9-30-15