

## Discussion re Cost of Changing the Form of Government

Mayor Klaas <Mayor@clydehill.org>

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To: Mayor Klaas <Mayor@clydehill.org>

**From:** Councilmember Hachamovitch <council5@clydehill.org>

**Sent:** Monday, July 18, 2022 5:10 PM

**To:** Dean Rohla <Dean@clydehill.org>; Mayor Klaas <Mayor@clydehill.org>

**Cc:** Councilmember Friedman <council1@clydehill.org>

**Subject:** Discussion re Cost of Changing the Form of Government

Thanks for the time just now — to recap our conversation (Council bcc'd FYI):

We agreed on updating the memo to provide the community an answer to “What is the marginal cost of converting the form of government?”

The goal is a reasonable, factual, specific estimate of the direct costs should there be a conversion to the new form of government. This question is different from what the most recent (June 28) memo addresses.

Some of the costs in the latest memo are not related to the conversion. For example, the City will pay the cost of the election, drafting the resolution, etc. whether there is a conversion or not.

We discussed how there are clearly direct and knowable costs as well as indirect and unknowable costs.

For example, there are legal costs to update ordinances/code. City Attorney Brubaker's estimate is \$5K-\$10K.

There are a bunch of costs proffered that are potential/TBD and not a certainty. For example, increasing FTE/staffing:

- The Mayor is going to propose, ahead of this election, adding staff.
- The role of the City Clerk (an example that came up during the discussion) is not necessarily another FTE. I called MRSC; they offered the example of Blaine. There, the #2 to the City Manager is the City Clerk; this is the equivalent of John Greenwood being “Assistant City Administrator, and also City Clerk.” <https://www.ci.blaine.wa.us/55/Administration>. This points to potential/TBD marginal salary increases.
- There is nothing inherent in the form of government that calls for more staff... looking to Medina, they have in-house planning, waterfront, and several city parks to care for. (Clyde Hill, generally, uses contractors.)

We appreciate that there is some *displaced work*. That is not the same as more spend. In 2021, when the City planned to do a great deal of Title 17/Land Use Code review, and then didn't, there wasn't less spend. There was simply other work done. In this case, Staff might spend time on tasks related to the conversion and not on, say, Title 17 work. That's not the same as additional spend.

We discussed the cost of a candidate search. It's not clear whether that's actual marginal spend. If the voters choose to not change the form of government, the Mayor could still choose to find a new City Administrator and the City would incur that cost.

Looking at items 8-13 from the Mayor's June 28 memo ([link](#)):

- Numbers 8 and 9 involve, mostly, displaced work as compared to marginal spend.
- There's no requirement for a Salary Commission. This item does reflect that there would be a ~\$29K saving to the City in operational costs.
- It's not clear what the marginal work is around “communication and reporting methods to keep the Council and public informed.” Either they exist and will be used or they don't exist and would need to be created whether the conversion happens or not.

Thanks —  
Cms Friedman & Hachamovitch