

Mount Vernon City Council 2022 Legislative Agenda: Year End Review

Concluding Remarks: A year ago, on January 19, 2022, I sent an e-mail (with a pdf of this legislative agenda "task analysis") to then City Council legislative assistant Elias Gootzeit, cc'ing each member of the city council and the heads of several of the city's neighborhood associations. The e-mail started like this: *"I'm a city resident. I reviewed the CCs 2022 legislative agenda. It's really good. In an effort to help, I task analyzed each of the 7 items on the agenda. This will allow me, other residents, and the CC members too (if they are so inclined), to track CC progress toward meeting their stated objectives. Essentially, this is tool I (and others) can use to hold the cc accountable for their stated agenda, which I think is helpful for everyone."*

Mr. Gootzeit seemed to appreciate the effort. He replied, *"Dear Mr. McDonough, By this email, I am copying your email to each of the members of the Mount Vernon City Council, and the City Clerk. I am also requesting that it be added to the "referrals" list for the Working Session where it can be assigned to the appropriate Council Committee as correspondence. Please be assured that your attention to detail is the very effort that our City Council expected when it distributed its agenda. Your concern and inspired effort is very encouraging."*

City Council member, Ed Poteat, sent a follow up e-mail asking me to share the excel spreadsheet, which I did. No other City Council member responded.

By my account, **the City Council never reported to the public about progress toward meeting their stated 2022 legislative agenda.** This is unfortunate; it would have been helpful for them to give residents regular progress updates about a legislative agenda that they themselves established.

Here is my final report regarding progress the City Council made toward meeting their 2022 legislative agenda.

Methods: 2 city residents independently watched city council meetings, read meeting agendas (including legislation), and read available information on the city website and Facebook page. Then, each resident completed this review independently. If either or both residents thought there is public evidence that an agenda item is being addressed by the city council, a score of 1 was given. If both residents agreed that there is no public evidence that an agenda item is being addressed by the city council, a score of 0 was given. Scores of "1" are carried forward, so if evidence was presented to the public in Q1 that "City Council Processes & Protocols are being evaluated, updated, and codified", that score of "1" was carried forward to all future quarters. In this way, we attempted to give the City Council as much credit as possible for addressing their stated goals.

Calculating "percentage of agenda item addressed": To determine the "percentage of goal addressed" for each of the 7 agenda items established by the City Council, we totaled the "1" scores for all subobjectives of each agenda item across all 4 quarters of the year, and divided that number by the total number of scoring opportunities for the year. For example, for "Transparency, Efficiency & Accountability" there were a total of 5 subobjectives, so the total number of scoring opportunities was 5 subobjectives x 4 quarters or 20. The number of 1's scored was also 20, so 20/20 = 100%. So for that agenda item, the "percentage of agenda item addressed" is 100%.

<u>Score 1</u> if evidence <u>Score 0</u> if no evidence	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Total Points Earned:	14	17	21	22
Total Points Available:	33	33	33	33
Percent of goals addressed publicly:	42%	52%	64%	67%

TRANSPARENCY, EFFICIENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY (percentage of agenda item addressed: 20/20= 100%)

Evaluate, update, and codify (if applicable) processes and protocols for City Council, City Clerk's Office and City Hall departments. Utilize technology and social media to ensure consistency and increase public awareness of community issues. Implement constituent services procedures that ensure residents are regularly informed and their concerns are heard, investigated and responded to.

<u>Score 1</u> if evidence <u>Score 0</u> if no evidence	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Evidence has been presented to the public that City Council Processes & Protocols are being evaluated, updated, and codified	1	1	1	1
Evidence has been presented to the public that City Clerk's Office Processes & Protocols are being evaluated, updated, and codified	1	1	1	1
Evidence has been presented to the public that City Hall Department Processes & Protocols are being evaluated, updated, and codified	1	1	1	1
There is evidence that Technology & social media are being used to ensure consistency, and increase public awareness of community issues	1	1	1	1
Evidence has been presented to the public that Constituent services procedures are being implemented that ensure residents are regularly informed and their concerns are heard, investigated and responded to	1	1	1	1

CITY CHARTER & CODE REFORM (percentage of agenda item addressed: 0/8 = 0%)

Evaluate and update our City Charter and Code to reflect and support a modern-day City of Mount Vernon. Ensure that each department is optimized for financial and operational efficiency.				
<u>Score 1</u> if evidence <u>Score 0</u> if no evidence	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Evidence has been presented to the public that our City Charter and Codes are being evaluated and/or updated to reflect and support a modern-day City of Mount Vernon	0	0	0	0
Evidence has been presented to the public that evaluation is underway to ensure that each department is optimized for financial and operational efficiency	0	0	0	0
DEVELOPMENT (percentage of agenda item addressed:13/24 = 54%)				
Begin the process of creating the Comprehensive Plan for Mount Vernon and create a roadmap for responsible development in the city. Require more transparency, accountability, and community investment from incoming developers. Implement a more succinct project approval and "zombie" building elimination process.				
<u>Score 1</u> if evidence <u>Score 0</u> if no evidence	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that the process for creating a Comprehensive Plan has begun	0	1	1	1
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that a roadmap for responsible development in the city is being developed	0	0	1	1
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that new requirements for developer transparency are being/have been defined	0	1	1	1
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that new requirements for developer accountability are being/have been defined	0	0	0	1
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that new requirements for developer community investment are being/have been defined	0	0	0	0
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that project approval & "zombie" building elimination processes are being/have been defined	1	1	1	1
REVENUE GENERATION (percentage of agenda item addressed: 13/20 = 65%)				

Increase the City's revenue by identifying new service offerings, evaluating and optimizing the fee/tax collection process, and encouraging new industries to make Mount Vernon their home. Incentivize small businesses to open in Mount Vernon. Create the appropriate task forces to determine the most equitable uses of City assets, including Memorial Field.				
Score 1 if evidence Score 0 if no evidence	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that new revenue generating service offerings are being developed	1	1	1	1
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that the evaluation & optimization of fee/tax collection process has begun	1	1	1	1
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that policies to encourage Industrial Development are being developed	0	0	1	1
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that Small Business Incentives are being developed	0	1	1	1
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that Task Forces are being established to determine the most equitable uses of City Assets and Memorial Field have been formed	0	0	0	0
ADVOCACY (percentage of agenda item addressed: 16/28 = 57%)				
Support the start of good faith negotiations between Mount Vernon and organized laborers. Assist with the expansion of youth employment and job readiness programs. Ensure tenants' rights are upheld. Support improvements to parks, infrastructure, business districts and transportation.				
Score 1 if evidence Score 0 if no evidence	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that the CC has provided support of good faith negotiations between city & labor unions	0	0	0	0
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that the CC has provided assisted in the expansion of youth employment & job readiness programs.	1	1	1	1
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that the CC has taken steps to ensure tenants rights are upheld	0	0	0	0

Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that the CC has taken action to support improvement of parks	1	1	1	1
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that the CC has taken action to support the improvement of city infrastructure	1	1	1	1
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that the CC has taken action to support the improvement of the business district	1	1	1	1
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that the CC has taken action to support the improvement of transportation	0	0	0	0
POLICE REFORM (percentage of agenda item addressed: 8/8 = 100%) Increase transparency and accountability of the Police Department to Mount Vernon residents.				
Score 1 if evidence Score 0 if no evidence	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that the CC has taken steps to increase police department transparency	1	1	1	1
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that the CC has taken steps to increase police department accountability	1	1	1	1
COLLABORATION (percentage of agenda item addressed: 4/24 = 17%) Create stronger lines of communication between all branches of city government, including, Mount Vernon Public Library and Central School District, and explore opportunities for shared services and cost savings. Identify and implement a platform for the community to share local events with all residents.				
Score 1 if evidence Score 0 if no evidence	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that stronger lines of communication with other branches of city government have been developed	0	0	1	1
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that stronger lines of communication with the Public Library have been developed	0	0	0	0
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that stronger lines of communication with the City Schools have been developed	0	0	0	0

Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that opportunities for shared services with the Public Library have been identified	0	0	0	0
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that opportunities for shared services with the City Schools have been identified	0	0	0	0
Evidence has been presented to the public indicating that the CC has identified a platform for the community to share local events with all residents	0	0	1	1