

To: City of Ruston – City Clerk and Attorney  
From: Councilmember Jennifer Jensen  
Date: March 13, 2024  
RE: Agenda Item Request – Mar 19, 2024  
Scheduling Ruston City Council Retreat & Budget Workshop - TBD SPRING/SUMMER 2024

Dear Ms. Cassell and Ms. Robertson,

I respectfully request the addition of an agenda item to the March 19, 2024 Ruston City Council Agenda. Per City of Ruston Municipal Code 1.02.040, I am submitting this request in writing to the City Clerk as well as the City Attorney.

Agenda item to be added: "Consider Council Member Jensen's Request to Schedule a City Council Retreat & Budget Workshop - TBD SPRING/SUMMER 2024"

Background Information:

Discussion: In May 2023 the council met at a City Council Retreat open to the public and facilitated by the City Attorney.

A second City Council Retreat would allow council to build on last year's work. This is a public meeting.

- The purpose of this event is again to connect, but also further clarify our priorities.
  - Connect to each other professionally.
  - Connecting the dots of visions and dreams we have for the city with current budget realities and potential outcomes.
  - Provide Mayor and City Staff clarity on council priorities.
- By scheduling this event in the spring or summer, city leadership can get in front of budget discussions and help the mayor develop the 2025 budget based on priorities presented to him in advance. This should ease the mayor's workload in the fall while improving budget clarity for leadership as well as residents.
- Some Suggestions:
  - Weekday would allow staff attendance. Weekend might allow more public attendance. Both have value.
  - Recommend using same facilitator to help build on last year's work

Sincerely,



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