



# COUNCIL VS. STAFF

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Who does what?  
Everyone has an important role to play

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“There are no small parts only small actors” - Konstantin Stanislavski

Legislative body, City Council, sets the policy.  
Executive, Mayor or City Manager, carries out the policy.  
Open exchange of information and ideas is key.

2

## Council

- Ask questions
- Don't go too deep – remember you are the policy makers
- Don't get bogged down in the small stuff

*Parkinson's Law of Triviality – The time spent on any item of the agenda is inverse of its importance or dollar value.*

*Check out Breaking the Law of Triviality from GFOA.*



3

## Staff:

- Provide good data and information.
  - Not just during the budget setting process – Also regular fiscal updates
- Don't go too deep – keep in mind the audience and tailor the information to what is important to them.
  - Don't hide the bad news
  - Provide options



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