MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council
City Clerk

FR: Brian Bates

DT: January 28, 2010

RE: Sequoyah Middle School – Civics Class Field Trip

Last year city council passed a motion to partner with the local schools and have a city council meeting for the civics class, allowing them to participate in local government.

It has taken some time, but the new principal at Sequoyah, Brittany Cunningham, and their Social Studies Chairperson have agreed that this would be a great thing for their 8th grade class.

They have two classes that they would like to bring to a city council meeting.

I have suggested the following:

1. We would have two special called council meetings during the day (same day), with very short agendas, but actual city business.
2. Have each class brainstorm several pieces of legislation or resolutions that they would like to see passed. (We would approve the school the resolution or legislation in advance to avoid something controversial and ensure it did pass)
3. Just like any other non-city sponsored piece of legislation, the students would have a spokesperson (limited to 5 minutes) to explain why it was important, the benefits of it, etc. We would have discussion, allow students to speak on behalf of the legislation/resolution, ask them questions and then vote yes or no.
4. Adjourn the meeting and then answer questions from the students.

They have suggested the following Wednesdays:

March 17th
March 24th
March 31st

I would like City Council to review their calendars and advise if there is a Wednesday that is better and schedule the special called meetings for this civics class lesson.