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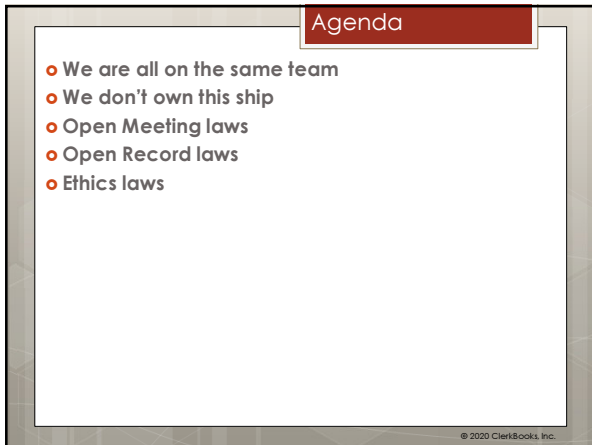
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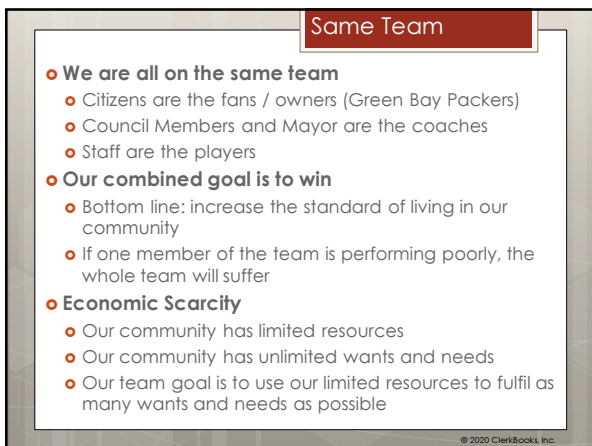
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**We don't own the ship**

- **Sometimes it feels like we own the ship**
  - Council doesn't know what I do on a day to day basis
  - Council doesn't want to understand, or even look at the financials
  - I tell the maintenance person what to do
- **However, the truth is we don't own the ship**
  - The residents own the ship
  - The residents delegate the responsibility to sail the ship to the elected officials
  - The elected officials delegate the actual sailing of the ship to staff
  - Where does the buck stop? We the people
  - Who's buildings are these? We the people
  - Who's streets are these? We the people
  - Who's snow plow is this? We the people
  - Who's money is it? We the people

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**Open Meeting Laws**

- **We are stewards of the public's interest**
  - They are not there to serve us, we are here to serve them
  - These are not our assets that we need to take from citizens, they are the citizens assets that they are giving to us to safeguard and use wisely
- **Open meeting laws exist to help us understand how to communicate to the public**
  - Meeting Agendas
  - Meeting Minutes
  - Quorums
  - Robert's Rules of Order
- **Bottom line, we need to communicate about what will happen, and what has happened, and allow everyone an equal opportunity understand and to be heard**

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**Open Record Laws**

- **We are stewards of the public's interest**
  - They are not there to serve us, we are here to serve them
  - These are not our assets that we need to take from citizens, they are the citizens assets that they are giving to us to safeguard and use wisely
- **Open record laws exist to help us understand how to communicate to the public**
  - We are legally responsible for maintaining records
  - Our records contain the history of our community
  - Retention schedules exist to help us know what needs to be saved and how long it must be saved
  - Requests for public records
  - Safeguarding confidential information

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**Ethics Laws**

- **We are stewards of the public's interest**
  - They are not there to serve us, we are here to serve them
  - These are not our assets that we need to take from citizens, they are the citizens assets that they are giving to us to safeguard and use wisely
- **Ethics laws exist to help us understand how to communicate to the public**
  - Just because something can be done doesn't mean it should be done
  - Nepotism (providing a benefit to someone that others cannot get)
  - Bribery (giving of gifts in exchange for political favors)

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**In Conclusion**

- **We must understand that we are stewards of the public's shared assets**
  - It is we the people, not we the government
- **We must have an attitude of full transparency**
  - Is there anything we are doing, if posted on the front page of the newspaper, we would be ashamed of?
- **We must communicate**
  - in a way that all citizens can make an informed decision on any topic that the City has taken, is about to take or is considering to take in the future
  - We must allow all citizens to voice their opinion in a constructive and orderly fashion
- **We must realize we are on the same team as the elected officials**

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