

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019, 6 P.M.
BOBBY BONDS PARK, YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CENTER
2060 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, RIVERSIDE

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Clarke and Members, Bristow, McQuern, Riemer, Webb, Teichert, Irving, Barnhart, Beeman, MacKinney, Zaragoza, Miller, and Alternate McKeith

ABSENT: Members Clymer, Evans, Angel and Alternate Mabon

STAFF PRESENT: Colleen Nicol, Susan Wilson, and Elliot Minn

Chair Clarke convened the meeting at 6 p.m.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

President of the League of Women Voters Riverside Joan Donahue requested amendment to Charter Section 404 to limit appointment to fill City Council vacancies to one year. Jason Hunter commented on fiscal constraints and the Mayor's veto authority over Charter Officers. Kevin Dawson commented on illegal activities of a former City Attorney during a prior election. Esther Julier recommends new commissions regarding sustainability issues including environmental, human rights, and diversity.

CHARTER, COMMITTEE SCOPE AND TIMELINE, AND RALPH M. BROWN ACT

Assistant City Attorney Wilson presented information to the Committee and public on the Charter, the Charter Review Committee's scope of work and timeline, the community meeting purpose, and the Ralph M. Brown Act. No formal action was required or taken.

COMMUNITY INPUT ON CITY CHARTER AND POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS

There were no comments from members of the public on potential City Charter amendments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following discussion, it was moved by Vice-Chair McQuern and seconded by Member Webb to approve the minutes of April 8, 2019, as presented with the correction in the first paragraph of page 3 removing the word "unanimously" with the amended sentence to read, "Motion carried with Member Barnhart opposed." Motion carried unanimously.

EXCUSAL OF ABSENCES

It was moved by Member Barnhart and seconded by Member Teichert to excuse the absences of Kristina Zaragoza and Kimberly M. MacKinney from the meeting of April 8, 2019. Motion carried with Member Zaragoza abstaining.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Alternate McKeith requested information on the role of the Budget Engagement Commission including the possibility of requiring items of significant financial impact be considered by the Budget Engagement Commission prior to City Council action, and discussion of an independent City Auditor. She requested the Budget Engagement Commission Chair present to the Committee. Member Webb suggested the possibility of the Mayor having a vote be discussed prior to consideration of veto power of Charter Officer contracts. Member Barnhart feels the Mayor needs a voice in the Charter Officers and the Charter should be clarified.

Kevin Dawson suggested mandatory reporting if a crime is witnessed.

Member Bristow supports exploration of options for enforcement of Charter violations and clarification of the Mayor's veto power concerning Charter Officer contracts and appointments. The City Attorney was requested to research options for enforcement of Charter violations.

INFORMATIONAL AND RESEARCH MATERIALS

City Clerk Nicol reviewed the informational and research materials distributed with the agenda materials.

Member Barnhart requested review of the Public Utilities report on General Fund Transfer rates of other jurisdictions.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Kevin Dawson questioned if Measure A satisfied Proposition 218 requirements and the legality of the General Fund Transfer. Kyle Sweeney supports ranked choice voting, also referred to as instant runoff voting.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION AS REQUESTED BY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Member Irving requested discussion of election costs, runoff elections, and appointment vs special election to fill vacancies.

Chair Clarke noted that the City Attorney and City Clerk are compiling a list of issues requested for discussion. Following the Committee's determination of what is in the best interest of the City, the City Attorney will draft the Charter language and the Committee will have an opportunity to comment on the language. Chair Clarke encouraged Committee members to submit a framework and detail on ideas proposed for discussion.

Alternate McKeith requested future discussion of an elected City Attorney. Member Miller requested discussion of and elected vs appointed City Auditor and a Homeless Commission.


ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY INPUT

Mary Mills expressed concerns regarding impacts of construction occurring on Iowa between Martin Luther King Boulevard and University Avenue on seniors living in an adjacent residential complex.

Kevin Dawson spoke regarding the legality of the General Fund Transfer. Jeremy Greeney spoke regarding enforcement of existing ordinances, such as Title 9 of the Riverside Municipal Code, to address homelessness.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



COLLEEN J. NICOL
City Clerk