

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021, 5 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING

MINUTES

PRESENT: Members James Goldman, Kori Norsell, Malissa McKeith, Randolph Ben Clymer, Jr., Rafael "Frank" Ramirez, Pete Benavidez, Thanouthong "Brian" Saipramuk, Alia Rodriguez, and Larry Burns

ABSENT: Members Garth Newberry (arrived late?), Warren Avery, and Alternate Monrow A. Mabon

STAFF PRESENT: Eva Arseo, Donesia Gause, Edward Enriquez, and Elliot Min

Chair Clymer convened the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were no oral comments.

Interview with Councilmember Edwards

The Committee's inquiries and discussion with Councilmember Edwards included topics on the General Fund Transfer measure, City finances grade, City spending priorities, water rate increase, Mayoral veto power on budget line items, impact of General Fund Transfer alignment with Strategic Priorities, Measure Z expenditures versus General Fund transfer expenditures. No formal action was taken.

Interview with Councilmember Conder

The Committee's inquiries and discussion with Councilmember Conder included topics on the General Fund Transfer measure, City finances grade, City spending priorities, water rate increase, Mayoral veto power on budget line items, impact of General Fund Transfer alignment with Strategic Priorities, Measure Z expenditures versus General Fund transfer expenditures. No formal action was taken.

Interview with Councilwoman Plascencia

The interview with Councilwoman Plascencia was not held

Interview with Councilmember Melendrez

The Committee's inquiries and discussion with Councilmember Melendrez included topics on the General Fund Transfer measure, City finances grade, City spending priorities, water rate increase, Mayoral veto power on budget line items,

impact of General Fund Transfer alignment with Strategic Priorities, Measure Z expenditures versus General Fund transfer expenditures. No formal action was taken.

UTILITY GENERAL FUND TRANSFER

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Burns and seconded by Member Norsell to adopt language it currently exists. The motion failed with Members Saipramuk, Benavidez, Newberry, Rodriguez, Goldman, Chair Clymer and Vice Chair McKeith voting no and Members Burns and Norsell voting aye. Member Ramirez did not vote.

Following further discussion, it was moved by Vice Chair McKeith and seconded by Chair Clymer to adopt proposed Charter amendment language Sec. 1204.2 – Electric utility revenue with revisions of “such as” to “including but not limited to” and “senior” to “senior/disabled”. The motion carried with Members Benavidez, Saipramuk, Newberry, Rodriguez, and Vice Chair McKeith and Chair Clymer voting aye and Members Burns and Norsell voting no. Member Goldman abstained and Member Ramirez did not vote.

Following further discussion, it was moved by Member Saipramuk and seconded by Chair Clymer to approve the language as submitted by Member Benavidez. The motion carried with Members Benavidez, Saipramuk, Newberry, Rodriguez, and Vice Chair McKeith and Chair Clymer voting aye and Members Burns and Norsell voting no. Member Goldman abstained and Member Ramirez did not vote.

Proposed language by Member Benavidez:

Beginning January 2022, City will discontinue charging an 11.5 percent tax on electricity replacing it with a \$38 million fixed amount transferred from RPU to the unrestricted general fund. This amount will be reduced annually by \$1 million until this reduction reaches \$30 million. This fixed transfer stabilizes the budget without drastic cuts allowing continued vital services to city residents. In addition, rate payers will experience lower utility bills, while promoting fiscal accountability from elected officials and City Leaders.

Following further discussion, it was moved by Member Goldman and seconded by Vice Chair McKeith to direct staff to prepare a final report to be presented to the City Council. The motion carried with Members Benavidez, Burns, Saipramuk, Newberry, Rodriguez, and Vice Chair McKeith and Chair Clymer voting aye and Member Norsell voting no. Member Ramirez did not vote.

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

Member Benavidez requested staff consider using another platform for virtual meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eva Arseo", written over a horizontal line.

EVA ARSEO
Assistant City Clerk

