

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021, 5 P.M.
PUBLIC COMMENT IN PERSON/TELEPHONE
ART PICK COUNCIL CHAMBER
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE, CA 92522

MINUTES

PRESENT: Members Pete Benavidez, Warren Avery, Larry Burns, James Goldman, Malissa McKeith, Garth Newberry, Kori Norsell, Rafael "Frank" Ramirez, and Alia Rodriguez

ABSENT: Members Randolph Ben Clymer, Jr. and James Goldman

STAFF PRESENT: Eva Arseo and Susan Wilson

Chair Benavidez convened the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were no oral comments.

PRESENTATION

Assistant City Attorney Susan Wilson provided Brown Act training to the Charter Review Committee.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Benavidez reported on the City Council granting the request for an extension of the Charter Review Committee's time to February 2022 to consider the Charter amendment referral of a publication of an annual report on written complaints or whistle-blower complaints alleging fraud, waste, abuse, or criminal conduct and subsequent recommendations on the Inspector General position to be considered for placement on the November 2022 ballot.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MINUTES

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Avery and seconded by Vice Chair Rodriguez to approve the minutes of October 20, 2021, as presented. The motion carried with Chair Benavidez, Vice Chair Rodriguez and Members Avery, Burns, Mabon, Newberry, Norsell, and Ramirez voting aye and Members Clymer, Goldman, and McKeith absent.

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL REGARDING MAYORAL AUTHORITY

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Avery and seconded by Vice Chair Rodriguez to recommend to the City Council an amendment to the City Charter to include within the Mayor's veto power the power to veto all formal actions taken by the City Council, except an ordinance proposed by initiative petition and including but not limited to any emergency ordinance, the annual budget and any formal action taken to appoint, adjust compensation, suspend or remove any officer or employee appointed by the City Council and place the proposed ballot question on a ballot for voter approval for such veto authority:

Proposed Ballot question: Shall the measure amending the City of Riverside's Charter to amend the Mayor's power to include the power to veto, within five days, any formal action taken by the City Council, including but not limited to any emergency ordinance, the annual budget, and any formal action taken to appoint, adjust compensation, suspend or remove any officer or employee appointed by the City Council, except an ordinance proposed by citizen initiative petition, be adopted?

The motion carried with Chair Benavidez, Vice Chair Rodriguez and Members Avery, Newberry, Norsell, and Ramirez voting aye, Member Mabon not voting, Member Burns voting no, and Members Clymer, Goldman, and McKeith absent.

Member McKeith joined the meeting during the following discussion.

CHARTER AMENDMENT - AUDITING, INVESTIGATION, AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSOLIDATION INTO ONE CITY UNIT OVERSEEN BY AN INSPECTOR GENERAL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT PRACTICES AND GUIDANCE

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Mabon and seconded by Member Newberry to move forward with the option of the job title to be Inspector General and the Inspector General be elected and have full subpoena powers as presented on August 18, 2021, by the Charter Review Committee. The motion carried with Chair Benavidez, Vice Chair Rodriguez and Members Avery, Burns, Mabon, McKeith, Newberry, Norsell, and Ramirez voting aye and Members Clymer and Goldman absent.

INVITATIONS TO COUNCILMEMBERS FOR DISCUSSION OF SUBSEQUENT RECOMMENDATIONS ON INSPECTOR GENERAL POSITION TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PLACEMENT ON NOVEMBER 2022 BALLOT

Following discussion and without formal motion, the Committee determined invitations to councilmembers for discussion of subsequent recommendations on Inspector General position to be considered for placement on November 2022 ballot would not be necessary.

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

There were no items requested for future meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

EVA ARSEO
Assistant City Clerk