

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019, 5 P.M.
MAYOR'S CEREMONIAL ROOM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Members Chani Beeman, David T. Bristow, David E. Barnhart, Eileen M. Teichert, Matthew Irving, Matthew E. Webb, Jack B. Clarke, Jr., Art Angel, Thomas F. Miller, Tom P. Evans, Randolph Ben Clymer, Jr., Marcia McQuern, and Maria Riemer and Alternates Malissa H. McKeith and Monrow A. Mabon

ABSENT: Kristina Zaragoza and Kimberly M. MacKinney

STAFF PRESENT: Colleen Nicol, Susan Wilson, Elliott Min, Liz Pinney-Muglia, Marie Ricci, and Eva Arseo

Chair Clarke convened the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There was no one wishing to address the Committee

ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Clymer and seconded by Member Beeman to accept into the record the documents entitled "Charter Review Ideas Log – Members of the Public" and "Charter Review Ideas Log – Committee Members, Mayor and City Council Members, and City Employees" that were inadvertently not published with the agenda materials. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Teichert and seconded by Member Angel to approve the minutes of March 11, 2019, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

INTERVIEW WITH COUNCILMEMBER MELENDREZ

Councilmember Melendrez feels that overall the Charter has served the City well. He believes the process for filling City Council vacancies should be reviewed limiting appointments to 6-12 months with a special election to fill vacancies exceeding one year. He feels diversity of elected officials and board and commission members and being more open about ethics is important. The Charter provisions regarding hiring of the Finance Director, Public Utilities General Manager, and Library Director allow the residents to have a voice and should remain. He supports the Committee reviewing the ability of the Mayor to vote but feels the ability of the Mayor to veto any action of the City Council would not preserve the checks and balances now in the Charter. If the Mayor were granted a vote on all actions, a check and balance of that power would be needed.

Councilmember Melendrez expressed confidence in the appointed members of the Charter Review Committee and expects City Council discussion of proposals brought forward. Councilmember Melendrez suggested additional research on the suggestion of a Civil Rights Commission. Consideration of a Neighborhood Councils approach should include financial impacts.

Councilmember Melendrez has always advocated for higher pay for members of the City Council in response to demands of the City and increased access by the public. He does not support term limits at this time. Councilmember Melendrez supports a Charter amendment to require a supermajority vote of the City Council to sell water outside of the Riverside service area.

INTERVIEW OF COUNCILMEMBER MAC ARTHUR

Councilmember Mac Arthur sees no need for any amendments to the City Charter as it has served the City well and advises caution with any proposed changes. He finds the current process for communication with the City Manager and Department Heads to be working well. Councilmember MacArthur is not opposed to term limits and finds twelve years to be appropriate. All residents enjoy the Greenbelt and sees no need to amend the Charter to strengthen Proposition R and Measure C. He voted against City Council raises six times. Families adjust to the time demands of serving in elected office.

Councilmember Mac Arthur does not believe the current Charter grants the Mayor veto authority over setting compensation for Charter Officers. Although the Charter may need clarifying, he does not support discussion of any changes at this time. He believes the Mayor's power to break a tie is appropriate and opposes a strong mayor form of government. He does not support requiring a supermajority vote of the City Council to sell water outside of the Riverside service area.

PARTNERSHIP COMPENSATION MODEL OVERVIEW

Assistant Chief Financial Officer Ricci provided information on the Partnership Compensation Model intended to link employee earnings with the City's economic performance based on the three core principals of (1) salary increases tied to the City's financial health; (2) shared pension costs, with each employee making meaningful contributions toward their retirement; and (3) 50/50 share of healthcare premium increases.

CHARTER MEASURE PROCESS, BALLOT ARGUMENTS, AND DRAFTING OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Assistant City Attorney Wilson briefed the Committee on the process for drafting proposed Charter amendments and City Clerk Nicol explained the ballot measure process including writing of ballot measure questions, impartial analysis, and ballot arguments.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITMENT TO PLACE ALL PROPOSALS ON BALLOT – INTERIM REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Webb and seconded by Vice-Chair McQuern to table discussion of requesting the City Council to commit to placing all

Charter Review Committee proposed Charter amendments on the ballot until following the June 4, 2019, election and November 4, 2019, runoffs, if any. Motion carried unanimously with Member Barnhart opposed. There were no further comments on the April 2019 interim report to the City Council.

NUMBER AND TIMING OF COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The number and timing of community meetings will be discussed at one of the public meetings already scheduled to assess interest and turnout at that time. By consensus, it was determined that the community meetings be scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Member Evans' proposed Charter amendment to Section 1404 to require that all recommended changes to the Charter be reviewed by a Charter Review Committee before being considered by the City Council for placement on a ballot for voter consideration will be added to the ideas log compiled by the City Attorney's Office.

Alternate McKeith requested review of the prior Charter Review Committee recommendation regarding a City Auditor.

INFORMATIONAL AND RESEARCH MATERIALS

Member Barnhart requested a comparison of the Riverside General Fund Transfer with other cities. Member Clymer requested research on event(s) that prompted the 1953 Charter amendments. Chair Clarke and Vice-Chair McQuern will discuss this request and return to the Committee for further discussion.

By consensus, the Charter Review Committee requested copies of the pleadings on the pending litigation regarding the Mayor's veto power.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Jason Hunter spoke regarding debt, unfunded pension liability, revenue bonds, CalPERS, the General Fund Transfer, elected members of the Board of Public Utilities, and elected vs appointed City Auditor.


Kevin Dawson spoke regarding the Partnership Compensation Model, Measure Z, and use of City funds to support a ballot measure.

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

There were no future requested items.

The Committee adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Colleen J. Nicol". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

COLLEEN J. NICOL
City Clerk