



# City of Santa Rosa

## City Charter Review Committee Regular Meeting Minutes - Draft

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Wednesday, March 2, 2022

5:00 PM

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Cisco called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**Present** 15 - Chair Patti Cisco, Committee Member Lisa Badenfort, Committee Member Scott Bartley, Committee Member Christine Byrne, Committee Member Abigail Cunningham, Committee Member Ana Diaz, Committee Member Jazmin Gudino, Committee Member Danny Martinez, Committee Member Chris Mazzia, Committee Member Evette Minor, Committee Member Ernesto Olivares, Committee Member Logan Pitts, Committee Member Jocelyn Villalobos, Committee Member Mark Walsh, and Committee Member Karen Weeks

**Absent** 6 - Committee Member Adriana Arrizon, Committee Member Annie Barbour, Committee Member Dan Condrón, Committee Member Jen Klose, Committee Member Brian Ling, and Committee Member Ron Miller

Committee Member Barbour joined the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

Committee Member Condrón joined the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

Committee Member Arrizon joined the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Committee Member Miller joined the meeting at 5:26 p.m.

Committee Member Klose joined the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

No public comments were made.

2.1 CORRESPONDENCE.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE.

### 4. SCHEDULED ITEMS

4.1 EQUITY PRINCIPLES

The principles of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging remain in the forefront of the Charter review process. This standing agenda item provides the Committee with the opportunity, at the outset of each of its meetings, to refine, reaffirm and recommit to its Statement of Principles.

The Statement of Principles regarding diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging provides a procedural and substantive lens through which the Committee undertakes all of its work.

This is a standing item on the agenda and no presentation or discussion was made at this meeting.

No public comments were made.

#### **4.2 COMMITTEE WORKPLAN AND PRIORITIES UPDATE**

The Committee has considered and given staff direction on three issues recommended for consideration by the Council, including Council compensation, direct elect Mayor, and ranked choice voting. In the course of its discussions, the Committee has raised two new issues for consideration, including authorization for non-citizen voting and possible revisions to the procedures for filling a Council vacancy. Nine additional issues still remain on the list of topics recommended by Council for Committee consideration. The public has also offered suggestions. This agenda item will give the Committee an opportunity to review the outstanding matters, identify priorities and establish a work plan for its remaining meetings.

City Attorney Gallagher presented the Committee with a list of issues for prioritization and next steps in the Charter Review Process, reviewed the three new issues identified by Committee Members, the remaining issues brought forward by Council, reviewed the issues that require a Charter Amendment, items that are subject to an ordinance or resolution, and one additional issue recommended for consideration by a member of the public. City Attorney Gallagher reviewed the current procedure for filling a council vacancy, voting rights for non-citizens, the timing of charter amendments, the possibility of allowing the mayor to serve two consecutive terms, police auditor position and a citizen oversight commission, items subject to ordinance or resolution such as climate change, diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gregory Fearon spoke on changing the Community Advisory Board

to a neighborhood based committee and naming it a Council of Neighborhoods, and asked who has the authority to name committees, and if there is a process if a resident wants to rename one.

Joe Leadem spoke calling attention to his proposal reducing the signature requirements for referendums and stated his reasons why this should move forward.

Each Committee member shared their top three issues of interest with the following three proposals receiving the most votes:

Voting Rights for Non-Citizens  
Council Vacancy Procedures  
Changing the Frequency of Charter Amendments

Chair Cisco informed the Committee that the remaining issues that did not score in the top three proposals for a deeper discussion, will be included in the final report to Council noting the Committee found them to be of concern or interest for the Council to discuss. Chair Cisco informed the Committee they will have an opportunity to review the report prior to submission to Council.

#### **4.3 CHARTER UPDATE AND CLARIFICATION**

In addition to the separate ballot measures currently under consideration on significant substantive issues, the City Attorney recommends that the Committee consider an additional measure to include a number of non-controversial amendments to update and clarify the City Charter. The proposed measure is intended to clarify and streamline City procedures, remove ambiguities, and delete outdated provisions. Similar measures were placed on the ballots in 2002 and 2012 and were passed with strong voter approval. Proposed amendments may include clarification of the timing of Charter review and amendments, clarification of emergency management responsibilities, allowance for a two-year budgeting process, streamline provisions for procurement, clarification of scope of authority of the Board of Public Utilities, establishment of a date certain for the seating of new Council members, and others.

City Attorney Gallagher presented information on updates that can be made to the City Charter that include potential elements that can be included in a Measure to ensure consistency with state law, clarify ambiguities, and modernize City procedures, noting it will not include issues that will be addressed in a separate measure. City Attorney Gallagher presented a list of potential elements for inclusion in the update to include District Elections, the timing of review of the City Charter, clarification of the Mayor's role in an emergency response, the Chief of Police and Fire Chief's authority and responsibilities in an emergency response; clarify the Community Advisory Board appointments, update and clarify language as it relates to the hiring of a City Attorney; clarify the scope of responsibility of the Board of Public Utilities to include "dry" utilities including electricity, broadband and potentially others; adopt a two-year budget cycle; revise language to allow flexibility in contract procurement; a proposal for a date certain for induction of new Council Members after an election; address voting process in the event of a Council vacancy; clarify vacancy process created by a recall of a Council member be by appointment or special election; remove reference to the Santa Rosa School District; possible removal of reference to the Public Library; and to clarify language in the hiring of Deputy Officials. City Attorney Gallagher answered questions from Committee Members.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Gregory Fearon spoke in support of the current language in Sections 10 and 11 of the Charter, and expressed concern the structure of the Community Advisory Board does not represent districts, and in opposition to having At-Large appointments on the board.

Committee discussion on this item will be continued to the March 16, 2022, meeting.

#### **5. COMMITTEE CHAIR'S/CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS**

Chair Cisco reported she attended the March 1, 2022, City Council

meeting and provided the Council with an update on the Committee's work to date.

**6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - NONE.**

**7. WRITTEN AND/OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS - NONE.**

**8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

City Attorney Gallagher will provide a calendar of topics to the Committee at the next meeting.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Cisco adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

**Approved on:**

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**Stephanie A. Williams**  
City Clerk