



City of Santa Rosa

City Charter Review Committee Regular Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

5:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Cisco called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Present 19 - Committee Member Adriana Arrizon, Chair Patti Cisco, Committee Member Annie Barbour, Committee Member Scott Bartley, Committee Member Christine Byrne, Committee Member Dan Condron, Committee Member Abigail Cunningham, Committee Member Ana Diaz, Committee Member Jazmin Gudino, Committee Member Jen Klose, Committee Member Brian Ling, Committee Member Danny Martinez, Committee Member Chris Mazzia, Committee Member Evette Minor, Committee Member Logan Pitts, Committee Member Lisa Badenfort, Committee Member Mark Walsh, Committee Member Jocelyn Villalobos, and Committee Member Karen Weeks

Absent 2 - Committee Member Ron Miller, and Committee Member Ernesto Olivares

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

No public comments were made.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 November 17, 2021, Regular Meeting.

Approved as submitted.

3.2 December 1, 2021, Regular Meeting.

Approved as submitted.

4. SCHEDULED ITEMS

4.1 EQUITY PRINCIPLES

Pursuant to direction given by the Committee at its December 1, 2021 meeting, City Staff will provide a draft statement of principles regarding diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, for the Committee's consideration. From that draft, the Committee will formulate its own statement of principles. The Committee's statement of principles will

establish a procedural and substantive lens through which the Committee will undertake its work.

Socorro Shiels, Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Employment Officer, presented key terms and definitions of Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, and Belonging, reviewed values shared by the committee, key starting points, and norms. Ms. Shiels answered questions from Committee Members.

No public comments were made.

Committee discussion ensued on access to government and what the outcome looks like for the Committee, what it looks like at a resident level as well as the leadership level, the process used for community of interest, using Community Engagement and the Community Advisory Board to help with community outreach, and possible changes to the Equity Principles.

4.2 DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING -- MICROAGGRESSIONS

At the request of the Committee, City Staff will provide a brief training regarding microaggressions that may undermine efforts for diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.

Socorro Shiels, Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Employment Officer, provided information on the definition and examples of Microaggressions and how they show themselves in the community.

No public comments were made.

4.3 NATURE OF CHARTER AMENDMENTS AND REVIEW OF PAST CHARTER REVIEW BALLOT MEASURES

At the Committee's request, the City Attorney's Office will provide a brief primer on the differences between Charter Amendments, City Ordinances and Council Resolutions. The City Attorney's Office will also provide a brief summary of the measures placed on the ballot for voter consideration in the last two Charter reviews (reviews conducted in 2002 and 2012).

In 2002, three measures were placed on the ballot, including:

- Measure L: Combined Charter Amendments (passed)
- Measure M: Council Compensation (failed)
- Measure O: Campaign Finance Reform (passed).

In 2012, four measures were placed on the ballot, including:

- Measure Q: District Council Members Elections (failed)
- Measure R: Binding Arbitration for Police and Fire Employee Disputes (passed)
- Measure S: Design Build Procurement (passed)
- Measure T: Charter Reorganization, Update and Clarifications (passed).

A brief summary of each measure and the results of the vote will be provided.

City Attorney Sue Gallagher presented information on the nature of Charter amendments, resolutions, ordinances, and past Charter amendments. She reported charter amendments require a ballot measure and are the most permanent change to the City's constitution and require a vote of the people to amend or change it; ordinances are local laws adopted by City Council addressing a variety of subjects, are generally applicable, not project or person specific, enforced by civil code enforcement and can be changed by the City Council; resolutions are actions on specific contracts, projects and policies, may establish new programs, and adopt Council policies. City Attorney Gallagher also provided a summary of the three Measures placed on the ballot in 2002 and the four Measures placed on the ballot in 2012.

No public comments were made.

4.4 COUNCIL COMPENSATION

The City Council has recommended that, among other topics, the Committee research and consider preparing a Charter amendment to increase Council member compensation. Currently, the Charter allows for the establishment of Council compensation in accordance with formulas set forth in state law. For a city the size of Santa Rosa, state

law allows for Council member salary of up to \$800 per month. State law allows for an annual increase in salary of up to 5% (not compounded). State law also allows the city's voters to approve a higher salary. The voters of Santa Rosa have approved a higher salary for the Mayor, currently equal to \$1200 per month (150% of Council member salary). This agenda item will outline details of the current state law and options for increasing Council compensation.

City Attorney Sue Gallagher presented information on the current pay for Santa Rosa City Council Members, what the current Charter and the State allow for pay increases, when Measure M was on the ballot in 2002 for voter consideration, the failure of the Measure, current salaries from other cities in the county and bay area, and answered questions from Committee members.

Committee discussion ensued on the political difficulty for Council to increase their salaries, cities that have a strong mayor system or directly elected mayor, the budget needed to support an increase in salaries, formulas used to determine salaries, conducting polling of residents on the issue, the difference in pay between the City Council and Board of Supervisors, and educating the public on what it takes to serve on a city council or serve as the mayor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

World Affairs Council of Sonoma County spoke on being a big fan of voting and suggested the Committee reach out to tax payer advocates to get their concerns on this issue.

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

City Attorney Sue Gallagher reported the Committee received a letter regarding revisions to the referendum process, noting staff will research the topic and report out at a future meeting, and Committee meeting agendas will be published on Fridays.

City Clerk Stephanie Williams announced the recording of the meetings will be posted on the City's website by the end of the next day following the meeting. A link to the meeting portal to access the

recording will also be placed on the Committee's webpage.

No public comments were made.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - NONE.

7. WRITTEN AND/OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS - NONE.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Council Compensation
2. Ranked Choice Voting
3. Equity Principles

No public comments were made.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cisco adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on January 5, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Approved on:

Stephanie A. Williams
City Clerk