



**CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

Conference Room, 1000 San Pablo Avenue  
Tuesday, November 13, 2007  
7:00 p.m.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Committee Members Martin, Mathiasen, Rubin & Chair Wallace

Absent: Committee Members Berul, Grossman & Holan

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3-1.** October 2, 2007, minutes

**MOTION:**

Moved by Committee Member Rubin, seconded by Committee Member Mathiasen to approve the minutes, as submitted.

AYES: Committee Members Mathiasen, Rubin & Chair Wallace

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Committee Member Martin

ABSENT: Committee Members Berul, Grossman & Holan

Motion carried and so ordered.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

For persons desiring to address the Commission/Committee/Board on an item that is not on the agenda please note that each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. The Brown Act limits the Committee's ability to take and/or discuss items that are not on the agenda; therefore, such items are normally referred to staff for comment or to a future agenda.

No one wished to speak.

**5. REPORTS**

**5-1.** Chair Wallace regarding formality/informality of the meetings and the Committee's responsibilities to the City Council.

Chair Wallace stated that the meetings have been run in an informal manner, which leads to longer meetings and asked the Committee to be mindful of this.

Chair Wallace asked that when the public speaks not to interrupt them and to follow Rosenberg's Rules of Order, which was recommended at the Commission/Committee training.

Chair Wallace spoke to the issue of the Committee's responsibility to the Council noting that it is his understanding that the Committee make recommendations to the Council on Charter amendments for their consideration. Chair Wallace noted that the Committee would probably not always have a unanimous vote but should present the Council with the pros/cons on an item.

There was discussion between the Committee members regarding this with some believing that it is the Committee's responsibility to draft language and submit to the Council with others believing that the Committee is advisory and that the Council can draft the language.

The following members of the public spoke: Robert Outis, Albany resident; Preston Jordan, Albany resident. A summary of the comments is as follows: Noted that the Council makes the decision and the Committee should make recommendations.

Committee member Holan arrived.

**6. DISCUSSIONS AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

**6-1. Section 2.01 – Council Compensation**

The City Clerk reported that the Committee sent this back to the City Attorney to change some ballot language and before them tonight is the amended ballot language for Council Compensation.

**MOTION:**

Moved by Member Martin, seconded by Member Rubin to approve the language, as submitted by the City Attorney to send to the City Council for their consideration

Robert Outis, Albany resident, expressed concern about the word benefits in the language and did not believe it was appropriate.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

AYES: Members Holan, Martin, Mathiasen, Rubin & Chair Wallace

NOES: None

ABSENT: Members Berul & Grossman

Motion carried and so ordered.

**6-2. Election of Mayor**

Chair Wallace suggested that the Committee focus on listing the issues regarding the directly election Mayor question. The following issues were identified: 1) Relationships – regional and internal. 2) Term of Office 3) Power of the Mayor. 4) Learning curve – running the meeting. 5) Obtaining Grants.

The following members of the public spoke: Preston Jordan, Albany resident; Robert Outis, Albany resident. A summary of the comments is as follows: Noted that this is not just about building relationships but the benefit of a rotated Mayor in which the Council learn how to chair a meeting. Suggested the Committee think about specific topics such as: term of office, staggered terms and to look at other charter cities and see what they have for their Mayor.

It was decided that in December Committee members would bring language from other charter cities on the Mayor, as follows: Member Holan – San Leandro & Alameda; Member Martin – St. Helena & Gilroy.

It was decided that in January the Committee would like to have some Council Members from Piedmont and Emeryville attend the meeting to give their views on working with an appointed Mayor. Chair Wallace stated that he would contact those cities.

It was decided that in February the Committee would like to have a couple of former Albany Mayors attend the meeting and give their views on appointed v. elected Mayors. Member Rubin stated that she would contact former Mayor Peggy Thomsen and former Mayor Robert Nichols.

Chair Wallace stated that he would like the Committee to have a goal to adjourn the meetings no later than 8:30 p.m.

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

**7-1.** The City Clerk announced that for the members who did not attend the City's Commission/Committee training the City has available a DVD of the training.

**8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**8-1.** Member Holan stated that she would like a future agenda item to discuss the issue of Instant Runoff Voting (IRV).

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

8:40 p.m. – There being no further business before the Committee it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

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MICHAEL WALLACE  
CHAIR

ATTEST:

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JACQUELINE L. BUCHOLZ, CMC  
CITY CLERK