



Charter Review Committee  
of the  
City of Rio Rancho

**MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 22, 2016  
7:30 PM  
City Council Overflow Room, City Hall

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lonnie Clayton, At Large  
Phil Pigott, District 1  
Bill White, District 2  
Tamara Gutierrez, Chair, District 3  
Aaron Fleming, District 4  
Marilyn Salzman, District 6

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Stephen Ruger, City Clerk

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Michelle Bunzel, District 5

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**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Gutierrez called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

1. Approval of Minutes of August 31, 2016, Meeting

Aaron Fleming moved to approve the minutes of August 31, 2016. Seconded by Bill White.

The motion carried by a vote of 6 FOR and 0 AGAINST.

YES: Lonnie Clayton, Phil Pigott, Bill White, Tamara Gutierrez, Aaron Fleming, Marilyn Salzman

NO: None

2. Approval of Minutes of September 7, 2016, Meeting

Marilyn Salzman moved to approve the minutes of September 7, 2016. Seconded by Aaron Fleming.

The motion carried by a vote of 6 FOR and 0 AGAINST.

YES: Lonnie Clayton, Phil Pigott, Bill White, Tamara Gutierrez, Aaron Fleming, Marilyn Salzman

NO: None

3. Discussion of Recommendations Regarding the Placement of the Mayor's and City Council Members' Annual Salaries in the Charter

Bill White expressed concern that placing the salaries of the Governing Body in the Charter sets them in stone. He recommends creating a committee structure similar to Albuquerque's,

1 through which an independent citizen panel would determine salaries of the Governing Body,  
2 prior to elections.

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4 Lonnie Clayton asked for clarification on the Governing Body's direction to the Charter Review  
5 Committee. Stephen Ruger reminded the group that the Governing Body tasked them with  
6 determining only if salaries should be included in the Charter; however, there is nothing that  
7 prohibits the Charter Review Committee from discussing other matters as long as those matters  
8 are noticed on the agenda.

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10 Phil Pigott stated that even if we continue to experience 10% voter turnout, that's thousands of  
11 people determining the salaries of the Governing Body going forward instead of a group of only  
12 5-7 citizens, as would be the case with an independent citizen panel.

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14 Aaron Fleming believes the salaries of the Governing Body should be included as part of the  
15 Charter and not determined by a citizen panel. He believes the benefit is that the issue is taken  
16 entirely out of the hands of the Governing Body and placed with the voters.

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18 Marilyn Salzman reminded the group again that they were only tasked with the question of  
19 placing Governing Body salaries in the Charter.

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21 Bill White explained that his suggestion was meant to give power to the Citizens through the  
22 formation of an independent committee. He stated that the only involvement the Governing  
23 Body would have with an independent review committee is in activating them.

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25 Tamara Gutierrez stated that even if the salaries are placed in the Charter, they can still be  
26 changed by a vote of the citizens in the future.

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28 Phil Pigott believes that tying the salaries of the Governing Body members to the median  
29 household income would reflect appropriate changes to the salaries as the economy fluctuates.

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31 Lonnie Clayton suggested a salary of \$20,000 for City Councilors.

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33 The members and those in the audience discussed the current role of City Councilors.  
34 Specifically, they discussed if the responsibilities have increased over time.

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36 Stephen Ruger suggested voting on whether or not to recommend a salary review committee so  
37 the will of the Charter Review Committee could be determined.

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39 Bill White moved to recommend to the Governing Body that an independent salary review  
40 committee be created. Seconded by Lonnie Clayton.

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42 The motion failed by a vote of 2 FOR and 4 AGAINST.

43 YES: Lonnie Clayton, Bill White

44 NO: Phil Pigott, Tamara Gutierrez, Aaron Fleming, Marilyn Salzman

45  
46 Aaron Fleming moved to recommend including City Councilor salaries in the Charter.  
47 Seconded by Phil Pigott.

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49 The motion failed by a vote of 3 FOR and 3 AGAINST.

50 YES: Phil Pigott, Tamara Gutierrez, Arron Fleming

51 NO: Lonnie Clayton, Bill White, Marilyn Salzman

1           4. Establishing Next Meeting Date

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3       The members agreed to keep their next meeting date as scheduled for Thursday, October 6,  
4       2016, at 7:30 p.m.

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6       **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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8       **ADJOURNMENT**

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10      The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

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12      **APPROVED THIS OCTOBER 6, 2016**

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**Tamara Gutierrez, Chairperson**

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**Stephen J. Ruger, City Clerk**

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**SEAL**

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