



Charter Review Committee  
of the  
City of Rio Rancho

**MINUTES**

OCTOBER 6, 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  
Michelle Bunzel, District 5

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Peter Wells, Assistant City Manager  
Stephen Ruger, City Clerk

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Marilyn Salzman, District 6

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**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Gutierrez called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

1. Approval of Minutes of September 22, 2016, Meeting

Bill White moved to approve the minutes of September 22, 2016. Seconded by Michelle Bunzel.

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

YES: Lonnie Clayton, Phil Pigott, Bill White, Tamara Gutierrez, Aaron Fleming, Michelle Bunzel

NO: None

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

The group discussed the draft language proposed by staff to amend the Charter to include the Mayor's salary, a copy of which is attached to these minutes as "Exhibit A."

Aaron Fleming moved to approve the draft language. (Attached as Exhibit A) Seconded by Tamara Gutierrez.

The motion passed by a vote of 5 FOR and 1 AGAINST.

YES: Phil Pigott, Bill White, Tamara Gutierrez, Arron Fleming, Michelle Bunzel

NO: Lonnie Clayton

Lonnie Clayton stated that he was against the idea of including benefits in the Charter.

1  
2 Peter Wells explained that staff placed language regarding benefits in the Charter so that the  
3 complete compensation and benefits package would be included.  
4

5 Aaron Fleming stated that he thinks that including benefits as part of the Charter Amendment is  
6 a good idea.  
7

8 Bill White stated that since the last meeting, he had changed his mind and now believes that  
9 they Mayor's salary should be included in the Charter.  
10

11 Aaron Fleming wanted to revisit the question of whether or not to include City Councilor salaries  
12 as part of the Charter amendment.  
13

14 Bill White moved to reconsider whether or not to include City Councilor Salaries as part of the  
15 Charter amendment. Seconded by Phil Pigott.  
16

17 The motion passed by a vote of 5 FOR and 1 AGAINST.  
18 YES: Phil Pigott, Bill White, Tamara Gutierrez, Arron Fleming, Michelle Bunzel  
19 NO: Lonnie Clayton  
20

21 The members then discussed the idea of including City Councilor salaries as part of the  
22 recommended Charter amendment.  
23

24 Lonnie Clayton disagrees with this idea and feels that City Councilor salaries should be decided  
25 by ordinance of the Governing Body.  
26

27 Tamara Gutierrez believes that the salaries of the City Councilors should be included in the  
28 Charter.  
29

30 Michelle Bunzel asked if the workload for City Councilors increases between each election.  
31

32 Staff stated that the duties for elected officials remain unchanged, but that the City Council at  
33 any given time may decide to voluntarily add additional duties.  
34

35 Lonnie Clayton stated that population growth is one area that adds to City Councilor workload.  
36

37 Bill White moved to include City Councilor Salaries as part of the Charter amendment.  
38 Seconded by Tamara Gutierrez.  
39

40 The motion passed by a vote of 5 FOR and 1 AGAINST.  
41 YES: Phil Pigott, Bill White, Tamara Gutierrez, Arron Fleming, Michelle Bunzel  
42 NO: Lonnie Clayton  
43

44 Staff stated that it would provide draft amendments based on this action for the next meeting.  
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46 3. Establishing Next Meeting Date  
47

48 Bill White moved to meet next on Friday, October 21, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Phil  
49 Pigott.  
50

51 The motion passed by a vote of 6 FOR and 0 AGAINST.  
52 YES: Lonnie Clayton, Phil Pigott, Bill White, Tamara Gutierrez, Arron Fleming, Michelle  
53 Bunzel  
54 NO: None

1 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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- 3 • Jennifer Flor, District 5 City Councilor

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5 **ADJOURNMENT**

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7 The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

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9 **APPROVED THIS OCTOBER 21, 2016**

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**Tamara Gutierrez, Chairperson**

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**Stephen J. Ruger, City Clerk**

**SEAL**

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1 **Minutes of October 6, 2016, - EXHIBIT A**

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3 **Shall Article II, Governing Body, Section 2.04, Compensation; Expenses, Be Amended to**  
4 **Read as Follows?**

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6 Section 2.04 Compensation; Expenses.

7 A. Compensation. The Governing Body shall determine the salary of the mayor, City Council  
8 members, and municipal judge by ordinance, subject to the limits of the New Mexico  
9 Constitution and irrespective of the annual salary of the county commissioners of any county  
10 within which all or part of the City is situate.

11  
12 B. (1)Beginning in 2018 and thereafter, the annual salary of the Mayor shall be the most current  
13 estimated median household income, as reported by the United States Census Bureau, on the  
14 day the Mayor is sworn into office.

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16 (2)The Mayor and eligible family members shall be offered medical, dental and vision insurance  
17 coverage as provided to other city employees.

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19 (3)The annual salary of the Mayor shall not be increased or decreased during his or her current  
20 term of office.

21  
22 (4)The Mayor shall be provided a city vehicle.

23  
24 B. C. Expenses. The mayor, City Council members, and the municipal judge shall receive their  
25 actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties of office, subject to  
26 budgetary limitations and subject to any per diem and mileage limits as may be set by  
27 ordinance.

28  
29  
30 Explanation: If approved, the compensation and benefits already established via ordinance by  
31 vote of the Governing Body (mayor and City Council members) for the mayor position effective  
32 in 2018 would be specified in the Charter. If compensation and benefits for the mayor is  
33 specified in the Charter, the only way compensation and benefits could be changed in the future  
34 is by majority vote of a Charter amendment question by qualified electors at an election. No  
35 longer would the Governing Body have the ability to adjust mayor compensation and benefits as  
36 has been the case historically.

37  
38 If not approved, the compensation and benefits already established via ordinance by vote of the  
39 Governing Body for the mayor position effective in 2018 remains in place and unchanged. In the  
40 future, the Governing Body would continue to have the ability to adjust mayor compensation and  
41 benefits.

42  
43 Pursuant to the State of New Mexico Constitution, whether this Charter amendment question is  
44 approved or not approved, a change (increase or decrease) to mayor compensation approved  
45 by either qualified electors at an election or the Governing Body would not affect the current  
46 office holder and would be applicable to the next office holder.

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48  
49 FOR AMENDMENT: o

50 AGAINST AMENDMENT: o