



Charter Review Committee
of the
City of Rio Rancho

MINUTES

OCTOBER 21, 2016
6:30 PM

City Council Overflow Room, City Hall

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
Marilyn Salzman, District 6

STAFF PRESENT:

Peter Wells, Assistant City Manager
Yolanda Lucero, Deputy City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Gutierrez called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

1. Approval of Minutes of October 6, 2016, Meeting

Marilyn Salzman moved to approve the minutes of October 6, 2016. Seconded by Bill White.

The motion carried by a vote of 7 FOR and 0 AGAINST.

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

NO: None

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

Peter Wells explained staff has provided two draft amendments for discussion based off the last Charter Review Committee meeting. One is a full text version amending the Charter to include the salaries of the Mayor and City Councilors, the second is a summary version which would split the question into two, one for Mayor the other for City Councilors.

Marilyn Salzman voiced support for using the full text of the amendment to be presented to the voters.

Aaron Fleming is in support of using the full text as it gives more detail and is transparent.

Tamara Gutierrez stated based off last meeting discussions she believes the majority of the Committee favored using the full text.

Phil Pigott voiced concern with the amendment striking the municipal judge and believes this needs to be clarified.

1 Lonnie Clayton stated that he is against the salaries being in the Charter.

2
3 Aaron Fleming moved to approve recommending amendment version one. (Attached as Exhibit
4 A.) Seconded by Marilyn Salzman.

5
6 **The motion passed by a vote of 6 FOR and 1 AGAINST.**

7 **YES: Phil Pigott, Bill White, Tamara Gutierrez, Arron Fleming, Michelle Bunzel, Marilyn**
8 **Salzman**

9 **NO: Lonnie Clayton**

10
11 Marilyn Salzman moved to amend Section 2.04 A as follows: A.(6) The Governing Body shall
12 determine the salary of the municipal judge by ordinance. Seconded by Aaron Fleming.

13
14 **The motion passed by a vote of 7 FOR and 0 AGAINST.**

15 **YES: Lonnie Clayton, Phil Pigott, Bill White, Tamara Gutierrez, Arron Fleming, Michelle**
16 **Bunzel, Marilyn Salzman**

17 **NO: NONE**

18
19 Mr. Wells explained that the committee will submit recommendations to the Governing Body
20 before October 31, 2016. On November 9, 2016, the Governing Body will either approve the
21 suggested Charter amendments by a majority vote or refer the proposed Charter amendments
22 back to the Committee with its suggestions.

23
24 The committee briefly discussed how they will present the recommendations to the Governing
25 Body on November 9, 2016.

26
27 **3. Establishing Next Meeting Date**

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29 No meeting date at this time was set as the Committee will submit their recommendations to the
30 Governing Body before the end of the month.

31
32 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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34 **ADJOURNMENT**

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36 The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

37
38 **APPROVED THIS NOVEMBER 30, 2016**

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42

Tamara Gutierrez, Chairperson

43
44

Stephen J. Ruger, City Clerk
45 **SEAL**

1
2
3 **CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21, 2016**
4 **EXHIBIT A**
5

6 Shall Article II, Governing Body, Section 2.04, Compensation; Expenses, Be Amended to Read
7 as Follows?
8

9 Section 2.04 Compensation; Expenses.

10 ~~A.— Compensation. The Governing Body shall determine the salary of the mayor, City Council~~
11 ~~members, and municipal judge by ordinance, subject to the limits of the New Mexico~~
12 ~~Constitution and irrespective of the annual salary of the county commissioners of any county~~
13 ~~within which all or part of the City is situate.~~
14

15 A. Compensation. (1)Beginning in 2018 and thereafter, the annual salary of the Mayor shall be
16 the most current estimated median household income in Rio Rancho, as reported by the United
17 States Census Bureau, on the day the Mayor is sworn into office.
18

19 (2)Beginning in 2018 and thereafter, the annual salary of the City Council members shall be
20 28% of the most current estimated median household income in Rio Rancho, as reported by the
21 United States Census Bureau, on the day the City Councilor is sworn into office.
22

23 (3)The Mayor and City Councilors and eligible family members shall be offered medical, dental
24 and vision insurance coverage as provided to other city employees.
25

26 (4)The annual salary of the Mayor and City Councilors shall not be increased or decreased
27 during his or her term of office.
28

29 (5)The Mayor shall be provided a city vehicle.
30

31 B. Expenses. The mayor, City Council members, and the municipal judge shall receive their
32 actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties of office, subject to
33 budgetary limitations and subject to any per diem and mileage limits as may be set by
34 ordinance.
35

36
37 *Explanation: If approved, the compensation and benefits already established via ordinance by*
38 *vote of the Governing Body (mayor and City Council members) for the mayor and city councilor*
39 *positions effective in 2018 would be specified in the Charter. If compensation and benefits for*
40 *the mayor and city councilors is specified in the Charter, the only way compensation and*
41 *benefits could be changed in the future is by majority vote of a Charter amendment question by*
42 *qualified electors at an election. No longer would the Governing Body have the ability to adjust*
43 *mayor and city councilor compensation and benefits as has been the case historically.*
44

45 *If not approved, the compensation and benefits already established via ordinance by vote of the*
46 *Governing Body for the mayor and city councilor positions effective in 2018 remains in place*
47 *and unchanged. In the future, the Governing Body would continue to have the ability to adjust*
48 *mayor and city councilor compensation and benefits.*
49

50 *Pursuant to the State of New Mexico Constitution, whether this Charter amendment question is*
51 *approved or not approved, a change (increase or decrease) to mayor and city councilor*
52 *compensation approved by either qualified electors at an election or the Governing Body would*
53 *not affect the current office holder and would be applicable to the next office holder.*