



**Reno City Charter Committee
Reno City Council
Joint Meeting**

DRAFT MINUTES

Monday, August 22, 2018, 5:30 p.m.
Reno City Hall, Council Chambers
One E. First Street
Reno, NV 89501

Members

Andrew Diss, Chair (Ward 1)
Jonnie Pullman, Vice Chair (Senate Democrats)
Richard D. Brown (Mayor)
Doug Thornley (At-Large Ward)
Richard Vilorio (Ward 3)
Nancyann Leeder (Ward 4)
Mac Rossi (Ward 5)

Nnedi Stephens (Senate Democrats)
Lucas Foletta (Senate Republicans)
Seth Williams (Assembly Democrats)
Heather Korbolic (Assembly Democrats)
Paul Enos (Assembly Republicans)
Scott Gilles (Staff Liaison)

Ashley Turney, Reno City Clerk, called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

A. Introductory Items

A.1 Call to Order

A.2 Roll Call

Present: Diss, Pullman, Brown, Thornley, Vilorio, Leeder, Rossi, Stephens, Foletta, Korbolic, Enos

Absent: Williams

A.3 Public Comment – This item is for either public comment on any action item or for any general public comment.

Ashley Turney, Reno City Clerk, announced no public comment was registered or received.

A.4 Approval of the Agenda (For Possible Action) – August 22, 2018

Ashley Turney, Reno City Clerk, confirmed that only one motion would be needed since this was a joint meeting, not a concurrent meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Duerr, seconded by Councilmember Delgado, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

A.5 Approval of Minutes

A.5.1 Reno City Charter Committee – July 19, 2018

A.5.2 Reno City Charter Committee – August 1, 2018

Motion by Vice Chair Pullman, seconded by Member Stephens, to approve the July 19, 2018 and August 1, 2018 Reno City Charter Committee minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Presentations

B.1 Presentation and discussion regarding the Charter Committee's Final Recommendations and Explanations. (For Possible Action)

Scott Gilles, Government Affairs Manager, noted the Charter Committee had met 8 times during this session, and Chair Diss and Vice Chair Pullman were appointed to their positions at the first meeting. The Committee vetted a number of issues in 2018 which would have resulted in changes to the Charter. Recommendations were made only if a majority of the Committee voted to do so, and several topics which did not meet that threshold were reviewed. The Council, it was explained, would give feedback during Item B.1 and action would be taken during Item B.2.

Chair Diss reviewed the three recommendations for changes to the Charter: ensuring that annexed land was geographically contiguous to the closest ward, including giving the Council broader redistricting authority; changing campaign finance reporting requirements to monthly; and modifying the 35 instances in the Charter where gendered language was used.

Councilmember Brekhus thought the gendered language issue had already been addressed. Regarding campaign finance reporting, the Council had adopted generic language about timely reporting. While agreeing in principle to monthly reporting, the Councilmember expressed a preference for not bringing a Charter bill forward in this cycle. When asked whether the Committee had done research into state law about annexation and redistricting, Chair Diss replied there had been no discussion about state law, but the Committee noticed no provisions existed related to geographical contiguity.

Councilmember Brekhus expressed doubt that the Council could obtain the necessary census data on its own, which would be needed for mid-decade redistricting calculations. Chair Diss responded the Committee tried to be conscious of the City's cost if it chose to fund its own census, which was why the recommended language was broad.

Councilmember Delgado said attention would have to be paid to development in certain wards as that could make some wards lopsided. Changes would also need to be made when considering a sixth ward. In response, Chair Diss pointed out the language would not require an immediate redistricting effort; rather, it would be at the Council's discretion. The Councilmember questioned the value of proposing a bill just to change the finance contribution reporting requirement to monthly.

Vice Mayor Jardon asked where the Chair obtained the data justifying his claim that Nevada was near the bottom in terms of transparency. Chair Diss listed 2017 data from USA Today,

fivethirtyeight.com, and the Center for Public Integrity as sources. Vice Mayor Jardon agreed with Councilmember Delgado that bringing a full charter bill to change campaign finance reporting requirements might not be worthwhile.

Councilmember Duerr pointed out the City of Reno was the first city in Nevada to move to quarterly campaign finance contribution reporting, expressing a preference that the rest of the state adopt the same requirement before the City changed again. Regarding making changes to the gendered language, which Councilmember Duerr also thought had been addressed, Chair Diss said legislative changes were needed to modify anything in the Charter, even grammar.

Councilmember McKenzie agreed with the validity of the recommendations but could not support sending it to the Legislature to make changes because decisions would then be out of the Council's hands. The Councilmember praised the prior work of the Committee since these recommendations addressed relatively minor issues.

Councilmember Brekus suggested researching the legislative history to make sure the prior changes the Council thought had been made were actually done. Mr. Gilles clarified prior Charter language had been made to add she/her to instances where he/his were used, but the current recommendation was to remove gendered pronouns altogether.

B.2 Discussion and potential direction to staff regarding the Reno City Charter Committee recommendations for a bill draft request proposing changes to the City of Reno Charter.

Government Affairs Manager Gillis explained the City of Reno was entitled to two bill draft requests (BDRs) based on its population, and the deadline to submit them would be September 1. The purpose of this item was to specifically address a possible Charter BDR.

Councilmember Brekhus felt there were fiscal areas that needed the Council's attention more than a potential Charter BDR.

Motion by Councilmember Brekhus, seconded by Councilmember Duerr, to not move forward with a BDR related to the Reno City Charter. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Identification of Reno City Charter Committee Items for future agendas of the Charter Committee. (For Possible Action)

Chair Diss reminded the Committee they had decided to hold off taking any action until they saw the Council's reaction to their recommendations. A motion could be made to set a future meeting with no September 1 deadline.

Motion by Vice Chair Pullman, seconded by Member Rossi, to schedule a meeting at some point in the future. The motion passed 7 to 4 with Members Thornley, Violoria, Korbolic, and Enos voting "no". [NOTE – I've listened to this many times with the volume cranked up full. I count 7-4 each time even though they then say the motion passed by one vote – I don't know what I'm mishearing]

D. Public Comment - This item is for either public comment on any action item or for any general public.

Ashley Turney, Reno City Clerk, announced no public comment was registered or received.

Member Rossi commented that meetings were shorter when attended by fewer members who were attorneys.

F. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

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