



# CITY OF MODESTO

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## MINUTES

City of Modesto

### **CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING**

Second Floor, Room 2008  
Tenth Street Place  
1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto, California

**Thursday, August 23, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.**

Roll Call: Committee Members: Altman, Bairey, Bernal, Cogdill, Harrigfeld, Lucas, Petrulakis, Shores, Williams, Wright

Absent: Altman, Cogdill, Wright

Councilmembers Dunbar, Hawn, Keating, Marsh, O'Bryant, Olsen, Mayor Ridenour

### **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**Three minute time limit per speaker**

Only interested persons in the audience may present these matters. Under State law, Committee Members may respond to matters being presented under this item only as follows:

- a. Briefly respond to statements made or questions raised.
- b. Ask a question for clarification.
- c. Provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information.
- d. Request staff to report back at a subsequent meeting.
- e. Finally, a Committee Member or the Committee itself may take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.

**CONSENT ITEMS – ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED:** Item #1

August 23, 2007

Information concerning the consent items listed above has been forwarded to each Committee Member prior to this meeting for study. Unless some member of the audience or Committee Member has a question concerning an item and asks that it be withdrawn from the consent list, the Committee approves the items at one time. The action taken by the Committee in approving consent items is set forth in the explanation of this individual item.

Any and all of the following agenda items are subject to action by the Charter Review Committee.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

**An item may be removed from consent and discussed at the request of an audience member or Committee Member.**

#### **CONSENT**

1. Consider approving minutes from the Charter Review Committee Meeting on August 21, 2007.

This matter continued to August 27, 2007

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discuss / Vote Accountability Reforms Including Mayor's and City Manager's Powers, Budget Procedure, and Statement of Policy for City Departments and Statement of Policy for City Departments.  
**Support Materials:** Draft Language Sec. 600 et al

Committee discussed proposed language. Suggested revisions to draft recommended by Chair to be made, specifically revising Sections 601 by removing the word "To" in front of the subsections; adding phrase "with Council Approval" to subsection (f), and re-numbering the subsections, and adding the phrase "similar to other unclassified positions in similar service to the end of subsection (l). The Committee unanimously approved with these changes.

The Committee unanimously approved Section 725 are drafted. In regard to Section 1302A and 1303, the Committee unanimously approved as drafted, with direction to the Chair and City Attorney to revise 1303 by inserting "newspaper of general circulation" or similar language, instead of "official newspaper of the city".

The Committee unanimously approved Sections 800 and 801 as drafted, with revisions to subsection (b), inserting the words "Mayor and" in front of the word "Council" wherever it appeared in that subsection.

2. Discuss / Vote Revised Language to Create Compensation Commission  
**Support Materials:** Revised Language

The Committee unanimously approved new Section 703, with revisions. Motion to approve also included a motion to conform all of the public notice language consistent to current law.

3. Discuss Proposed Organization of Final Report in to Four Elements: Accountability, Form of Election, Elimination of Run-Off and Technical Items and Timeline for Placement of Charter Issues on 2008 election Calendar.

**Support Material: Proposed Election Timeline**

After discussion and review, the Committee unanimously approved the proposed report outline and timeline. The Committee approved including a recommendation that any charter amendment related to run-offs be included with the technical amendments, and directed that the report should state “The Committee, in a close vote determined that the current runoff system is logistically impractical and should be revised, however, there are many options available for a run-off, and this matter needs to be reviewed further” or words to that effect. The Committee commended the good work by the illustrious chairman in putting together the proposed draft.

4. Discuss/Approve Invitation to Committee Members to Provide Individual Commentary/Dissenting Views in Final Report.

Committee took no action.

5. Discuss Preferred Methods of Drawing boundaries for City Council Districts.

After Discussion, the Committee determined that the recommended approach should be one that is similar to the approach that will be taken by the compensation commission, in that a separate committee should be formed to work with a consultant and make recommendations to the Council for establishing districts.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

None.

**MATTERS TOO LATE FOR THE AGENDA**

These may be presented by members of the Committee and staff upon determination by a majority vote that an emergency exists, as defined by State law, or by a 2/3 vote that (1) there is a need to take immediate action, and (2) that the need for action came to the City’s attention after the agenda was posted.

None.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Districting Methods
2. Submission of Final Report

**ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

**BY ORDER OF THE CHAIR**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Susana Alcala Wood, City Attorney