



# MODESTO CITY COUNCIL

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## MINUTES

City of Modesto

### **CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE/ SPECIAL COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

Conference Room 6825, Sixth Floor  
Tenth Street Place  
1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto, California

**HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE**

**(To Access Meeting See Instructions Below)**

**Wednesday, March 3, 2021, at 5:00 PM**

Roll Call - Present: Committee Members Chair Cecil Russell, Vice Chair Sam Pierstorff, Aaron Anguiano, Wendy Byrd, Janice Keating, Mike Moradian, Tim Ragsdale, Sandy Lucas, Chris Tyler, and Monica Valencia

Absent: Committee Member Jose Sabala; Ad Hoc Members George Petrulakis and John Walker

- Committee Chair Cecil Russell made an opening statement thanking the Committee, Mayor and Councilmembers in attendance; he also reminded the Committee is tasked with vetting the issues brought forward by the Mayor and Council last year; once finished with the process, a report will be presented to the Mayor and Council.
- Mayor Sue Zwahlen thanked the Committee and staff for their time and talents assisting the City of Modesto.

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

### CONSENT ITEMS – ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED – No Consent Items

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider approving the Minutes from the February 10, 2021 meeting.

**ACTION: Motion (Tyler/Moradian; 10/0; Sabala absent)** approving the Minutes from the February 10, 2021 meeting.

2. Consider appointing an alternate member to replace Renaldo Rucker who resigned from the Committee on February 1, 2021.

**ACTION: Motion (Tyler/Byrd; 10/0; Sabala absent)** approving the appointment of Monica Valencia as a Member to replace Renaldo Rucker who resigned on February 1, 2021.

3. Review and discussion of City Manager’s Office Draft Memo dated February 5, 2021.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the City Manager’s Office Draft Memo dated February 5, 2021, specifically:

Section 600: The Committee reiterated the validity of its March 2, 2021 vote related to the timing and process of elections held for the office of the Mayor. Staff will return with specific language. Member Tyler suggested that Section 501 of the Charter “Method of Election” be an appropriate spot for language versus Section 600 which deals with Term of Office. Staff to review.

The Committee began discussing whether any changes are advisable for how the City Council members are elected. Options discussed included (i) no change (plurality in Nov), (ii) Council elections parallel that of the Mayor (primary/general), or (iii) moving the election to March but maintaining plurality system. The Committee decided to gather further input on the cost of elections as one consideration and take the issue up again at its next meeting on March 17, 2021.

Section 902.1, as well as additional Sections to be added to the Charter, Sections 902.2 and 902.3 regarding the Audit Committee.

**ACTION: Motion (Byrd/Moradian; 10/0; Sabala absent)** eliminating the language in Section 902.1(a): “...**Institute of Internal Auditors or the**”...

**ACTION: Motion (Ragsdale/Tyler; 10/0; Sabala absent)** leaving the language in Section 902.1(3)(d): “...with the exception of the of the office of any elected official.”

The Committee heard public input from Sacramento City Auditor Jorge Oseguera who indicated that the qualification standards outlined in the Charter for the position of City Auditor might be too narrow. The Committee heard alternative language proposed and Staff was asked to receive a copy of that language and present it for consideration at the March 17, 2021 meeting.

Matters to Return:

- (i) City Clerk to return with information regarding election costs.
- (ii) Staff to return with revised language to Section 902.1 regarding qualification requirements for City Auditor position.
- (iii) Staff to return with language for the Mayors election and a determination of whether it should be included in Section 600 or Section 501 of the Charter.

4. Discussion and continued review of the City of Modesto Charter and any further additions/changes/revisions for the November 2022 election.

**ACTION:** No reportable action.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

None.

**MATTERS TOO LATE FOR THE AGENDA**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION: Motion (Anguiano/Moradian; 10/0; Sabala absent)** adjourning meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Lopez, City Clerk