



**CITY OF CARSON
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION DURING PROPOSED CHARTER COMMITTEE
MEETING**

**CONGRESSWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD COMMUNITY CENTER
AT CARSON
CARSON DOMINGUEZ ROOM
801 East Carson Street
CARSON, CALIFORNIA 90745**

MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018, 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

City Manager Farfsing called the meeting to order at 6:13 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

City Manager called the roll:

Members Present:

Gilbert Smith
Matthew Marfice
Ana Meni

Alex Cainglet
Rashina Young
Vera Robles-Dewitt

Dr. Sharma Henderson
Karen Avilla
Michael Stewart

Members Absent:

Philipta Hicks, Alt. No. 1

Cedell Bush, Alt. No. 2

Latrice Carter, Alt. No. 3

Staff Present:

City Attorney Sunny Soltani

City Manager Kenneth
Farfsing

Assistant to the City Manager
Lisa Berglund

Deputy City Clerk Joy
Simarago

NEW BUSINESS

**ITEM NO. (1) INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ELECTION
OF A CHAIRPERSON, VICE CHAIRPERSON AND SECRETARY**

RECOMMENDATION to the City Council Committee:

1. NOMINATE and ELECT a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary to serve.

City Manager Farfsing called for nomination for Chair.

Ana Meni nominated herself.

Karen Avilla nominated Gil Smith, who declined; she nominated Alex Cainglet, who declined.

Ana Meni as Chair by unanimous vote.

City Manager Farfsing turned meeting over to Chair Meni.

Chair Meni nominated Karen Avilla as Vice Chair who accepted. Karen Avilla as Vice Chair by unanimous vote.

Chair Meni nominated Dr. Sharma Henderson as Secretary. Dr. Sharma Henderson as Secretary by unanimous vote.

ITEM NO. (2) CHARTER PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE CONTENTS OF A POSSIBLE CITY CHARTER

RECOMMENDATION to the City Council Committee:

1. DISCUSS and PROVIDE direction.

City Manager Farfsing presented the item.

City Attorney Soltani provided background. She introduced Assistant City Attorney Lum Fobi from her office.

Committee Member Cainglet requested City Manager Farfsing to provide background and why being recommended.

Chair Meni suggested waiting until end of presentation for any questions by Committee Members.

Assistant City Attorney Fobi provided two handouts: 1) List of Charter Cites and 2) City Charter Issues List. She provided overview of the City Charter Issues List handout.

Chair Meni requested staff include dates on handouts and post all information related to the proposed charter on the City's website, including the initial City Council staff report.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Bill Smalley – saluted Gil Smith; referred to page 1 of handout and expressed concern of City Council control over department heads and would like this option to be eliminated; he cautioned how fast the item is moving forward; issue with use of fast track.

Dr. Rita Boggs – inquired if Committee Members are required to live in the City; referred to Brown Act; noted that people need to be informed.

Robert Lesley – inquired on the impact that will be imposed on residents and services; specific guidelines; and concerns.

Bob Adams, AFSCME representative – stated there are two locals who are residents of Carson; questioned the rush; does not believe it is enough time to get on November ballot; this is not good for City workers; believes items on list should be vetted by the community; issue of fast track; should look at laborers and coordinate; urged caution, slower pace without the need to rush.

Liz Foisia – concerned about fast track; agreed with Committee Member Cainglet, with the first speaker, and everyone about the item being rushed; referred to handout which is a lot to make a sound decision; concerned for employees.

Dianne Thomas – appalled what is going on; similar concerns as Committee Member Cainglet; referred to Mayor Robles for personal gain; opposed to item.

Lori Noflin – requested that Committee meetings be televised; due to the importance of the matter residents need to be informed.

Dr. Leandra Fields Robinson – needs more advertisement for the citizens of Carson, similar to Measure C.

Laronda Brown – opposed to item; needs more communication as to what is going on in the City.

There being no further persons wishing to speak, Chair Meni closed the Oral Communications.

Chair Meni discussed the makeup of committee noting that it had not been formally addressed whether or not members are required to be Carson residents; inquired of staff whether the Committee is governed by Brown Act or a standing committee to be noticed. She requested a designated section on the website with all documents since the creation of the Committee; City Manager to authorize staff to televise meetings;

noted there is no clear distinction of the role of the Committee; requested timeline and information in lieu of bullet points; report back at next meeting. She also provided the City Managers contact number 310-952-1729 for resident concerns; charter to be presented at the next election.

Vice Chair Avilla – expressed concern with Charters that have strong Mayor form of government; keep an open mind in the process; if Council moves forward, when would it take effect; inquired on how commissioners will be impacted and how the supermajority rules work; questioned whether the Charter can be less restrictive than the State.

Committee Member DeWitt – requested the Committee review the social media posts; would support district elections.

Committee Member Young – wanted to know what charter cities are comparable; inquired on if the City can survey the community; noted they should have data to support decision; requested staff provide an outline of the charter; requested to be excused at 8:00 P.M. due to a conflict.

Committee Member Smith – need to address how other cities operate; set some priorities on issues to build case whether or not charter city; noted there is an option of electing charter commission but Council decided to create a committee; suggested take time and look at the issues and determine why the City should become a charter; community needs to know who supports the proposal.

Secretary Henderson – did not have prior knowledge of a charter city; would like to see good things happen in City; be open minded; also inquired on advantages other charter cities have reported.

Committee Member Cainglet – requested clarification on the purpose of the May 29, 2018 public hearing; inquired if a consultant is assisting staff and the City Attorney; questioned what resources are available to the Committee.

Chair Meni – referred to May 29 City Council public hearing; requested Committee Members to provide staff with their contact information.

Committee Member Marfice – questioned the timing and wanted know what goals the City is attempting to achieve; and why the City is pursuing a charter.

Committee Member Stewart – has local business and is open minded; wants what is best for the City and to have good communications with the community and the Committee.

Chair Meni – discussed purpose of the Committee; what consider and identify; what has occurred to warrant city as charter; why the urgency; staff to provide timeline;

referred to handout as starting point; noted council districts can be formed without a charter; requested staff to include all information at next meeting.

City Attorney Soltani – in response to Vice Chair Avilla’s inquiry regarding public hearing timeline, she advised that during the July City Council public hearing, the Committee can make recommendations to the City Council.

Chair Meni – announced the May 29th public hearing at 12:30 P.M.; inquired about second public hearing.

Committee Member Cainglet asked to be excused at 7:57 P.M. due to a previous conflict.

Member Karen Avilla exited the meeting at 7:57 P.M.

City Attorney Soltani – discussed schedule of meetings; Committee will make recommendations to City Council; responded to Committee inquiries such as whether rules can be less strict; what cities are comparable; addressed the next steps; suggested set time frame for meetings.

Chair Meni – announced next meeting on Monday, May 14, 2018, 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M., and Monday, May 21, 2018, 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.; directed staff if any issues to let Committee Members know ahead of time.

Discussion ensued with City Attorney Soltani and Chair Meni regarding timeline.

Chair Meni – confirmed next Committee meetings on May 14, 2018, 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. and May 21, 2018, 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Meni adjourned the meeting at 8:05 P.M.

