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**Charter Review Committee
Meeting Minutes**

**September 13, 2023
Zoom & Community Auditorium**

Minutes approved on 9/27/2023 by CRC

1. Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:59 PM.

Present: Ashley Driscoll, City Attorney, Joyce Phillips (staff liaison), Isaac Echeverria, Elysha Johnson, Dale Thaler, LaAna Littlefield, Wolanda Groombridge, Bryan Dennis, Tammi McLaughlin, Adolph “Val” Valfre, Kate MacDonald, Tacy Steele, Nina Davis (via Zoom)

Absent: N/A

2. Public Comment: N/A

3. Consent Agenda: Items under the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be adopted with a single motion, without separate discussion. Committee members who wish to remove an item from the Consent Agenda may do so prior to the motion to approve the item(s). Any item(s) removed from the Consent Agenda will be discussed and acted upon following the approval of the remaining Consent Agenda item(s).

1. Approve/review meeting minutes from September 13, 2023 meeting

4. Additions/Deletions: None.

5. Discussion Items –

- Meeting decorum was revisited and reviewed.
- Meeting minutes from August 30, 2023 – approved unanimously

a) **8.30.23 Meeting recap**

- Concerns about all communities of FG having a voice and equitable representation. Consider the future as the City continues to grow and expand. Also, consider the economic disparities within our community.
- Reviewed the FG Charter Review Committee Chart progress, what has successfully been addressed and decided.
- Reviewing the number of council members to add to the agenda: majority vote of committee to keep council number as is

b) Section 7 (continued)

- Compared Cities by Population – discussion ensued regarding a council of equals
- Reviewed council representation by quadrant and precinct graphic

c) Section 8 – Should the Mayor vote on all questions before the Council?:

- City Attorney Ashley Driscoll presented the focused topics for discussion:
 - o An explanation of what “political” voting of the Mayor means
 - o Defined the definition of a “strong” mayor
 - o She answered the question, “How often are votes 4/3?” Mostly Council comes to a consensus.
- Mayor Voting Role Opinion was presented by the Chair, Elysha Johnson.
 - o Vote only in case of a tie
 - The mayor’s role is to create and facilitate a collaborative council
 - Mayor can still pose questions and provide opinion
 - Fostering rich conversation allows for greater representation of varying perspectives
 - Mayor meets with many stakeholders, it’s important to be able to share their thoughts as well
 - o Vote on all questions
 - Mayor is first among equals on the council
 - Mayor needs to be part of the vote
 - Mayor being part and parcel of the process is important
 - Mayor not voting lessens authority
 - Mayor needs a chance to be “in the arena”
 - Mayor is not an observer or a facilitator
- A round table discussion occurred, reviewing each individual committee members opinions and concerns on the aforementioned voting pros and cons. Specifics were discussed from how this impacts the ability to lead, the transparency of the process, and if it impacts the collaboration of the Council.

Mayor votes on all matters

- Mayor is an equal member of the council and has a voice in every matter
- The community is fully aware of the mayor’s position on all matters before council, which fosters transparency

- Mayor can participate in the discussion and deliberation on all matters
- The Mayor is more than a political figurehead
- No guarantee that the Mayor will avoid political controversy or be seen as more neutral to other members of the council by not voting on all terms

Mayor votes only to break a tie

- Running the Council meetings
 - Presiding over the meetings
 - Preserving order
 - Enforcing the Council Rules
 - Determining the order of business
 - Appointing members of the Boards and Commissions
 - Serving as the political head of the City
 - Setting the agenda
- Mayor may be more effective in building consensus among the other councilors if the mayor is more neutral.
- The CRC vote outcome was in favor of Mayor voting in case of a tie (6 no/5yes)

d) **Next sections for review**

- Continue on Section 8
 - Role of the Mayor
 - Political figurehead
 - Role of the Council President
 - Quorum

e) **Meeting Schedule**

- Future meeting dates established:
 - October 11,2023
 - October 25, 2023
 - November 8, 2023
 - TBD

6. Adjournment and Announcement of Next Meeting: The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m. The next CRC meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Phillips, Staff Liaison