

**CITY OF HENDERSON
CHARTER COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 21, 2016**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Nick Vaskov called the Charter Committee meeting to order at 8:34 a.m., in the Mayor and Council Board Room, Henderson City Hall, 240 S. Water Street, Henderson, Nevada.

II. CONFIRMATION OF POSTING AND ROLL CALL

Crystal Bomar, Board Secretary, confirmed the Charter Committee meeting had been noticed in compliance with the Open Meeting Law by posting the Agenda three working days prior to the meeting at the Facilities Management Building, City Hall, the Multigenerational Center, the Whitney Ranch Recreation Center, Fire Station No. 86, the Nevada Public Notice Website, the City of Henderson Website, and by emailing a copy of the Agenda to everyone appearing thereon on the Agenda Master Mailing List.

Present: Vice-Chair Nick Vaskov
Lou Cila
Virginia Bear-Finnegan
Edward Gonzalez
Terry Mannion
Erin McMullen (via teleconference)
Robert McNinch
Tina Past (arrived at 8:36 a.m.)
Dr. Walt Rulffes
John Simmons

Absent: Chair Jennifer Carleton
Charlene Frost
Joseph Zerga

Staff: Crystal Bomar, Board Secretary
Chris Boyd, Intergovernmental Relations Specialist
Stacey Brownfield, Assistant City Clerk
Bud Cranor, Director of Council Support
Brent Gunson, Assistant City Attorney
April Parra, Council and Commission Services Reporter
Sabrina Mercadante, City Clerk
Robert Murnane, City Manager
Rory Robinson, Senior Assistant City Attorney

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments presented.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

(Motion) Mr. Simmons introduced a motion to accept the agenda as submitted. The vote favoring approval was unanimous. Vice-Chair Vaskov declared the motion carried.

V. NEW BUSINESS

NB-1 MINUTES
CHARTER COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 24, 2016

City of Henderson Charter Committee Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2016.

(Motion) Dr. Rulffes introduced a motion to adopt the minutes of May 24, 2016, as submitted. The vote favoring approval was unanimous. Vice-Chair Vaskov declared the motion carried.

NB-2 PRESENTATION REGARDING THE PROCESS AND COST FOR AN ALL-MAIL BALLOT ELECTION SYSTEM

The City Clerk's Office will provide an overview of the process and cost estimate for an all-mail ballot election system.

Sabrina Mercadante, City Clerk, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the process and cost involved with an all-mail ballot election system. Areas of discussion included: What is All-Mail Ballot Voting, What is the Process, Advantages, Disadvantages, Other States that Utilize Mail Voting, Henderson's Turnout Historically, How do we Move Forward, NMCA Proposed Change to NRS 293C.112, and Cost.

The following questions were presented by the Committee members:

Q Have states that utilized all-mail ballot elections seen any improvement with turnout and have there been any reports of fraud?

A Yes, there has been improved turnout, but that was possibly due to it being an individual option prior to it being mandatory. There was some fraud experienced; however, they were able to resolve the situation before the end of the election.

Q Why have some states had success with this program and others have not?

A This could be due to the marketing of the program and the culture of the area.

Mr. McNinch said he would like to see why other states are not utilizing mail ballots.

Ms. Mercadante said she feels that other states are in the same situation as Nevada and are checking it out and trying to figure out how to make it work.

Q Could we send out email ballots?

A Sample ballots can be emailed; however, actual ballots cannot be emailed.

Q Would the City be paying the postage both ways in an all-mail ballot?

A We would pay for all outgoing ballots and 60% of return ballots. The voter would not pay anything.

Q Would ballots be forwarded?

A No, election mail is not forwarded.

Q How would you handle overseas ballots?

A The same way as the others; however, they also have the option of faxing them in.

Q Could someone scan and email their license in?

A Staff will get more information.

Q How many of the 2,000 mail ballots are returned by the voter?

A The majority of them are returned because they are specifically requested by individuals.

Q How does the cost of an all-mail ballot compare?

A It costs more than a regular election.

Dr. Rulffes said it would be interesting to see the cost per vote cast for the two different elections.

Q Has the Council taken a position on this?

A They have not seen this presentation. We are not sure how they currently feel about an all-mail election.

Q Is the Clerk's Association in favor of an all-mail ballot due to the cost savings and modernization?

A Yes.

Q What does the Clerk's Office expect for turnout?

A Not sure at this time.

Q Why does an all-mail ballot election cost more?

A This is due to printing and postage costs as well as additional staffing.

Mr. Simmons said he finds it is a convenience to the citizens and we should be providing it to the community.

Q Has anyone gone out into the community to see how the citizens feel?

A No, we have not.

Stacey Brownfield, Assistant City Clerk, said a survey will be going out shortly to Henderson citizens that will include this question.

Q What is the current process if a voter requests a mail ballot and then moves?

A The voter would need to call in and then sign an affidavit that they did not already vote.

NB-3 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING REVISIONS TO THE HENDERSON CITY CHARTER, ARTICLE V, ELECTIONS, TO PROVIDE THE OPTION TO USE AN ALL-MAIL BALLOT ELECTION SYSTEM

Discussion and possible recommendation regarding the revisions to the Henderson City Charter, Article V, Elections, to provide the option to use an all-mail ballot election system.

Vice-Chair Vaskov stated that an all-mail ballot is something the City needs to move towards.

Ms. Past agreed and said if it makes it easier for people to vote, then it is a good idea.

Mr. Cila said he is concerned about allowing a small group of people to determine the future of the city. He noted that some people do not have Internet access or open their mail on a regular basis.

Ms. Mercadante said when they visit other states, they can find out what those states are doing to make sure they capture all groups.

Mr. McNinch said mandating tends to have a bad connotation and has the ability to disenfranchise people. He is more in favor of seeing what people in Henderson want instead of just mandating it.

Mr. Gonzalez said he would be interested to see what other states have done about homeless voters.

(Motion) Ms. Bear-Finnegan introduced a motion recommending the City

Council revise the Henderson City Charter, Article V, Elections, to reflect the wording proposed by staff to provide the option to use an all-mail ballot election system.

The roll call vote favoring approval was: Those voting aye: Vaskov, Cila, Bear-Finnegan, Mannion, McNinch, Past, Rulffes, and Simmons. Those voting nay: Gonzalez. Those absent: Carleton, Frost, McMullen, and Zerga. Those abstaining: None. Vice-Chair Vaskov declared the motion carried.

NB-4 DISCUSSION OF FINAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Discuss final report to City Council and direct the Chair to work with staff to prepare the final report to City Council.

The Committee concluded that the main issues they have discussed include:

- Operation of the municipal court in relation to the Sparks case and national trends
- Mail-in ballots
- Ward-specific City Council elections versus At-large elections
- Changes to the bylaws

(Motion) Ms. Past introduced a motion to direct the Chair to work with staff to prepare the final report to City Council. The vote favoring approval was unanimous. Vice-Chair Vaskov declared the motion carried.

VI. CHAIRMAN\MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Past thanked City staff for assisting her to get some documents together to refinance her home.

VII. SET NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was set for July 19, 2016.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments presented.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

April Parra,
Council and Commission
Services Reporter