City of Santa Clara

Meeting Agenda

Charter Review Committee

Thursday, July 18, 2019 **6:00 PM** **City Hall - Council Chambers**
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Public Presentations

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Committee on any matter not on the agenda. The law does not permit action on, extended discussion of, any item not on the agenda except under special circumstances. Committee members or the staff liaison may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed and may request staff to report back at a subsequent meeting. Please limit your remarks to 2 minutes.

3. Review of the Brown Act

4. Selection of Chair/Vice-Chair

5. Background and Roles & Responsibilities

19-810 Implementation of Voter Approved Measure N Relating to District Elections

Recommendation: Staff has no recommendation on this item.

6. Discussion and Action on Outreach and Meeting Dates

19-868 Discussion and Action on Outreach and Meeting Dates

Recommendation: Alternative 1:
Approve the 3 dates and locations as outlined above; noting that the Saturday option and others may be added as needed and subject to room availability.

7. Public Hearing to Receive Input on District Elections

Public testimony (Up to 2 minutes per speaker, may be reduced subject to number of speakers)

8. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tentative - August 13, 2019 at 6:00 PM - Central Park Library

If you would like to request translation services for this public hearing, please contact the City Manager's Office at (408) 615-2210 or manager@santaclaraca.gov.

19-810 **Agenda Date: 7/18/2019**

REPORT TO CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

SUBJECT
Implementation of Voter Approved Measure N Relating to District Elections

BACKGROUND
On November 6, 2018, the City of Santa Clara (City) held its first district-based election as required by a ruling of the Santa Clara County Superior Court (Court). The Court ruling implemented district-based elections with six Council districts for the 2018 and 2020 elections, with the Mayor continuing to be elected at large, but did not amend the City Charter. Under Article XI, § 3 of the California Constitution, the City Charter can only be amended by a majority vote of the City electorate. Currently, the City Charter still states that City Councilmembers are to be elected "at large."

The City Council placed an advisory measure on the November 2018 ballot to determine if the voters wanted to engage in a public process to draft charter amendment language relating to the City's election system. The advisory ballot measure (known as "Measure N") read as follows:

"Shall the City of Santa Clara engage the voters in a public process to draft a Charter Amendment ballot measure to elect its Council Members, other than the Mayor, by district?"

Santa Clara voters approved Measure N, with more than 70% of the vote, on Nov. 6, 2018.

DISCUSSION
At the June 4, 2019 meeting, the City Council approved the City Clerk's recommendation for a March 2020 primary election work plan to implement voter-approved Measure N, which included the creation of a Charter Review Committee (Committee).

Per the Council's direction, the Committee's discussions and requests for public input will be focused on making a recommendation on districting based on the public input received, and not on drafting of actual charter amendment language. The discussion is expected to involve the number of districts and how many council members should represent each district. The Committee will not be drawing district boundaries.

The resulting Charter amendment would then be put forward to the City's electorate on the March 2020 election. Discussions related to other portions of the City Charter are not part of the scope of this Committee.

One of the Committee's first steps will be to receive public input on whether the City Charter amendment language should reflect the current, Court ordered six Council district election system and election sequencing, or to examine if there is community support for some other configuration for electing councilmembers by district. Santa Clara voters will continue to elect the Mayor at large.

A summary of input received will be compiled and included in subsequent reports to the Committee.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The action being considered does not constitute a “project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4) in that it is a fiscal activity that does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potential significant impact on the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact other than staff time.

COORDINATION

This report has been coordinated with the City Attorney’s office.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City’s official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall Council Chambers. A complete agenda packet is available on the City’s website and in the City Clerk’s Office at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting. A hard copy of any agenda report may be requested by contacting the City Clerk’s Office at (408) 615-2220, email clerk@santaclaraca.gov <mailto:clerk@santaclaraca.gov> or at the public information desk at any City of Santa Clara public library.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff has no recommendation on this item.

Reviewed by: Brian Doyle, City Attorney
Approved by: Deanna J. Santana, City Manager

19-868 **Agenda Date: 7/18/2019**

REPORT TO CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

SUBJECT
Discussion and Action on Outreach and Meeting Dates

BACKGROUND
One of the Charter Review Committee's first steps will be to receive public input on whether the City Charter amendment language should reflect the current, Court ordered six Council district election system and election sequencing, or to examine if there is community support for some other configuration for electing councilmembers by district. Santa Clara voters will continue to elect the Mayor at large.

To gather as much input as possible the Committee should brainstorm ideas of how to best solicit this input.

DISCUSSION
At the June 4, 2019 meeting, the City Council approved the City Clerk's recommendation for a March 2020 primary election work plan to implement voter-approved Measure N. At that time, it was made clear that the March 2020 primary election work plan is aggressive. It requires all public input to be gathered in time for City Council to consider potential ballot measure language at one of its November 2019 meetings.

In advance of the formation of the Committee, four dates, times and locations were identified to meet the March 2020 primary election work plan timeline. At the Special City Council Meeting on July 10, 2019 it was noted by members of the public and City Council that the meetings should rotate, possibly to each of the City's libraries, to try and reach as many residents as possible.

Following the July 10, 2010 Special City Council meeting, staff researched availability at the three City libraries for the remaining three dates and then looked at other availability within that same week. A summary of those findings can be viewed in Attachment 1.

The best sequencing of meetings, based on availability of rooms at the three City libraries, is as follows:

- Tuesday, August 13, 2019
  Central Park Library
  6:00 PM or later

- Thursday, September 26, 2019
  Mission Branch Library
  6:00 PM or later

- Thursday, October 17, 2019
  Northside Library
  6:00 PM or later

We can also add a Saturday meeting as follows:

- Saturday, September 21, 2019
  Northside Library
  11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

The Senior Center is another option for a potential meeting location and staff will provide some general feedback surrounding what days of the week and times may suit that location best.

The Committee may also wish to consider conducting smaller, less formal meetings with the public to receive input. These meetings could be conducted by individual committee members or as subcommittees consisting of other committee members or non members.

It is important the Committee approve some set meeting dates to allow time for critical coordination to occur including making the necessary arrangements for livestreaming each meeting and ensuring the appropriate staff are available.

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FISCAL IMPACT

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ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the 3 dates and locations as outlined above; noting that the Saturday option and others may be added as needed and subject to room availability;
2. Disapprove the date and locations outlined above;
3. Select other dates and locations from the options noted in Attachment 1, subject to room

availability.

RECOMMENDATION

Alternative 1:
Approve the 3 dates and locations as outlined above; noting that the Saturday option and others may be added as needed and subject to room availability.

Reviewed by: Brian Doyle, City Attorney
Approved by: Deanna J. Santana, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

1. Charter Review Committee Meeting Options

POTENTIAL MEETING DATES
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

August
August 13th - 6pm or later start @ Mission or Central
August 15th - 6pm or later start @ Central Park
August 16th - 6pm or later start @ Mission
August 17th (Saturday Day Event) @ Northside or Mission

September
Sept 21st (Saturday Day Event) @ Northside or Mission
Sept 23rd - 6pm or later start @ Mission
Sept 25th - 6pm or later start @ Northside or Mission
Sept 26th - 6pm or later start @ Mission

October
October 15th - 6pm or later start @ Mission*
October 17th - 6pm or later start @ Mission or Northside
October 18th - 6pm or later start @ Mission or Central
October 19th (Saturday Day Event) @ Mission
*15th is day after City Holiday (Columbus Day)