

**ELK GROVE CHARTER COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 8400 LAGUNA PALMS WAY
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2008**

1. Call to Order / Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance

The Regular Commission meeting of October 21, 2008 was called to order by Vice Chair Orrock at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Commissioners – Johnson, Sendejas-Lopez, Loveland, Martin, Orrock, and Rambo

Absent: Chair Allen (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)

Also Present: Attorney Jonathan Hobbs and City Clerk Susan Blackston

Commissioner Martin led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Comment (on non-agenda items)

None.

3. Approval of October 7, 2008 Minutes

Commissioner Rambo referenced the following paragraph on page three of the minutes:

Commissioner Rambo asked if being a charter city would affect Elk Grove having its own Fire Department or municipal waterworks, to which City Attorney Cochran intimated she did not see that as a function of the proposed charter.

Mr. Rambo did not believe the statement accurately reflected the conversation and expressed concern that other agencies might misunderstand it. He suggested it be amended to:

Commissioner Rambo asked if being a charter city would affect Elk Grove having its own Fire Department or municipal waterworks if it chose to do so at some future time. City Attorney Cochran stated that no charter language was necessary to allow either, if the city were to choose to proceed down that path at some point.

City Clerk Blackston suggested that, approval of the minutes be delayed until the next regularly scheduled meeting, at which time a verbatim transcript would be available for review in order to make an informed decision regarding the proposed amendment.

Chair Allen and Commissioners Martin and Loveland expressed support to table the minute approval pending a verbatim transcript.

MOTION/VOTE:

Commissioner Rambo made a motion, Orrock second, to table the approval of the October 7, 2008 minutes to the regularly scheduled meeting of November 4, 2008. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners – Allen, Johnson, Sendejas-Lopez, Loveland, Martin, Orrock, and Rambo
Noes: Commissioners – None
Absent: Commissioners – None

4. Presentation by The Hoyt Company on Phase 1 of the Charter Commission Public Outreach Work Plan

Kristy Day, Community Relations Project Manager of The Hoyt Company, reviewed the Charter Commission Outreach Scope of Activities Phase I work plan (filed). Ms. Day mentioned that her firm typically serves as a sub-consultant and expressed her enthusiasm at being a prime contractor for this project, which allows direct contact with the client. She explained that, as a subcontractor, her firm dealt with multiple individuals who all had a say in the work product or deliverables that were being provided. She noted that there usually is one point of contact that gathers information from others in the group; however, this person has the authority to make final decisions.

Commissioner Sendejas-Lopez asked that a statement of intent be included in the work plan to articulate that The Hoyt Company is working in support of the Charter Commission. Additionally, she suggested that commissioners be assigned to specific tasks to further ensure a partnership approach between the Charter Commission and The Hoyt Company. Ms. Sendejas-Lopez stated that she would like to be assigned to *Task 9 – Schools Outreach*, noting that she has a relationship with Elk Grove Unified School District.

Commissioner Loveland agreed that there should be a collaborative process with interim reports, frequent feedback, and sharing of information. He asked that the database be shared as soon as possible, rather than the close of the contract as stated under *Task 2*. He suggested that the corresponding task number(s) be listed after each of the entries on the monthly schedule of activities.

Following discussion, Chair Allen stated that some work product would need the full approval of the Commission during open meetings, while other matters, such as press releases, he could approve as the chairman of the Commission and report back at a subsequent meeting.

In reference to *Task 3, Message Development / Talking Points*, Commissioner Rambo recommended that a unique theme and logo be created. He suggested,

"*A more perfect City*" to parallel with the preamble of the United States Constitution. He reported that the chair of the social science department at Elk Grove High School was in favor of involving the school and recommended the senior level, as they are required to take a government class.

Commissioner Martin suggested conducting an essay contest and to include a logo or graphic to accompany it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Connie Conley recalled that, four years ago, she and Dannetta Garcia planned the first meetings on the topic of a city charter with Gary Davis serving as the meeting facilitator. She noted that, during The Hoyt Company's initial presentation on September 9, the representative mentioned the advantage of working with Elk Grove Community Connection (EGCC); however, no attempt at communication has been made since then. She pointed out that the City's database of community groups was started by the EGCC. Ms. Conley mentioned that only three people attended the City's community meeting regarding the civic center. Due to its success in organizing community meetings, Mayor Davis has contacted EGCC and asked them to host a meeting to discuss the civic center. Ms. Conley reminded the Commission that the City Council made it clear that community groups, such as EGCC, should be involved in the Charter Commission outreach efforts. She suggested also involving the Youth Commission in the process, as its members would be an excellent source to educate and communicate with their peers.

Vice Chair Orrock believed that the reason The Hoyt Company had not yet made contact with EGCC was because it did not yet have a signed contract.

Commissioner Rambo reminded Ms. Conley that he and other Commissioners would be pleased to speak at meetings of community organizations and are committed to public outreach and seeking feedback from Elk Grove citizens.

Vice Chair Orrock asked whether Charter Commission meetings could be podcasted, to which City Clerk Blackston replied that she would look into it and report back her findings at the next meeting.

MOTION/VOTE:

Commissioner Johnson made a motion, Orrock second, to approve the Charter Commission Outreach Scope of Activities as presented by The Hoyt Company. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners – Allen, Johnson, Sendejas-Lopez, Loveland,
Martin, Orrock, and Rambo
Noes: Commissioners – None
Absent: Commissioners – None

5. New Business/General Announcements

Commissioner Rambo asked that, at the next meeting, a draft outline be provided of articles that will be included in the City's charter. Mr. Rambo reported having spoken with a taxpayer group in the community who was in favor of adding existing state laws regarding taxpayer protection into the City charter. He pointed out the advantage of being able to promote it as a "taxpayer protection charter". He asked that the topic of taxpayer protection be discussed at a future meeting.

Chair Allen stated that he would contact Interim Public Works Director Fritz Buchman this week to follow up on the discussion that took place on September 23 regarding the concept of design-build construction projects. He suggested that charter language drafted to date be posted on the Charter Commission webpage and updated regularly as progress is made.

Chair Allen, Vice Chair Orrock, and Commissioner Martin voiced a desire to finalize draft charter language of items previously discussed prior to considering new subjects.

Commissioner Rambo suggested that future meetings include one new topic of discussion and finalization of draft charter language on a subject discussed at the previous meeting.

Vice Chair Orrock mentioned that he and Commissioner Loveland attended the Grant Line 99 Interchange event, and he attended the grand opening event for the Sizzler restaurant. At both events Mr. Orrock introduced himself as a Charter Commissioner.

Commissioner Rambo reported that Phillip Stark contacted him by email requesting the Commission make contact with the City of Davis to inquire how they went about their charter process, which is on the November 4, 2008 ballot. Chair Allen responded that the contact should be made after the election.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/ Susan J. Blackston.
City Clerk