

**ELK GROVE CHARTER EXPLORATORY AND ELECTION REFORM COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 8400 LAGUNA PALMS WAY
THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2007**

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The Special Committee meeting of June 28, 2007 was called to order by Chief Deputy City Clerk Blackston at 6:02 p.m.

Present: Committee Members – Allen, Chaires, Loveland, Orrock, and Perez

Absent: Committee Members – None

(Assigned Staff/Presenters)

Also Present: Lucy Eidam, Lance Olson, Richard Miadich, Jonathan Hobbs, and Susan Blackston

NOTE: Agenda items were heard out of order as indicated.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT (on non-agenda items)

Constance Conley recalled that the catalyst for the formation of the Charter Exploratory and Election Reform Committee was derived from previously held public workshops at which citizens raised concerns about election issues in the City of Elk Grove.

4. INTRODUCTIONS

Lucy Eidam, President of Lucy & Company, facilitated introductions of Committee Members.

6. BROWN ACT REVIEW AND ETHICS TRAINING

With the aid of an overhead presentation (filed), Jonathan Hobbs, Interim City Attorney and representative from the law firm Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard, provided a brief overview of the Brown Act, Public Records Act, Political Reform Act (as it pertains to conflict of interest issues), and common law bias prohibitions.

7. GENERAL LAW AND CHARTER CITY FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

With the aid of an overhead presentation (filed), Lance Olson, Senior Partner of Olson, Hagel & Fishburn, LLP, provided an overview of the following topics:

- Local government in California
- Types of California cities
- Power of General Law cities
- Power of Charter cities and how to adopt and amend a Charter
- Conflicts between State law and Charter city ordinances

Mr. Olson noted that two additional handouts were provided to Committee Members defining and outlining the differences between General Law and Charter cities (both filed).

*5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

**Note: This item was heard out of order as indicated.*

Lucy Eidam distributed and reviewed a five page guide entitled, "Roles and Responsibilities" (filed). She emphasized that the Committee's purpose/objective was outlined in Elk Grove City Council Resolution No. 2007-55 as follows:

1. Research and enumerate the advantages and disadvantages of the General Law vs. the City Charter forms of government.
2. Study election reform issues:
 - a. Election/selection of the Mayor
 - b. District Elections
 - c. Instant run-off voting (ranked-choice voting)
 - d. Election by 50% plus one
 - e. Primary/general elections
 - f. Campaign finance reform

Ms. Eidam explained that the City Council expects a written report to be submitted at the conclusion of the Committee's six month term, delineating advantages and disadvantages of the aforementioned topics. Attorneys from Olson Hagel & Fishburn (OHF) will provide assistance in documenting the Committee's findings and drafting the report.

Discussion ensued regarding the Committee's responsibility and whether recommendation(s) to Council should be the final outcome of its effort. Mr. Olson suggested that the Committee attempt to reach consensus on the advantages and disadvantages of each topic identified in Resolution No. 2007-55. He noted that information from neutral sources would be presented at each Committee meeting by attorneys from OHF.

In response to Committee Member concerns, Mr. Olson asked that Members communicate via email to OHF attorneys (*i.e. Olson and Miadich*) regarding what they believe problems or issues are that should be addressed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Constance Conley commented that one of the areas of concern she and other community members had, was the process for selecting the mayor. She described the December 13, 2006 City Council meeting at which, following an initial nomination for Mayor, the Council recessed, returned to open session and changed the nominee in response to loudly spoken comments from the audience of who they wished to serve as mayor. She expressed her disappointment that the Committee's charge is merely to enumerate the pros and cons of each topic, rather than provide the City Council with specific recommendations.

*2. WELCOME

**Note: This item was heard out of order as indicated.*

Mayor Cooper thanked Committee Members for their service and stated that the Council values their input and looks forward to the Committee's suggestions and recommendations.

8. HOUSEKEEPING

Lucy Eidam offered various options for meeting dates and times, following which the Committee agreed by consensus to meet at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates:

July 9	September 10	November __ (to be determined)
July 23	September 24	
August 13	October 8	November 26
August 27	October 22	December 10

Richard Miadich, an associate with OHF, distributed and reviewed a two page document entitled, "Proposed Schedule of Topics/Discussion" (filed). He asked Members how they would like to receive meeting material, to which they unanimously voiced a preference for email communication. Mr. Miadich stated that at the beginning of each meeting an opportunity would be offered to answer any remaining questions from the topic addressed at the previous meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding whether other topics should be considered by the Committee, such as street racing legislation, taxation, land use, etc.

By consensus, the Committee agreed to review each of the election reform issues enumerated in the resolution, outlining advantages and disadvantages of each, subsequent to which it would consider the topic of General Law versus Charter city forms of government. At the conclusion, if time were available, other topics of interest would be addressed.

Ms. Eidam opened the floor to selection of a Chair and Vice Chair, after which the following votes were taken:

MOTION/VOTE:

Committee Member Allen made a motion, Loveland second, to nominate Michelle Orrock to serve as Chair. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Committee Members – Allen, Loveland, Orrock and Perez

Noes: Committee Members – Chaires

MOTION/VOTE:

The Committee, on motion of Member Perez, Loveland second, unanimously nominated Nancy Chaires to serve as Vice Chair.

9. ACTION ITEMS / CLOSING

Lucy Eidam thanked Committee Members for their cooperation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Constance Conley noted that, one issue previously identified as a topic of interest by the public, was whether Elk Grove could have a City Prosecutor and what model of government (i.e. General Law or Charter) would facilitate it.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/ Susan J. Blackston
Chief Deputy City Clerk