



City of Sunnyvale

Meeting Minutes

Charter Review Committee

Thursday, August 7, 2025

5:00 PM

Online and Redwood Conference Room,
City Hall, 456 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale,
CA 94086

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Larsson called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chair Larsson led the salute to the United States flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: 8 - Chair Gustav Larsson
Vice Chair Kristel Wickham
Member Kathryn Filley
Member David Newswanger
Member Timothy Oey
Member Ken Olevson
Member Martin Pyne
Member Gail Rubino
Absent: 2 - Member Galen Kim Davis
Member Barry Vickrey

Members Davis and Vickrey's absences are excused.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Steve Scandalis presented historical information related to Sunnyvale mayors and councilmembers between 1913 and 2025.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Public Comment opened at 5:10 p.m.

No speakers.

Public Comment closed at 5:10 p.m.

MOTION: Committee Member Olevson moved and Committee Member

Newswanger seconded the motion to approve agenda item 1.A as submitted.

The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Larsson
Vice Chair Wickham
Member Filley
Member Newswanger
Member Olevson
Member Pyne
Member Rubino

No: 0

Absent: 2 - Member Davis
Member Vickrey

Abstain: 1 - Member Oey

1.A [25-0777](#) Approve the Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes of June 30, 2025

Approve the Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes of June 30, 2025 as submitted.

PUBLIC HEARING/GENERAL BUSINESS

2 [25-0778](#) Approval of Subcommittee #1 Recommendation Regarding Charter Section 611 (Regular Meetings)

Committee Member Pyne provided the Subcommittee report on Charter Section 611 (Regular Meetings). The Subcommittee recommends that no revisions be made to the language in Charter Section 611.

Public Hearing opened at 5:15 p.m.

Steve Scandalis shared support for the Subcommittee recommendation.

Public Hearing closed at 5:17 p.m.

MOTION: Committee Member Pyne moved and Committee Member Olevson seconded the motion to approve the Subcommittee recommendation: do not revise the current language of Charter Section 611.

The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Chair Larsson
Vice Chair Wickham
Member Filley
Member Newswanger
Member Oey
Member Olevson
Member Pyne
Member Rubino

No: 0

Absent: 2 - Member Davis
Member Vickrey

- 3** [25-0796](#) Discussion of Possible Charter Amendments: Compensation (Section 605), Vacancies (Section 606), City Manager Authority to Settle Claims Over \$50,000 (Article 8), and Alternative Project Delivery Methods for Public Works Contracts (Section 1309) Including Possible Direction Regarding Community Engagement

Deputy City Manager Connie Verceles provided the staff report.

Committee Members Pyne, Olevson and Newswanger provided the Subcommittee report on Charter Section 606 (Vacancies).

Committee Members provided comments or questions:

- Question related to statewide special elections and possible impacts on city elections.
- Comment related to revising the Charter language to include “next statewide general municipal election”.

Staff provided comments and answers:

- Comment that further information is needed to determine the possible impact on city elections.

Public Hearing opened at 5:50 p.m.

Steve Scandalis requested that the Committee consider council vacancy history when revising the Charter language and communicated support for revising Section

606 for there to be no more than one appointee allowed and appointments to be 10 months or less.

Public Hearing closed at 5:53 p.m.

Committee Member Oey provided the Subcommittee report on Charter Section 605 (Compensation).

Committee Members provided comments or questions:

- Comment in support of utilizing a current index and the Subcommittee's recommendation of using the area median income to determine a percentage for compensation.
- Comment related to pegging the compensation to a percentage or level of the median area income. For example, there are established income levels for affordable housing .
- Comment in support of utilizing an index for compensation and phasing in an increase if the change is substantial.

Public Hearing reopened at 6:10 p.m.

Zachary Kaufman requested that the Committee consider implementing an index of council compensation of neighboring cities to determine Sunnyvale's compensation.

Steve Scandalis shared support of utilizing an index and commented that the roles should not be considered a livelihood or career role.

Mei-Ling communicated support for disclosing the cost of benefits when presenting a compensation amendment to voters.

Public Hearing closed at 6:17 p.m.

Charter Issues: Article 8 (City Manager) and Section 1309 (Contracts on Public Works)

Public Hearing reopened at 6:24 p.m.

Steve Scandalis shared support for increasing the City Manager's threshold for approving claims and settlements and amending Charter Section 1309.

Public Hearing closed at 6:27 p.m.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

-Committee Member Comments

Chair Larsson polled members on their availability for a Charter Review Committee (CRC) meeting on August 28 and September 4. The next CRC meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. on September 4.

-Staff Comments

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Larsson adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.