

City of Lafayette
City Council Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2009
6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Chris Heisler called the meeting to order at City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL: Diane Rinks, City Administrator, called the roll.

Present: Mayor Chris Heisler, Chris Pagella, Leah Harper, Dean Rhodes, Nicholas Harris (arrived late at approx. 6:50 p.m.), and Bob Cullen.

Absent: Michael Roberts.

City Staff Present: Diane Rinks - City Administrator, Trena McManus, Assistant to the City Administrator.

Others: Angela Flood, Darrell Flood, Patricia Rhodes, and Don Leard.

3. UPDATE ON PROPOSED CHARTER BALLOT MEASURE:

Diane Rinks said that ballots are scheduled to be mailed out on the proposed charter on February 20, 2009, with the election concluding at 8 p.m. on March 10, 2009. If the Council is interested, City staff can prepare a fact sheet on the charter and include it in the February water bill.

After some discussion, Bob Cullen made a motion to direct staff to prepare a fact sheet on the impacts of the proposed charter to distribute to the community. Dean Rhodes seconded the motion.

Discussion- Bob Cullen said that this charter will affect the City's ability to function and conduct business. He expressed some of his concerns with the proposed charter. Mayor Chris Heisler said that he feels the Council has an obligation to the people that are going to vote on this, to provide them with a condensed version of a fact sheet. Leah Harper said that she thinks it's important for the attorney's opinion to be posted on the website. Diane Rinks said that she would need to check with the City Attorney before it is posted.

Dean Rhodes said that the fact sheet should provide the tangible effects that this charter will create if it is passed.

Leah Harper said that she is concerned about all the contradictions that are in the proposed charter.

Angela Flood, 287 Canyon View Dr.- wanted to know if the fact sheet will cover each section, or only cover the sections that staff feels are relevant or important to them.

Dean Rhodes said that his understanding is that the Council will entrust the City Administrator to pull out the issues from the proposed charter that will have the biggest effects on how the City currently operates (taken from the opinion prepared by the City Attorney).

Leah Harper said that the attorney's opinion provides the section by section comparison, and it is a wonderful piece of information for people to read in order to make their decision.

Chris Pagella said that he thinks that the existing charter needs to be updated, but there are a lot of things in the Flood charter that he doesn't feel will work in running the City.

Dean Rhodes said that he feels this proposed charter is a very flawed proposal and it would have a very negative effect on the City. Discussion ensued.

Angela Flood, 287 Canyon View Dr.- said that she hasn't read the attorney's opinion, but the proposed charter was drafted by a group of people, and over 15% of the voters have said that they want the opportunity to make a decision on whether to pass the charter. She said that she feels that the citizens of this town are intelligent enough to draw their own conclusions. She suggested making the current charter the mailer that is sent out to the citizens.

Don Leard, 220 Madison St.- said that each person can personally spend up to \$300 on campaigning for or against this charter without having to file campaign finance paperwork. He also said that he put an opinion in opposition to the charter in the voter's pamphlet.

Nicholas Harris arrived at approximately 6:50 p.m.

Nicholas Harris said that he would like to approach a local citizen group to see if they want to develop a flyer on this proposed charter and distribute it.

Discussion ensued.

The consensus of the Council was that they want to review the fact sheet before it goes out.

After the fact sheet is prepared by staff, it will be sent to the Council via email, and a Council meeting will be scheduled on Monday, January 26 at 6:30 p.m. to review the fact sheet. The fact sheet will then be reviewed by the City Attorney and Secretary of State's office and be distributed in the February water bill (or as soon as possible if the water bill deadline can't be met). There was no more discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. COUNCIL ORIENTATION AND TRAINING:

Diane Rinks gave a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of councilors, the mayor, and City staff. She also reviewed the Council/Administrator form of government.

The Council handbook was reviewed, and it contains the following documents: City Charter, Council Rules, LOC (League of Oregon Cities) Handbook, Outline of legal issues, Land Use Planning, Standards and Practices Rules, Public Image and Teamwork, Personnel Policies, Union Contract, FY08-09 Budget, Transportation System Plan, and the Parks Master Plan.

Diane Rinks also reviewed the departmental structure of City staff.

5. COUNCIL BRIEFING:

Due to the late hour, the Council did not get into discussion on the ongoing projects in the City at this meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT: Chris Pagella made a motion to adjourn. Dean Rhodes seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Minutes approved on this 12TH day of February, 2009.

APPROVED:

ATTESTED:

Mayor Chris Heisler

Diane Rinks, City Administrator