



ACTION MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION
CORONA CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE
CITY OF CORONA/CORONA PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY/ CORONA UTILITY
AUTHORITY/CORONA HOUSING AUTHORITY
January 16, 2016

ROLL CALL PRESENT: Randy Fox, Dick Haley, Eugene Montanez, Jason Scott, Karen Spiegel
ABSENT: None
OTHERS PRESENT: Darrell Talbert, City Manager
Dean Derleth, City Attorney
Members of Staff

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scott called the Study Session to order at 10:32 a.m.

2. Discussion of City Charter/Districting Project with National Demographics Corporation.

City Manager Darrell Talbert introduced Dr. Doug Johnson of National Demographics Corporation (NDC). Dr. Johnson stated the goals of the Study Session were to provide an overview of discussions thus far, make everyone aware of their choices, and decide if becoming a Charter City is something that should be included on the 2016 ballot or if the Council would rather move forward with having districts on the ballot alone.

Dr. Johnson introduced Dr. Justin Tucker who provided an overview of City Charters including types of charters, a comparison of local charters, and possible charter topics.

Vice Mayor Haley and Council Member Spiegel discussed Council compensation. City Attorney Dean Derleth explained the parameters of Council compensation under General Law, which is determined by population and the Council can vote for increases in 5% increments.

Council Member Spiegel discussed the option of having an appointed Treasurer, which can be done as part of a Charter. Under General Law, moving from an elected Treasurer to an appointed Treasurer can be changed via a ballot measure that is either Council or citizen driven.

Joe Morgan asked if the position of Treasurer is legally mandated, and Mr. Derleth confirmed that it is.

Council Member Spiegel discussed Mayoral options and compensation if the City were to move to districts. Dr. Johnson stated under General Law you can have five, seven or nine districts with a rotating Mayor or four, six, or eight districts with a directly elected Mayor. Mr. Derleth stated directly elected Mayors can receive a higher compensation under General Law via Council action.

Council Member Spiegel asked what would happen if the option of districts as part of a charter is placed on the ballot and fails. Mr. Derleth stated you could then call a special election to put districts only on the ballot. Dr. Johnson stated if districts are not approved as either part of a charter or as a stand-alone measure the City can be sued under the California Voter's Rights Act (CVRA). Council Member Spiegel expressed her displeasure that the voice of the voters can be overturned via a lawsuit that only benefits the attorneys involved.

Council Member Fox asked if putting both districts and a charter including districts on the ballot is an option. Dr. Johnson stated that is a possibility but it may confuse voters. Dr. Tucker stated you may also get vote splitting. Council Member Fox stated the best way to make sure this does not happen is to place them on different ballots, for example, districts on the 2018 ballot and the option of a City Charter on the 2020 ballot.

Vice Mayor Haley asked about proposing charters and districts as one question on the ballot, and if voters select no, then have a second option of districts. Dr. Johnson said anytime districts are on the ballot as a stand-alone item the lines must be drawn and voters will also be voting on the proposed districts as well.

Edward Hauschild addressed the Council and asked what the main reason was that compelled the Council to explore the option of becoming a Charter City.

Council Member Montanez stated it is something that had been discussed for quite some time, and with the district idea being brought to the table it was a good time to explore both. Mayor Scott stated he was not very familiar with the concept of City Charters and since he is neutral on the idea wanted to get more information in order to make an informed decision.

Wes Speake addressed the Council and asked what the driving force behind wanting to be a Charter City might be, noting we are running out of time to make a decision and this discussion has been going on for some time now.

Mr. Talbert, stated council compensation is a difficult conversation; however, the dialogue about districting is to level the playing field and council compensation is also a part of that as it gives everyone the same opportunity to serve.

Council Member Montanez stated there is not a compelling issue driving the Charter City idea; however things consistently come up in the news that cannot be addressed as a General Law city. He provided an example of the City of Riverside that is considering having their City Attorney handle prosecution of certain crimes versus forwarding them to the District Attorney.

Steve Ruth addressed the Council, stating the Latino population of the City of Corona, which is 43%, is not being represented and the majority of the voters are not always right.

Jacqueline Casillas addressed the Council to state her opposition to bundling the charter and districting issues together. They need to be separated by election cycles to ensure the districting issue does not fail due to confusion.

Josh Serrano addressed the Council and stated minorities vote if they have a candidate to support.

Alice Ubry addressed the Council to ask about holding primary elections per district and general elections held at large, as that does not seem to be effective or successful for candidates from certain districts. Dr. Johnson said that is very uncommon, but did occur in the past in the City of San Diego.

Edward Hauschild addressed the Council to ask what the Council has planned for citizen involvement while developing a City Charter and asked if Council compensation is currently an issue.

Mayor Scott stated they are still gathering information and once a decision is made they will begin additional outreach. Council Member Montanez stated these meetings have been held since September and have been open to the public. He stated Council Members make \$800 per month before taxes, which is not much for the time involved in being a Council Member which is even more when you are the Mayor. Council compensation is an issue in the way that not everyone can afford to take time off work without compensation. Council Member Spiegel added there are additional costs for being involved regionally which often involves taking an entire day off work. Adjusting Council compensation may be a way to allow more people the opportunity to run for Council, as the Council is normally made up of business owners and there is rarely, if ever, hourly employees on the Council.

Jacqueline Casillas addressed the Council regarding compensation, stating it is a barrier but can be raised via general law and does not necessitate a charter. She noted it is not necessary to join the districting and charter issues.

Tyler Madary addressed the Council to ask about charter amendments and what the voting threshold would be. Dr. Johnson stated charter amendments are decided by a simple majority vote.

Wes Speake addressed the Council to ask if higher Council compensation attracts hourly employees to run.

Dr. Johnson and Dr. Tucker stated they did not have any data to support that idea.

Dr. Johnson stated Council compensation can be raised by ordinance 5% per year, and since it has not been changed in some time, there is the opportunity to raise it significantly.

The majority of Council decided not to move forward with the Charter discussion; therefore the dialogue regarding charters will not be continued.

Mayor Scott announced a five minute break at 12:07 p.m.

Mayor Scott reconvened the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

Dr. Johnson provided an overview of the districting process. He provided three options for scheduling: fast schedule, which would take less than three months; medium schedule, which would take three to five months; and extended schedule, which would take four to nine months.

Virginia Corridi addressed the Council and stated the City of Anaheim is having trouble adopting their "people's map." Dr. Johnson gave a brief overview of the current situation in the City of Anaheim.

Council consensus was to move forward with the medium schedule which would allow the issue to be placed on the November 2016 ballot. The medium schedule includes seven steps which include adopting criteria, the draft plans being drawn by consultants, two to five community forums, two public hearings, hearing and preliminary plan adoption, possible planning commission review, and final plan adoption.

Council Member Spiegel asked about deciding on a directly elected Mayor. Dr. Johnson stated the decision for a directly elected Mayor has to be made prior to the election as that will determine the amount of districts included in the proposed maps.

Bobby Spiegel addressed the Council to ask how often district maps need to be redrawn. Dr. Johnson stated the maps need to be revisited after each census or annexation.

Dan Watson asked what the criteria are to draw the district maps which are acceptable under the CVRA. Dr. Johnson explained the criteria which includes population (equal number of people), race without racial gerrymandering, and cannot divide neighborhoods. The goal is to keep neighborhoods together.

Council discussed the different options for number of districts and whether or not there should be a directly elected Mayor. Mayor Scott is in favor of a rotating Mayor with five districts. Vice Mayor Haley is in favor of a rotating Mayor with five districts. Council Member Montanez is in favor of a directly elected at large Mayor with four districts. Council Member Spiegel stated she is neutral on having a directly elected at large Mayor. Council Member Fox is in favor of a directly elected at large Mayor.

Joe Morgan addressed the Council and expressed his opposition to a directly elected strong Mayor.

Dee Scott addressed the Council in opposition of a directly elected at large Mayor, stating it goes against what the Council is attempting to accomplish by having districts in getting better representation.

Don Fuller addressed the Council to state that a directly elected Mayor may be in conflict with the City Manager and thinks that the City Manager should continue to run the day-to-day operations.

Edward Hauschild addressed the Council to suggest spreading out the Mayoral duties so that all of the time burdens aren't on the Mayor. He asked if an ordinance to increase council compensation would be for all council members across the board or if it would be for individual council members. Mr. Derleth stated the increase would be for all council members and a separate ordinance can be passed to increase the compensation for a directly elected Mayor, if there is one.

Joe Morgan addressed the Council and stated more district seats are better than less as it lessens the workload and allows the elected person to do a better job.

Council consensus was to move forward with five elected officials, which will be made up of either five districts with a rotating Mayor or four districts with a directly elected at large Mayor. Council agreed to

obtain further information regarding a directly elected Mayor versus a rotating Mayor and make a decision at a future meeting.

Mr. Talbert encouraged everyone in attendance to invite additional people to the upcoming meetings regarding districts.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Scott adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Lisa Mobley, City Clerk