

# San José Charter Review Commission: Governance Structure Subcommittee Meeting Agenda & Notes

*Drafted June 11, 2021*

## Instructions

- Revise agenda as necessary and take notes in Notes section
- Before closing meeting, capture next steps and update “Topics Covered” and “Notices or Questions for Commission” sections
- Delete this Instructions section and [TEMPLATE] in document title above
- Rename document accordingly and share this report with Commission Secretary Megan Roche ([megan.roche@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:megan.roche@sanjoseca.gov)) by noon on the Friday before the next Commission meeting.

## Meeting Details

Date/Time	8/11/2021
Topics Covered	Governance Structure, Hiring and Dismissing Department Heads
Notices or Questions for Commission	

## Meeting Agenda (90 mins)

- I. Roll call - [Christina Johnson](#), [Jeremy Barousse](#), [Linda LeZotte](#), Frank Maitski, Louis Barocio, Maria Fuentes, Lan Diep
  - A. Absent: [Barbara Marshman](#), Ely Matsumura
- II. Brief update from each Commissioner on work since last Subcommittee meeting (5 mins)

- III. Review of public comment received via City Clerk's office (10 mins)
- IV. Review of new potential topics (from Commission assignment or public comment) and revision of topic list (10 mins)
- V. Discussion of topics (45 mins)

**Governance Structure** - [Christina Johnson](#)

- Came down to power of government to get things done
- City's go through governance re-structure because they've had big issues like bankruptcy or corruption
- Argument about corruption should stay in, not be key argument, but explain,
- Preserve council-manager system to have equitable representation on the council
- By changing to mayor-council system, mayor have more opportunity to get things done, mayor gets bogged down trying to build coalition
- With shared responsibility among 11 councilmembers and mayor
- Mayor has name attached to the city, is put on spotlight when city fails
- Issue with giving mayor expanded authority, is with mayor making decisions that would redirect resources and make unsound financial decisions
- With a city council, you have real checks and balances

**Establish Standing Charter Review Commission** - Frank Maitski

- Recommend to be included in the charter, rather than passed as a policy
- Recommend two years after census count, so start in 2022 and review and host every 10 years thereafter to make amendments to provisions of the charter that need to be updated or reformed

**Expanding Mayoral Powers to Hire/Dismiss Department Heads** - [Jeremy Barousse](#)

Commissioner Barousse presented his proposal on expansion of mayoral powers to appoint and remove Department Heads. His proposal recommends continuing the Council-Manager form of government without granting these additional powers. The primary reason for this recommendation is the potential for Department Head personnel actions to be based on political positions rather than merit. After discussion, there was majority agreement with the proposal. Commissioner Tran reminded the subcommittee that the granting the mayor this authority could better help the mayor implement a City-wide agenda for which she/he was elected. The subcommittee also recognized that this proposal is not necessarily needed as a stand-alone proposal since Commissioner Johnson's proposal on the larger issue of a Mayor-

Council system will also recommend the Council-Manager System. It was agreed relevant information from Commissioner Barouse's proposal would be incorporated into Commissioner Johnson's proposal.

VI. Next steps *(5 mins)*

A. Drafting of Recommendation Memos

- Fold Jeremy's memo into Christina's memo making the ultimate recommendation of preserving the Council -Manager governance structure
- Build a list of recommendations for how to improve some of deficiencies we are seeing in city administration

**Tool A**

Subject: Emergency Powers

Presenter Key Points	Agree/Expansion	Disagree/Wondering	Next Step
Key point 1 - Prefilled by presenter			
Key point 2 - Prefilled by presenter			
Key point 3 - Prefilled by presenter			
Key point 4 - Prefilled by presenter			

**Tool B - List Model**

Subject: Emergency Powers

V.

**Tool C - Jam Board**

Subject: Emergency Powers

V.