



City of Prescott

Charter Review Committee

July 20, 2026 | 2:30 PM
201 N. Montezuma Street
Council Chambers, 1st Floor
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair McMinn called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Bonnie McMinn - Chair
Rod Moyer - Vice Chair
Michael Broggie - Member
Michael Gjede - Member (Excused)
Ralph Hess - Member

3. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of Minutes from the June 1, 2026 Charter Review Committee Meeting.
MOTION BY MEMBER BROGGIE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED; SECONDED BY CHAIR MCMINN: PASSED (4-0)
- B. Committee Discussion Regarding Council Action on Proposed Charter Amendments at the June 9 and June 23, 2026 Council Voting Meetings.

Member Hess asked for clarification if ballot language would be reviewed by the City Council again.

Senior Assistant City Attorney Alane Moore clarified that the revised language had already been approved for the ballot and no additional Council meetings would be required to approve a final version.

This item was for discussion only, no formal action was taken.

- C. Discussion Regarding Committee Member Role Regarding Advocating for November 3 Propositions.

Ms. Moore explained that legal guidance was requested regarding Council and Committee members' involvement in election-related discussions. She clarified that members may express their own opinions, participate in discussions, or advocate for a position, but may not use City resources to influence an election. She provided examples, noting that City facilities and resources cannot be used for promotional activities related to a ballot measure.

Member Hess asked for clarification if they can identify themselves as a Committee member.

Ms. Moore added that if multiple Committee members plan to attend an election-

related event, they should notify the city in advance so it can be noted as a potential quorum. She recommended avoiding situations where a single event could create the appearance of an official quorum.

Chair McMinn asked for clarification if the city booth at the farmers market would be using city resources.

Ms. Moore confirmed that Committee members may advocate for the amendments in their individual capacity; however, they may not use city resources, branding, logos, booths, or materials that could imply the city is endorsing or providing the information. Any advocacy must be done independently and not appear to represent the city.

Chair McMinn asked if literature could be provided by the city.

Ms. Moore clarified that no city resources could be used to influence an election.

Mayor Rusing spoke as a member of the public to let the Committee and public know they can submit an argument to be placed in the voter pamphlet. There is an online form and \$100 fee.

This item was for discussion only, no formal action was taken.

D. Discussion Regarding Proposed Governance Framework from Chair McMinn.

Chair McMinn presented a proposed governance framework and worksheet to guide future Charter amendment discussions. She explained that the goal is to establish a consistent process by first identifying the governance issue, determining whether it belongs in the Charter, considering impacts, agreeing on the governance objective, and then drafting amendment language if appropriate. She emphasized that the framework is intended to support, not discourage, ideas by helping determine the proper avenue for addressing issues and preserving the Charter as the City's governing document.

Vice Chair Moyer stated that he believes the framework is a good tool for the Committee's use and supports the intended purpose of providing guidance for evaluating Charter proposals.

Member Broggie stated that he believes the majority of the work on the issue has been completed and that the framework reflects the points discussed. He expressed support for the Committee's action and efforts.

Member Hess stated that he supports the governance framework concept and believes the draft provided is a good starting point. He noted he had not yet fully reviewed the document for potential additions or revisions but agreed with the overall approach. He commented that, when reviewing previously approved proposals, some items may not have met the proposed framework and could have been better addressed through policy or the City Code rather than the Charter. He expressed support for the framework and noted he may have additional suggestions when the item is brought forward for formal action.

Chair McMinn commented that she would like City Council's input on the suggested framework.

Ms. Moore confirmed that the Committee may consider the item for a formal vote at a future meeting and provide a recommendation to the City Council.

This item was for discussion only, no formal action was taken.

- E. Presentation & Discussion Regarding Upcoming Meeting Schedule, Future Agenda Items and a Process for Establishing the Committee's Agenda for the Next Year.

Ms. Moore explained that the Committee has largely completed its work related to proposing Charter amendments for this session and should begin considering a future schedule and potential topics for discussion. She recommended identifying broad topics for potential amendments, applying the proposed governance framework to those topics, and seeking City Council input before beginning the next round of amendment discussions. Ms. Moore clarified that the Committee would not be developing specific amendment language at this stage, but rather identifying general areas of interest and determining which topics warrant further consideration. She suggested that proposed topics and future ideas be evaluated through the new framework and brought forward to Council for feedback, including approval of the framework and guidance on which topics the Committee should pursue, ensuring future efforts focus on issues with broader support.

Member Hess questioned the benefit of identifying broad topic areas rather than specific Charter amendment proposals. He stated that the items he submitted for consideration were specific amendment concepts and agreed that applying the governance framework would be helpful in evaluating those proposals. He requested clarification and examples of what a broad topic would look like and how the Committee would present those topics to Council for feedback.

Ms. Moore explained that broad topics would represent larger governance issues the Committee may want to explore before developing specific Charter amendments. She provided examples such as whether collective bargaining should be addressed in the Charter or examining governance questions related to the City Court, including budgeting and oversight responsibilities. She stated that identifying these broader areas would allow the Committee to present potential areas of focus to Council, receive feedback, and ensure the Committee's time is directed toward issues with sufficient support before developing specific amendment language.

Member Hess stated that he believes the governance framework will be beneficial moving forward but questioned whether identifying broad topics as a separate step is necessary. He suggested that the framework could be incorporated into discussions of specific Charter amendment proposals. Using collective bargaining as an example, he noted that providing Council with a specific proposal would allow them to evaluate the issue more effectively than simply asking whether they are interested in a broad topic. Member Hess expressed concern that adding a step could slow the process and questioned whether the Committee's current meeting schedule would allow enough time to

complete its work before the 2027 election.

Ms. Moore explained that the purpose of seeking Council input on broad topics is to provide the Committee with direction on issues that have Council support and to identify potential topics the Committee may not have considered. She clarified that the intent is not to create multiple rounds of back-and-forth discussion, but rather to establish a legislative agenda for the upcoming year. This would provide the Committee with a clear path for evaluating topics through the governance framework and focusing its efforts on areas Council would like the Committee to consider.

Chair McMinn stated that the proposed process would create a more collaborative approach between the Committee, City Council, and the public. She emphasized the importance of public input while noting that discussions should follow the governance framework, including obtaining legal guidance as a key component. She referenced the development agreement discussions as an example of successful collaboration, where an initial idea was brought forward, legal considerations were reviewed, and the Committee received additional information before developing amendment language. Chair McMinn noted that this process helped the Committee identify the appropriate governance objectives and create focused Charter amendment language.

Member Hess requested that three specific Charter amendment proposals be placed on future agendas for consideration. He stated that the collective bargaining proposal could be addressed efficiently using the proposed governance framework and expressed confidence that all three of his submitted proposals align with the framework. He recommended bringing forward the collective bargaining proposal, the governance framework, and his Article 10 Declaration of Rights proposal at a future meeting, while suggesting that the General Plan amendment proposal be deferred due to its complexity and significance.

Councilwoman Frederickson spoke as a member of the public and acknowledged Mr. Hess's enthusiasm for his proposed Charter amendments but stated that moving directly into specific amendment language would be premature. She explained that the Committee should first review and agree upon the governance framework, identify potential governance issues and topics, and then determine which topics should be presented to City Council as part of the Committee's legislative agenda. She clarified that the current step is not to evaluate specific amendment language, but to identify broad areas of interest, apply the framework, and seek Council feedback before dedicating significant time and resources. She emphasized the importance of ensuring the Committee focuses on topics that have Council interest and support, given the limited timeframe before the 2027 election cycle.

Chair McMinn clarified this is about process, not the specific topics.

Vice Chair Moyer agreed with Councilwoman Frederickson's comments regarding the importance of avoiding efforts on proposals that are unlikely to gain support. He noted that the Charter review process has been lengthy but has

resulted in successful outcomes and emphasized the value of focusing the Committee's efforts on issues with a reasonable likelihood of success.

Member Hess commented that he agrees with the governance structure, feels it can be done while talking about specific proposals.

Committee discussion on future process for vetting and submitting charter amendments to the City Council for their approval.

Mayor Rusing expressed strong concerns regarding moving forward with additional Charter amendment proposals before the current amendments on the November 2026 ballot have been completed. She stated that the Committee's priority should be focusing on educating the public and building support for the existing ballot measures. Mayor Rusing cautioned that introducing additional controversial proposals or expanding the Committee's workload could create confusion, undermine public trust, and negatively impact the current Charter amendment efforts. She encouraged the Committee to complete its existing work before considering future amendments and raised concerns about the Committee's direction and continued purpose, stating that the Committee should be dissolved.

Member of the public Peter Eldridge expressed concerns regarding potential Charter discussions involving protections and recognition of individuals with diverse identities. He stated that Prescott is a diverse community and emphasized the importance of safety, inclusion, and ensuring that all residents feel welcomed and protected. He encouraged the city to publicly affirm that all individuals are valued members of the community.

Member of the public Robert Shegog stated that he has attended approximately 15 meetings regarding the Declaration of Rights proposal and referenced a Martin Luther King Committee survey in which 250 respondents shared their experiences and perspectives on feeling comfortable and welcomed in the Prescott area. He expressed the belief that the issue aligns with the proposed governance framework and existing federal and state rights protections. The speaker emphasized the importance of Prescott being a welcoming community for all residents.

Member of the public Annie Bernkrant spoke in support of the Declaration of Rights proposal. She questioned why adding anti-discrimination language would be considered controversial and referenced principles of equality and individual rights found in the Pledge of Allegiance, Declaration of Independence, and the 14th Amendment. The speaker expressed that affirming these values at the local level would reinforce the principles of equality and justice.

Member of the public Jim Helbling, the Chair of the MLK Peace and Justice Committee spoke in support of adding Mr. Hess's Declaration of Rights amendment proposal to a future agenda. He stated that the amendment, originally proposed in March 2024, includes non-discrimination language identifying specific protected characteristics and expressing that the city would not condone discrimination. He noted a change in the current version from

“gender expression” to “genders” and explained the significance of that distinction. He emphasized the Committee’s willingness to compromise and expressed support for formally considering the amendment as part of the Charter process.

Member of the public Pete Voll, a retired home builder, real estate investor, and martial arts instructor, spoke in support of adding the nondiscrimination clause back to the agenda. He shared personal experiences with discrimination throughout their lives and careers, including experiences while building a home in Williamson Valley and interactions with subcontractors who shared experiences of mistreatment. He expressed that including non-discriminatory language would demonstrate respect and help ensure all community members feel valued regardless of race, beliefs, or gender.

Chair McMinn stated that she would like the governance framework to be established before the Committee moves forward with consideration of specific topics.

Ms. Moore clarified that the purpose of the discussion was to identify the process for developing the Committee’s future legislative agenda. She explained that the Committee’s next steps could include voting on the governance framework, which would then be sent to City Council for input and used as the lens for evaluating future Charter amendment proposals. She also discussed identifying broad topic areas for future consideration, rather than specific amendment language, and seeking Council feedback on those areas. Ms. Moore noted that submitting both the framework and potential topic areas to Council would allow the Committee to receive guidance and move forward with a clearer direction for the 2027 Charter review process. She added that the Committee could also choose to focus first on finalizing the framework before addressing future topics.

Chair McMinn agreed with the proposed approach and confirmed that the Committee should first establish the governance framework, discuss any revisions, vote on the framework, and forward the recommendation to City Council. She stated that future topics for consideration would be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

Vice-Chair Moyer commented that many of the Charter amendments already forwarded to City Council and placed on the ballot addressed issues the Council was already aware needed to be corrected. He emphasized the importance of maintaining collaboration with Council and receiving input on future topics to help guide the Committee’s success.

Member Broggie addressed the mayor’s comment regarding potentially dissolving the Committee. He stated that serving on the Committee was a privilege and emphasized the importance of the Committee’s role in shaping city governance through research, discussion, and recommendations to City Council. He shared personal experiences as a military veteran and expressed support for principles of equality and democratic processes. He noted that individual members may bring forward differing perspectives, but the Committee’s role is to evaluate proposals, vote, and make recommendations collectively. He

emphasized the importance of allowing the established process to continue.

Member Hess requested that the next agenda include a vote on the governance framework. He also proposed placing two of his Charter amendment proposals on the same agenda for discussion and consideration of whether to forward them to City Council. He stated that he believes the proposals satisfy the governance framework criteria.

Councilwoman Frederickson commented and thanked the Committee member for his service and shared similar personal experiences that shaped their understanding of diversity and differing perspectives. She emphasized the importance of following the established process for evaluating Charter amendments and noted that, while members may have strong opinions on specific issues, the Committee's role is to apply a consistent framework. She stated that the governance framework should first be finalized and presented to City Council for input and approval before considering specific topics. She emphasized that future discussions should initially focus on broad topics rather than specific amendment language and expressed support for following the process outlined for the Committee's future work.

Member Hess stated that he appreciates the importance of following a process but emphasized that the process should serve as a tool to facilitate discussion rather than become an obstacle that prevents important conversations from taking place.

Chair McMinn stated that following a defined process is important and noted that a governance framework could have helped avoid unintended consequences by providing clear guidance. She emphasized that the framework is intended to save time and provide structure, not serve as an obstacle to discussion. Chair McMinn requested that the governance framework be placed on a future agenda for discussion and public input.

Committee consensus to hold next meeting on August 17th.

This item was for discussion only, no formal action was taken.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chair McMinn adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.


Bonnie McMinn, Chair

ATTEST:


SARAH M. THORNHILL, City Clerk