

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

MAYOR: David Romero

COUNCILORS: Marvin Martinez
Barbara Casey
Michael L. Montoya
David Ulibarri

ALSO PRESENT: Robert A. Anaya, City Manager
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk
Caleb Marquez, Sergeant at Arms
Contracted City Attorney, Geno Zamora

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Romero called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilor Montoya asked for a moment of silence to reflect on all of the blessings they had received.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked if all were in favor. All were in favor.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the minutes from June 11, 2025 with minor corrections. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked if all were in favor. All were in favor.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Review/Discussion and possible action regarding all Sections of the City of Las Vegas Municipal Charter including recommendations made by the Charter Commission.

Mayor Romero asked Contracted City Attorney Geno Zamora if the Municipal Charter could be adopted as presented, including the Charter Commission's recommended changes.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora advised yes, that it was recommended so the votes wouldn't bring down the entirety of the edits that needed to be made to the Charter.

Recommended Ballot Questions by the Charter Commission:

1. Approval of administrative language and law changes in the Municipal Charter.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora stated that the ballot questions were placed in the order they would be implemented.

Mayor Romero asked if the Governing Body had any recommendations concerning the Municipal Charter.

Councilor Martinez asked, upon the adoption of the Municipal Charter and subsequent revisions, if further changes could be made between the current revisions and the next scheduled revision period.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora mentioned that the Governing Body had a mandatory five-year review of the Municipal Charter. Contracted City Attorney Zamora stated that any revisions made to the City Charter would be presented in the November 2025 Election. Contracted City Attorney Zamora also stated that the Governing Body could convene meetings to propose City Charter amendments, however the changes would not be enacted until the November 2027 Election.

Councilor Martinez asked if the modifications pertained solely to the ballot questions or encompassed the entire Municipal Charter.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora confirmed the request encompassed the entire Municipal Charter.

Councilor Montoya asked if the Governing Body would retain oversight of salaries for the City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk, Police Chief, and members of various boards, commissions, and advisory committees.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora advised there was no recommended change and it was projected to remain the same.

Councilor Montoya recommended the inclusion of the Fire Chief, citing public safety as a key consideration.

Councilor Casey advised that within the Municipal Code the City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk, and Police Chief were to be the only appointed officials that

were voted on by the Council. Councilor Casey asked if the state law permitted the Council to vote on appointed officials who were intended to be the only officials subject to such a vote.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora discussed the differences in municipal code reliance for appointing the Police Chief and stated that cities that relied solely on the Municipal Code could only appoint a Police Chief. Contracted City Attorney Zamora mentioned that municipalities that have City Charter's had the option to include the Fire Chief position for Governing Body approval, though most did not. Contracted City Attorney Zamora advised the Charter Commission ultimately decided against recommending the addition of the Fire Chief.

Councilor Montoya expressed the importance of the Governing Body receiving firsthand information from the Fire Chief regarding public safety.

Councilor Martinez asked if the Mayor would appoint the position in the same manner as the Police Chief, and if the appointee would remain under the City Manager's authority.

Councilor Montoya stated that the Fire Chief position would be handled similarly to other appointed officials. Councilor Montoya advised that the Mayor would recommend two candidates to the Council, from whom the Council would then make a selection.

Councilor Martinez asked if the Mayor would need to present more than one nominee to the Council.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora advised that the Charter Commission suggested consolidating the two existing recommendations into a single one.

Mayor Romero asked if Councilor Montoya had further recommendations.

Councilor Montoya asked if the City Manager held the authority to hire and terminate all City directors.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora advised, yes.

Councilor Montoya asked if the presentation to the Governing Body was going to be discontinued.

City Attorney Zamora stated that it would no longer be presented to the Governing Body.

Councilor Montoya voiced his concern and expressed his disagreement with the hiring and termination process for all City directors, stating that the decisions should be presented to the Governing Body. Councilor Montoya emphasized that without the oversight, the Council would lose its authority over the direction of the City of Las Vegas.

Councilor Casey concurred with Councilor Montoya's response.

Councilor Martinez mentioned that the Governing Body would be removing the power that the City Manager would have.

Councilor Martinez stated that the Governing Body would be revoking the authority that the City Manager had.

Councilor Martinez asked if the City Manager would make the decision independently, without presenting it to the Governing Body.

Mayor Romero advised as it currently stood the City Manager would recommend the director's removal to the Governing Body, which would then vote to approve or disapprove it.

Councilor Montoya stated that granting the City Manager full authority could lead to future issues. Councilor Montoya suggested leaving the decision to the Governing Body to demonstrate stability.

Mayor Romero suggested an alternative to directly incorporate the directors removal into the Municipal Charter. Mayor Romero stated that the Governing Body could add language to the Charter that permits the City to adopt such a provision by ordinance.

Councilor Montoya voiced his concern and expressed his disagreement with Mayor Romero's suggestion, stating that the removal of directors should be included in the Municipal Charter rather than adopted by ordinance, as an ordinance could be altered quickly.

Councilor Casey voiced her concern regarding the removal of directors, suggesting that City staff needed recourse. Councilor Casey stated that the Governing Body, rather than the City Manager, should be responsible for such removals to prevent conflicts between the City Manager and staff.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to amend the Municipal Charter draft document to include the Fire Chief among the appointed positions.

Mayor Romero asked for a second.

Motion died due to a lack of a second.

City Manager Robert A. Anaya asked about the historical process concerning a vacancy.

Mayor Romero asked Chairman Matt Martinez if he could speak to the historical process.

Chairman Martinez stated that organizational meetings were held where everyone was appointed at that time. Chairman Martinez asked Contracted City Attorney Zamora if they had spoken about City Manager hiring staff.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora stated there were revisions made to Article V, Section 5.07 (Departments). Contracted City Attorney Zamora advised the changes would grant the City Manager full hiring and termination authority over subordinate department directors, removing the previous requirement for Governing Body approval and only providing Governing Body notification.

Councilor Montoya voiced his concern and stated that allowing a single individual to make the decision regarding director hiring presented too high of a liability, potentially exposing the City to lawsuits. Councilor Montoya recommended that the existing language within the Municipal Charter remain unchanged.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve maintaining the current director hiring process as outlined in the Municipal Charter. Councilor Casey seconded the motion.

Mayor Romero asked Commissioner Benito Pacheco to give a summary on the Charter Commission's decision making process.

Commissioner Pacheco stated that in his opinion there is increased liability having the Governing Body involved in personnel actions. Commissioner Pacheco stated it was a legal protection for the community and would bring the City of Las Vegas in line with the State and County in terms of the Governing Body and department directors.

Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Marvin Martinez	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
Michael Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Montoya asked Contracted City Attorney Zamora to identify any other significant changes he had found in item #1 that the Governing Body should be aware of.

City Attorney Zamora mentioned that there were updates to the Municipal Court, including refinements to its language, election qualifications, and ethics.

Councilor Martinez asked if the Municipal Judge was eligible to become a City Councilman.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora advised, no.

Councilor Martinez asked if the reason was its nonpartisan nature.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora advised that the issue stemmed from the two distinct positions within the City.

Councilor Montoya asked Contracted City Attorney Zamora to clarify the qualifications needed to serve as an alternate judge during a temporary absence or vacancy in the judge's office.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora advised it fell under residency and the ability to vote.

Councilor Montoya stated that without qualifications, the judge had the authority to appoint any individual as an alternate judge.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora stated that due to the immediate need to hear the cases, waiting for a meeting to appoint an alternative judge was not feasible, and a qualified elector would be eligible.

Councilor Montoya suggested the language be changed to qualified elector.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora advised due to the new Election Act it redefined the qualifications in 1-22-3B.

Councilor Montoya inquired about the rationale behind eliminating the 90-day period.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora stated that it did not comply with the State Election Code, which the City abided by.

Chairman Martinez stated that individuals within the Municipal Court who had not been heard in a timely manner had a recourse available to them.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora advised a Municipal Judge is required to reside within City limits.

Councilor Martinez made a motion to amend Section 9.02(A), changing the language to "Partisan-Elected Office."

Councilor Martinez asked Chairman Martinez if he recommended the proposal.

Chairman Martinez stated it was not recommended, but the Governing Body would make the final decision.

Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael Montoya	No	David Ulibarri	Yes
Marvin Martinez	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Montoya asked if the changes would grant the Mayor additional authority beyond existing powers.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora clarified the Governing Body's agreement to maintain the Mayor's authority, with revised language specifying voting instances. Contracted City Attorney Zamora advised that the Special Elections did not encompass Charter amendments or vacancy fillings.

Councilor Montoya asked about the method of presenting the information to voters and its placement on the ballot.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora stated that the election resolution would be drafted for the Governing Body's approval or denial. Contracted City Attorney Zamora advised if approved, it would be forwarded to the County Clerk for inclusion on the ballot. Contracted City Attorney Zamora also stated that the Charter Commission met to discuss the necessity of holding open houses or Town Hall meetings to engage the community.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the administrative language and law changes in the Municipal Charter with the final draft taken back to the Governing Body for a final vote. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara Casey	Yes	Marvin Martinez	Yes
Michael Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

2. Approval to go from (4) Council members to (8) Council members.

Councilor Montoya supported increasing the number of Council members to eight (8), stating it would enhance representation and provide constituents with more opportunities to engage with Councilors. Councilor Montoya emphasized the

value of the added knowledge and experience that eight (8) Council members would bring to the table. Councilor Montoya voiced his concerns regarding the salaries of a larger Governing Body, and however had no objections to the expansion and recommended the community to vote on the matter.

Councilor Casey recommended maintaining four Council members, expressing concern about the significant expense to the City associated with having eight Councilors.

Councilor Martinez expressed a desire for a sufficient number of Council members to be present to ensure decisions could be made, particularly when other Council members were absent.

Chairman Martinez emphasized the importance of consensus-building and negotiation among all eight Council members for the betterment of the community. Chairman Martinez advised that in the absence of Council members, decisions would be made by half of the attending members; specifically, two Councilors if four were present, or four Councilors if all eight were in attendance.

Councilor Montoya asked if a Council member on temporary absence would appoint an individual to said position.

City Attorney Zamora stated that the action was not permissible.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve expanding the number of Council members from four (4) to eight (8), subject to a community vote. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	No	Michael Montoya	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	Marvin Martinez	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

3. Recommendation, approval to adjust the compensation for Mayor and Council.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora advised the recommended language from the Charter Commission was annual compensation for the Mayor, which would be in an amount equal to 80% and in an amount equal to 60% of the maximum amount that was authorized by the Legislature to be paid to County Commissioners.

City Attorney Zamora stated that the Charter Commission's proposed language stipulated the Mayor's annual compensation would be 80% of the maximum amount authorized by the Legislature for County Commissioners, and 60% for Councilors.

Councilor Casey voiced her concern that the community might not approve of the compensation amounts chosen by the Governing Body, suggesting the current compensation level be maintained.

Mayor Romero asked about the possibility of including an additional question within the ballot question.

Contracted City Attorney Zamora stated he would investigate how to create a summary within the description, and advised that it would not include a specific amount.

City Manager Robert A. Anaya recommended that the Charter Commission clarify the recommendations and outline the options for voters.

Councilor Montoya asked about the number of times the item had been subject to a referendum.

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez stated that the measure was presented to voters in the last election but was not approved.

Councilor Montoya asked about the requested compensation.

City Clerk Fresquez stated the compensation was consistent with the County's.

Councilor Montoya mentioned that the State Statute states the Legislature determined the salaries for elected officials. Councilor Montoya stated that according to the law, municipalities were entitled to the same compensation as the County. Councilor Montoya recommended option one, proposing \$15,000 for the entire Governing Body.

Councilor Martinez recommended public education on the salary process, clarifying the distinction between County and City compensation.

Councilor Martinez made a motion to approve the recommended compensation by the Charter Commission. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion.

Mayor Romero stated that the Municipal Charter was developed by a community committee composed of Benito Pacheco, Ashley Arellanes, Meredith Britt, Joseph Cruz, Joseph Dominguez, and Matt Martinez. Mayor Romero stated that the community members were expected to present their justification for an increase in compensation for the Governing Body.

Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael Montoya	No	Marvin Martinez	Yes
Barbara Casey	No	David Ulibarri	No

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion was not carried.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve option 1 for the annual income of the Governing Body, setting the amount at \$15,000 for all. Councilor Ulibarri

seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara Casey	Yes	Michael Montoya	Yes
Marvin Martinez	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Montoya expressed gratitude to the Charter Commission for their extensive work. Councilor Montoya asked if the length of the Governing Body's form might deter public engagement.

City Clerk Fresquez stated the ballot form would be brief, appearing in a shell format. City Clerk Fresquez advised that they would be the sole questions on the ballot and that staff would inform the public through education and social media advertising.

Councilor Montoya requested that the document be posted on the City of Las Vegas website for public review once it had been voted on.

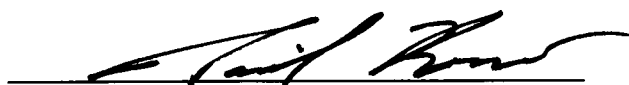
Mayor Romero requested a proposed budget for public education advertisements.

City Manager Robert A. Anaya advised he would present his findings once received.

ADJOURN

Councilor Casey made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 12:23 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Romero", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor David Romero

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Casandra Fresquez", written over a horizontal line.

Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk