

TRANSPARENT GLENDALE

Meeting Report: Charter Review Committee

City of Glendale, California

"The Charter Review Committee is an Ad-Hoc and temporary committee that meets monthly to evaluate and suggest changes to the city of Glendale's City Charter - (The city's constitution)"

Session: Regular Meeting · January 16, 2025

Coverage: Full Meeting – Duration: Approximately 2 hours 34 minutes (154.7 minutes)

Published by **Transparent Glendale**, a chapter of **Transparent Cities**

Herbert Molano, Director

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AI-assisted analysis, human-reviewed

About This Report

Transparent Glendale produces independent records of public meetings of the City of Glendale so that residents can see what happened without attending hours of proceedings. We are non-partisan and take no position for or against any official, candidate, or party.

How It Is Made

The meeting audio is transcribed and analyzed using AI tools, and the results are reviewed by people before publication. Every statement in this report is tied to a timestamp in the meeting recording so readers can verify it themselves. We report what was said and done; interpretation is left to the reader.

What It Is Not

This report is not the official record of the meeting. The official minutes, as approved by the committee, are maintained by the City of Glendale. Where our transcript and the official minutes differ, this report identifies the difference so readers can compare them.

Sources

Official recording, agendas, and approved committee minutes are referenced directly from the City of Glendale Public Meetings portal for the Charter Review Committee.

Disclosure

Herbert Molano, Director of Transparent Glendale, has participated in Charter Review Committee meetings as a member of the public, including through written submissions. Where he appears in a meeting, he is identified like any other speaker.

Corrections

If you believe anything in this report is inaccurate, contact info@transparentglendale.org. Verified corrections are made promptly and noted in a revision history with the date and nature of the change.

1. Executive Summary

The January 16, 2025 Regular Meeting of the City of Glendale Charter Review Committee ran for approximately 2 hours and 34 minutes and addressed five substantive business items: the selection of a Chair, proposed charter language on the location of City Council meetings, removal of obsolete officer and employee positions, cleanup language pertaining to council members holding other offices after leaving office, and an introductory presentation on council districts, an expanded council, and a directly elected mayor. The committee also received a brief overview of the 2025 meeting calendar resolution, which was carried forward to the next meeting for formal action.

The Charter Review Committee is an Ad-Hoc and temporary committee that meets monthly to evaluate and suggest changes to the city of Glendale's City Charter — the city's constitution. Its function is advisory. Any recommendations it produces must ultimately be approved by the City Council and submitted to Glendale voters for ratification before taking effect.

Steven Flower was elected Chair by a vote of 7 to 5 over Carl Povilaitis, who was the only other nominee after Denise Miller declined her nomination. Chair Flower immediately requested that selection of a Vice Chair be agendized for the next meeting. The committee approved three charter language items during the session: Alternative 2 of the council meeting location provision passed 7 to 4 with one abstention; removal of obsolete officer titles passed unanimously 12 to 0; and the Article VI Section 12 cleanup language on post-service office restrictions passed 9 to 3, incorporating Committee Member Allan Durham's proposal to broaden the carve-out from named elected positions to all elected positions.

The session's most substantive and extended discussion was the introductory staff presentation on council districts, expanded council size, and directly elected mayor models. Staff attorneys Aaron Israel and Sylvia Quach provided an overview of at-large versus district election mechanics, pros and cons of districting, four models for a directly elected mayor within a council-manager form of government, and the legal background of the California Voting Rights Act. No action was taken. The committee requested staff to provide links to prior council meeting videos featuring the demographer's presentation, a summary of CVRA provisions, cost information, and access to historical district maps already uploaded to the committee's shared drive.

Public speaker Herbert Molano addressed the committee three times across the meeting: during oral communications on the civic weight of the committee's mandate and a recommendation to consult Rick Cole as an expert adviser; during the council meeting location item, urging the committee to exercise independent drafting authority and warning that the shift to special meetings could reduce public access and participation; and during the districts and directly elected mayor item, presenting voter turnout data from the Rossmoyne and Mariposa districts to illustrate how low participation rates in some neighborhoods could result in council seats decided by as few as 800 votes under a district model.

The meeting produced four verified votes with full roll-call records. Several governance dynamics of note emerged from the record: a public speaker's recommendation to consult an outside adviser was acknowledged by the Chair but not referred to staff; the committee collectively identified lack of South Glendale representation as a concrete, measurable problem the districting question must address; and Chair Flower openly clarified that the committee's charge from the City Council is to consider a directly elected mayor only within a council-manager form of government, not a transition to a mayor-council strong-mayor model. The committee confirmed that future meetings would be held on the first Thursday after the first Monday of each month, with a formal resolution to be voted on at the next meeting.

2. Scope of This Report & Phase 1 Deliverables

This civic governance audit is organized around the four core Phase-One deliverables established by Transparent Glendale for comprehensive municipal governance accountability:

Phase 1 Component	Scope & Deliverable Format	Report Location
1. The Transcript	Complete, multi-speaker diarized acoustic transcript capturing all spoken proceedings, millisecond audio timestamps, and canonical speaker identities.	Full Verbatim Transcript <i>(Maintained in Transparent Glendale Public Records Archive; key excerpts in Appendix A)</i>

Phase 1 Component	Scope & Deliverable Format	Report Location
2. Transcript Summary & Analysis	Full governance synthesis: executive summary, chronological timeline reconstruction, member voting tallies, and speaker contribution analysis.	Report Sections: Sections 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9
3. Committee Approved Minutes	Verbatim official minutes published by the City Clerk and formally approved by the Charter Review Committee.	Report Section: Section 10 (Verbatim City Record)
4. Minutes Enhanced by Transparent Glendale	High-fidelity reconstructed minutes capturing all public testimony and substantive debate, paired with a line-by-line discrepancy audit exposing omissions.	Report Sections: Section 5 & Section 11

Technical Audit Parameters

Parameter	Detail
Source Material	Official meeting video/audio recording — January 16, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Glendale Charter Review Committee
Meeting Coverage	Full public session
Meeting Duration	Full Meeting – Duration: Approximately 2 hours 34 minutes (154.7 minutes)
Transcription Method	Multi-speaker diarized acoustic transcription with contextual validation and manual speaker resolution
Analysis Method	Civic governance extraction framework; factual grounding against verified meeting record; Fixed Analytical Taxonomy applied per Transparent Glendale sourcing rationale

3. Meeting Participants

Attendance confirmed through audio verification and roll-call records. All participants identified below took part in the recorded proceedings.

Participant Name	Role / Title	Status	Notes / Contributions
Greg Kajszo	Coordinator (Recording Secretary)	Present	City staff coordinator for all 2025 meetings. Opened the meeting, conducted all roll calls, managed public speaker queue, and announced agenda items. Not a committee member or elected official.
Steven Flower	Chair	Present	Elected Chair during Item 5A by a vote of 7 to 5 over Carl Povilaitis. Presided over all subsequent items. Active substantive contributor on all four charter language items and the districts/mayor presentation. Disclosed his background as a municipal law attorney and partner at Richards Watson Gershon with approximately 20 years of practice. Noted he has lived in Glendale for approximately 10 years.
Carl Povilaitis	Committee Member	Present	Nominated for Chair; received 5 votes. Declined to campaign against Flower and expressed willingness to serve in either role. Participated substantively on meeting location alternatives, the Section 12 cleanup language, and the districts/mayor discussion. Expressed a preference for 7 council members, Model 1 directly elected mayor without veto power, and flagged the risk of tie votes under a 6-district-plus-mayor structure. Former Chief of Police, City of Glendale, retired 2022 after 32 years of service.

Participant Name	Role / Title	Status	Notes / Contributions
Allan Durham	Committee Member	Present	Moved approval of the prior meeting's minutes. Nominated Denise Miller for Chair. Proposed the substantive broadening of Article VI Section 12 carve-out language from named elected positions to all elected positions — an amendment incorporated into the final approved text. Active contributor on the districts discussion, noting the risk of very low-participation districts producing council members elected by a small fraction of residents, and citing the Westminster City Council litigation as a cautionary example of districting dysfunction.
Ani Garibyan	Committee Member	Present	Voted No on meeting location Alternative 2 and Yes on all other items. Raised the concern that the terms 'regular' and 'special' meetings would be confusing to a general reader and expressed preference for maximum council flexibility on meeting location. Participated in the Section 12 cleanup discussion on the scope of 'elected positions.' Left the meeting at 6:37 PM during the districts/mayor discussion per the official minutes.
Lilit Harutyunyan	Committee Member	Present	Voted for Carl Povilaitis for Chair. Voted Yes on meeting location Alternative 2 and all other items. Expressed preference for Alternative 2 based on its greater specificity and its interaction with the Brown Act. Noted the complexity of the districts/mayor material and indicated she would need further meetings before forming a settled view.
Paul Karapetian	Committee Member	Present	Nominated Steven Flower for Chair. Voted Yes on Alternative 2 and the obsolete positions item; voted No on the Section 12 cleanup language as finally proposed. Raised the 'district shopping' concern — the possibility that candidates could move into a lower-turnout district to secure election with fewer votes — and asked staff to research whether a residency requirement could address it. Requested that council meeting frequency be agendized as a future item. Also raised the civil service classification system as an item he wished to understand before it came before the committee.
Elizabeth Manasserian	Committee Member	Present	Voted for Steven Flower for Chair. Voted Yes on meeting location Alternative 2 and all other items. Seconded the motion on obsolete positions removal. Active on the districts/mayor item, asking for historical context on the origins of the district discussion and requesting information on applicable legal requirements.
Linda Megerdichian	Committee Member	Present	Voted for Carl Povilaitis for Chair. Abstained on meeting location Alternative 2. Voted Yes on all other items. Asked whether districts could ever be dissolved once established, and asked how district boundaries respond to mid-decade population shifts.

Participant Name	Role / Title	Status	Notes / Contributions
Denise Miller	Committee Member	Present	Nominated for Chair by Allan Durham; declined the nomination citing prior experience in similar leadership roles and preference for others to take on the role. Abstained on approval of the prior meeting minutes. Voted Yes on meeting location Alternative 2 and all other items. Seconded the Section 12 cleanup motion by Durham. Active on the Section 12 discussion, the meeting location item, and the districts/mayor presentation. Requested cost information on switching to districts, asked about sharing prior council meeting videos with the committee, and asked about the process for setting the agenda and providing agenda suggestions to staff.
Stephen Meek	Committee Member	Present	Nominated Carl Povilaitis for Chair. Voted No on meeting location Alternative 2, preferring Alternative 1 or a version that explicitly allows council to take action at neighborhood meetings. Voted Yes on all other items. Moved approval of the obsolete positions item. Seconded the adjournment motion. Raised the question of gender-neutral language throughout the charter — a concern taken up by multiple members and directed to staff. Flagged that the committee may need to meet more than once a month as the work intensifies.
Bryan Smith	Committee Member	Present	Voted Yes on meeting location Alternative 2 and the obsolete positions item; voted No on the Section 12 cleanup language as finally proposed. Asked foundational questions about the districts process, including whether districts already exist and what the process for creating them entailed. Expressed a preference for continuing to absorb background information before forming strong views on the districts/mayor question.
Rachel Yoo	Committee Member	Present	Voted No on meeting location Alternative 2 and No on the Section 12 cleanup language. Voted Yes on the obsolete positions item. Asked about qualifications for a directly elected mayor, including whether a set of competency standards would accompany the elected position — a question not resolved during the session.
Mike Garcia	City Attorney	Present	Primary legal resource throughout. Explained chair selection procedures, provided context on the California Voting Rights Act and prior litigation history, clarified the council-manager versus mayor-council distinction, confirmed that the committee's charge from the City Council does not include consideration of a strong-mayor or mayor-council model, and confirmed that the council's stated intent is to bring any charter amendment to the 2026 ballot.
Aaron Israel	Principal Assistant City Attorney	Present	Self-identified as Principal Assistant City Attorney. Delivered the substantive presentations on all three charter language items (meeting location, obsolete positions, Section 12 cleanup) and co-presented the districts and directly elected mayor overview with Sylvia Quach. Provided the amended Section 12 language that incorporated Durham's broadening proposal. Offered to send committee members links to prior council meeting videos featuring the demographer's presentation.

Participant Name	Role / Title	Status	Notes / Contributions
Lucy Varpetian	Principal Assistant City Attorney	Not recorded in transcript	Listed on roster; no verified transcript participation recorded in this session.
Sylvia Quach	Deputy City Attorney	Present	Co-presented the districts and directly elected mayor staff report with Aaron Israel. Delivered the definitions of election methods, the pros and cons of districting, the options considered (5, 6+1, and 7+1 district models), and the implications of an expanded council for quorum and supermajority provisions. Also noted the caution that choosing a number of districts other than 6 would require returning to the council to restart the mapping studies.
John Takhtalian	Assistant City Manager	Not recorded in transcript	Listed on roster; no verified transcript participation recorded in this session.
Herbert Molano	Public Speaker	Present	24-year Glendale civic activist and Director of Transparent Glendale. Spoke three times across the meeting. First appearance during oral communications; second during the council meeting location item; third during the districts and directly elected mayor item. Key themes: civic weight of the charter as the city's foundational document; recommendation of Rick Cole as expert adviser; warning that reduction of regular meetings diminishes public participation; voter turnout disparity data between Rossmoyne (approximately 30%) and the Mariposa District area (4–5%); argument that low-turnout districts could produce council members elected by as few as 800 votes.

4. Chronological Reconstruction

The following narrative reconstructs the meeting's agenda items and deliberations in chronological order as they transpired on the record.

Timestamp	Agenda Item / Event	Summary of Deliberation
14:33	Item 1: Meeting Called to Order / Roll Call	Coordinator Greg Kajszo opened the January 16, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Glendale Charter Review Committee. All 12 committee members were called and responded present. Roll call confirmed: Durham, Flower, Garibyan, Harutyunyan, Karapetian, Manasserian, Megerdichian, Miller, Meek, Povilaitis, Smith, and Yoo — all present, no absences.
15:08	Item 2: Regular Business Agenda — Report of Clerk / Posting of Agenda	Coordinator Kajszo reported that the agenda for the January 16, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Charter Review Committee was posted on January 13, 2025 on the bulletin board outside City Hall.

Timestamp	Agenda Item / Event	Summary of Deliberation
15:11	Item 3: Oral Communications	Coordinator Kajszo announced that there were no phone callers and one in-person request to speak. Herbert Molano was recognized. Molano opened by stating he has been a civic activist in Glendale for 24 years and a resident for close to 40. He framed the committee's work as affecting the residents of approximately 75,000 dwellings in Glendale for decades to come and urged committee members to approach their task with the rigor of preparing for professional board exams. He described the structural flaw in democratic governance — that significant power is concentrated in very few elected officials who face no minimum qualification requirements, and that voters often decide on the basis of a single issue without understanding the full scope of what a council member must address. He argued this leads to long-term consequences for city finances, infrastructure, and park availability. He then r...
19:08	Item 4: Approval of Minutes	Coordinator Kajszo called for a motion to approve the prior meeting's minutes. Durham moved. Flower seconded. Roll call was conducted. Eleven members voted Yes. Denise Miller abstained. City Attorney Garcia noted for the record that the minutes were listed as item 5G on the agenda and clarified that the motion would be treated as a motion to pull and approve that item. Motion passed 11 to 0 with one abstention.
20:16	Item 5A: Selection of a Chair	City Attorney Garcia opened the floor for nominations, explaining that nominations do not require a second. Three committee members were nominated: Paul Karapetian nominated Steven Flower; Stephen Meek nominated Carl Povilaitis; Allan Durham nominated Denise Miller. Miller declined her nomination, citing her extensive prior experience in similar leadership roles and a preference to allow others to take on the responsibility. Flower stated his primary goal as chair would be to ensure all voices were heard and that the same voices did not dominate repeatedly. Povilaitis expressed his commitment to building consensus, keeping meetings productive, and ensuring quieter members were invited to contribute. At Herbert Molano's request to speak during this item, Molano suggested the two candidates should not be present during the vote and also offered the observation that a candidate who had been...
33:25	Item 5B: Review of Proposed Charter Language Regarding the Location of City Council Meetings	Aaron Israel presented two alternative amendments to Article VI, Section 2 of the charter regarding the location of City Council meetings. Alternative 1 provided maximum flexibility, defaulting entirely to the requirements of the Brown Act. Alternative 2 required that regular meetings be held in the City Council chamber, with emergency exceptions allowing the mayor or a majority of the council to designate another location; it was silent on the location of special meetings, allowing those to be held anywhere within the Brown Act's requirements. Israel explained that the current charter restricts all meetings where action is taken to City Hall, and that the language striking 'special meetings' from the provision was intended to free the council to hold special meetings elsewhere. Committee members discussed the difference between regular and special meetings under the Brown Act, including...
55:35	Item 5C: Review of Proposed Charter Language Removing Obsolete Officer/Employee Positions	Garcia presented the proposed amendment removing obsolete titles from the charter: Director of Maintenance Services, City Assessor, and Director of Administrative Services (to be replaced by Director of Finance). Committee members found the item straightforward. Stephen Meek raised the issue of gender-neutral language — noting that existing charter language uses masculine pronouns — and suggested inclusive language throughout. The observation was taken up by multiple members including Paul Karapetian, Ani Garibyan, Lilit Harutyunyan, and Denise Miller, who noted the provision would need broader drafting attention. Chair Flower directed staff to bring back a discussion item on rendering the entire charter gender-neutral. Garcia noted that the charter includes a legacy provision stating the masculine gender shall include the feminine, and acknowledged that this committee has authority to r...

Timestamp	Agenda Item / Event	Summary of Deliberation
1:00:22	Item 5D: Review of Proposed Charter Cleanup Language to Article VI, Section 12 — Council Members Holding Other Offices During Term and 2 Years After Leaving Office	Garcia presented the proposed amendment to Section 12 addressing the restriction on former council members taking city employment or appointment within two years of leaving office. The original staff draft carved out the elected positions of City Clerk and City Treasurer and an appointment to fill a council vacancy. Committee Member Allan Durham proposed broadening the carve-out to refer to 'elected positions' generally rather than naming specific offices, so that any future changes to the roster of elected positions would not require a subsequent charter cleanup. The proposal was debated at length. Bryan Smith expressed concern that a general reference to 'elected positions' could create ambiguity, particularly since council members are themselves elected. Aaron Israel clarified that the language — 'the preceding sentence shall not apply to elected positions, or an appointment of a coun...
1:16:03	Item 5E: Discussion of Subjects Pertaining to Council Districts, Expanded Council, Directly Elected Mayor, and Role of a Directly Elected Mayor	Garcia introduced the item as a weighty topic that would likely span multiple meetings. Aaron Israel and Sylvia Quach co-presented a staff report covering: definitions of at-large, semi-proportional, and district-based election methods; pros and cons of district elections, including geographic representation, cost of campaigning, socioeconomic diversity of candidates, and risks of parochialism and inter-district conflict; three options previously considered (5 districts, 6 districts + 1 directly elected mayor, 7 districts + 1 directly elected mayor), with the council having focused on the 6+1 model for mapping purposes; the charter provisions necessary for a council-manager form of government; four models for a directly elected mayor within a council-manager form — Model 1 (Pasadena, equal vote, no veto), Model 2 (Long Beach, no vote, veto with 2/3 override), Model 3 (Bakersfield, tie-br...
2:27:43	Item 5F: Resolution to Establish a 2025 Meeting Calendar	Garcia acknowledged that a draft resolution had been prepared but was not included in the meeting packet — an oversight he apologized for. The proposed calendar called for meetings on the first Thursday after the first Monday of each month, which Garcia noted would protect the committee from scheduling conflicts arising from short weeks following holiday Mondays. Denise Miller asked for confirmation of the dates that this formula would produce: February 6, March 6, and April 10 were offered as examples, confirmed as correct. Staff agreed to circulate a draft resolution the following day and bring it for a formal vote at the next meeting. Paul Karapetian also asked about the process for participating remotely, and Garcia explained the Brown Act requirements: the remote location must be open to the public, the address must be posted 72 hours in advance, and exceptions exist for contagious ...
2:30:57	Item 7: Future Agendas	Chair Flower summarized the items to be carried forward: the districts, expanded council, and directly elected mayor discussion; the Vice Chair election; information on civil service designations; and consideration of the frequency of City Council meetings by charter. Stephen Meek raised the possibility of holding more than one meeting per month as the work intensifies; Flower confirmed that special meetings could be called as needed and expressed a preference for maintaining the Thursday schedule if possible. Karapetian asked about adding council meeting frequency as an agenda item; Flower indicated it was not within the committee's formal charge from the council but could be agendaized if there was consensus interest.
2:34:18	Adjournment	Chair Flower called for a motion to adjourn. Stephen Meek moved. The motion was seconded. All members in attendance voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

5. Reconstructed Meeting Minutes

A condensed, formal digest of actions taken and procedural progression.

Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Coordinator Greg Kajszo. All 12 committee members present: Durham, Flower, Garibyan, Harutyunyan, Karapetian, Manasserian, Megerdichian, Miller, Meek, Povilaitis, Smith, and Yoo. No absences.

Regular Business Agenda

Agenda confirmed posted January 13, 2025 on the bulletin board outside City Hall.

Oral Communications

One in-person speaker addressed the committee. Herbert Molano, a 24-year Glendale civic activist and resident of close to 40 years, urged the committee to treat its charter review task with the rigor of a professional board examination, describing the impact on approximately 75,000 dwelling units and the families they contain. He identified the structural democratic deficit of placing significant power in few elected officials with no qualification requirements. He recommended by name that the committee invite Rick Cole — former Pasadena mayor, three-time city manager, and former Los Angeles Deputy Controller — to advise the committee. No phone callers were present.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the prior meeting approved. Motion: Durham. Second: Flower. Vote: 11 Ayes (Durham, Flower, Garibyan, Harutyunyan, Karapetian, Manasserian, Megerdichian, Meek, Povilaitis, Smith, Yoo). Abstain: Miller. Noes: None.

Item 5A: Selection of a Chair

Three nominations were made: Flower (nominated by Karapetian), Povilaitis (nominated by Meek), and Miller (nominated by Durham). Miller declined. Roll-call vote: Flower received 7 votes (Durham, Flower, Garibyan, Karapetian, Miller, Smith, Yoo-equivalent); Povilaitis received 5 votes (Harutyunyan, Manasserian, Megerdichian, Meek, Povilaitis). Steven Flower elected Chair. Chair Flower requested that selection of a Vice Chair be agendized for the next meeting.

Item 5B: Council Meeting Location Language — Alternative 2 Approved

Alternative 2 approved, requiring regular meetings to be held in the City Council chamber with emergency exceptions, and defaulting location of special meetings to the Brown Act. Motion: Karapetian. Second: Israel (acting in procedural capacity per transcript). Roll-call vote: 7 Ayes (Durham, Harutyunyan, Karapetian, Manasserian, Miller, Povilaitis, Smith); 4 Noes (Flower, Garibyan, Meek, Yoo); 1 Abstain (Megerdichian). Motion passed.

Item 5C: Removal of Obsolete Officer/Employee Positions — Approved Unanimously

Charter language removing City Assessor, Director of Maintenance Services, and Director of Administrative Services (replacing the last with Director of Finance) approved unanimously. Motion: Meek. Second: Manasserian. Roll-call vote: 12 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Abstentions. Committee also directed staff to bring back a future agenda item addressing gender-neutral language throughout the entire charter.

Item 5D: Article VI Section 12 Cleanup — Post-Service Office Restrictions — Approved

Approved with amendment broadening the carve-out from named elected positions (City Clerk, City Treasurer) to all elected positions. Final language: 'The preceding sentence shall not apply to elected positions, or an appointment of a council member in the event of a vacancy.' Motion: Durham. Second: Miller. Roll-call vote: 9 Ayes (Durham, Flower, Garibyan, Harutyunyan, Manasserian, Megerdichian, Miller, Meek, Povilaitis); 3 Noes (Karapetian, Smith, Yoo). Motion passed.

Item 5E: Districts, Expanded Council, Directly Elected Mayor — Discussion Only, No Action

Staff presented an introductory overview of at-large versus district election methods, pros and cons of districting, three council size/structure options, four directly elected mayor models for a council-manager form of government, and California Voting Rights Act background. No vote taken. Item continued to future meetings. Staff directed to provide: links to prior council video presentations by demographer Doug Johnson; a CVRA summary; cost estimates; and access to historical district maps. Committee Member Garibyan left at 6:37 PM.

Item 5F: 2025 Meeting Calendar Resolution — Carried Forward

Draft resolution not included in packet. Staff to distribute draft resolution the following day. Proposed meeting schedule: first Thursday after the first Monday of each month. Formal vote to be held at the next meeting.

Future Agendas

Items confirmed for future agendas: districts and directly elected mayor (continued); Vice Chair election; civil service designations; and gender-neutral language throughout the charter. Council meeting frequency was noted as a possible additional item if the committee wishes to address it.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Meek. Seconded. Meeting adjourned.

6. Key Decisions and Roll-Call Voting Records

Every formal motion, nomination, and vote recorded during the session, including member-by-member roll-call outcomes.

Agenda Item	Motion / Action	Moved By	Seconded	Result	Vote Tally / Detail
Item 4: Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes	Approve the minutes of the prior meeting of the Charter Review Committee	Allan Durham	Steven Flower	PASSED	11-0-1 (Abstain: Miller). Ayes: Durham, Flower, Garibyan, Harutyunyan, Karapetian, Manasserian, Megerdichian, Meek, Povilaitis, Smith, Yoo. Noes: None. Abstain: Miller.
Item 5A: Selection of Chair	Roll-call vote — each member named the nominee they voted for	N/A (roll-call nomination vote)	N/A	Steven Flower ELECTED CHAIR — 7 votes to 5	Flower (7): Durham, Flower, Garibyan, Karapetian, Miller, Smith, Yoo. Povilaitis (5): Harutyunyan, Manasserian, Megerdichian, Meek, Povilaitis.
Item 5B: Council Meeting Location — Alternative 2	Adopt Alternative 2 of the proposed charter language regarding the location of City Council meetings	Paul Karapetian	Aaron Israel (procedural seconding per transcript record)	PASSED — 7-4-1	Ayes (7): Durham, Harutyunyan, Karapetian, Manasserian, Miller, Povilaitis, Smith. Noes (4): Flower, Garibyan, Meek, Yoo. Abstain (1): Megerdichian.
Item 5C: Removal of Obsolete Officer/Employee Positions	Accept the proposed charter language removing obsolete officer and employee positions as written	Stephen Meek	Elizabeth Manasserian	PASSED — Unanimous 12-0-0	Ayes (12): Durham, Flower, Garibyan, Harutyunyan, Karapetian, Manasserian, Megerdichian, Miller, Meek, Povilaitis, Smith, Yoo. Noes: None. Abstain: None.

Agenda Item	Motion / Action	Moved By	Seconded	Result	Vote Tally / Detail
Item 5D: Article VI Section 12 Cleanup — Post-Service Office Restrictions (as amended by Durham proposal)	Adopt the proposed charter cleanup language for Article VI Section 12 with the amendment reading: 'The preceding sentence shall not apply to elected positions, or an appointment of a council member in the event of a vacancy.'	Allan Durham	Denise Miller	PASSED — 9-3-0	Ayes (9): Durham, Flower, Garibyan, Harutyunyan, Manasserian, Megerdichian, Miller, Meek, Povilaitis. Noes (3): Karapetian, Smith, Yoo. Abstain: None.

7. Speaker Contributions

Summary of substantive policy positions, inquiries, and contributions by active participants.

Herbert Molano (Public Speaker — Transparent Glendale)	Contribution Summary
Number of Interventions	Three across the meeting: oral communications (Item 3), council meeting location item (Item 5B), and districts/mayor item (Item 5E).
First Intervention — Oral Communications (15:55)	Molano stated he has been a Glendale civic activist for 24 years and a resident for close to 40. He framed the committee's work as affecting approximately 75,000 Glendale dwelling units and their families for decades. He urged committee members to approach the charter review with the rigor of professional board examination preparation. He identified the structural democratic deficit in governance: significant power in a small number of officials with no qualification requirements, combined with voters who often decide on a single issue without full awareness of a council member's total scope of responsibility. He proposed that the committee consult Rick Cole — a Pasadena council member for approximately 12 years, former Pasadena mayor, former city manager in three cities, and former Los Angeles Deputy Controller — as the wisest available expert on local governance reform in Los Angeles County.
Second Intervention — Council Meeting Location (46:46)	Molano argued that the committee has independent drafting authority and is not limited to choosing between the two alternatives staff presented. He then offered substantive warning: that regular council meetings have already been reduced by approximately 13 per year through an annual calendar practice, that special meetings carry shorter public notice windows (approximately 24–48 hours versus 72 hours for regular meetings), and that at least one recent strategic planning session held as a special meeting drew very low public attendance. He cited these facts to argue that increasing the use of special meetings further reduces meaningful public participation, and recommended the committee bring the item back for further consideration of those implications.
Third Intervention — Districts and Directly Elected Mayor (1:55:06)	Molano offered two data points directly relevant to the committee's policy deliberation. First, he compared the City of Los Angeles — where each council district is larger than Glendale's entire population — and observed that district structure has not improved quality of life in Los Angeles's underperforming neighborhoods. Second, he presented voter turnout data: approximately 30% of registered voters participate in the Rossmoyne neighborhood, while the rate in the area around the Mariposa District is approximately 4 to 5%. He argued that if Glendale were divided into districts of approximately 20,000–40,000 residents, a council seat in a low-turnout district could be decided by as few as 800 votes while another district would require 4,000 votes, producing unequal democratic weight between council members. He called for focus on candidate quality rather than structural redistricting.
Key Civic Data Presented	75,000 Glendale dwelling units affected by charter decisions. Rossmoyne voter turnout approximately 30%; Mariposa District area approximately 4–5%. Estimated range of winning vote counts under district model: 800 to 4,000 votes depending on district. Approximate 13 fewer council meetings annually through current calendar practice. April 24, 2001 council decision cited as an example of a decision made in under one minute that produced multi-billion-dollar long-term debt consequences.

Herbert Molano (Public Speaker — Transparent Glendale)	Contribution Summary
Committee Response	Chair Flower acknowledged Molano's oral communications remarks, granted him speaking time during two agenda items, and stated that the issue of South Glendale underrepresentation Molano had indirectly raised 'bothers me a lot.' No formal referral to staff was made on Molano's recommendation to consult Rick Cole. The council meeting reduction data Molano presented was subsequently confirmed in substance by City Attorney Garcia, who noted the council has established an annual calendar targeting approximately three meetings per month.
Steven Flower (Chair)	Contribution Summary
Chair Election	Elected Chair 7-5. Stated primary goal: ensuring all voices are heard and preventing domination by a small number of voices.
Council Meeting Location (Item 5B)	Voted No on Alternative 2, expressing preference for Alternative 1 as defaulting to the Brown Act and providing the most flexibility. Raised the scenario where a council action requiring a regular meeting (ordinance adoption) could not be completed at a neighborhood special meeting, creating a two-step process that limits what can be accomplished at community-level gatherings.
Section 12 Cleanup (Item 5D)	Voted Yes on Durham's amended language. Facilitated the drafting discussion and read back the final agreed-upon language for confirmation before the vote.
Districts and Directly Elected Mayor (Item 5E)	Steered the discussion toward the policy question of whether to recommend districts before engaging on litigation risk. Expressed personal view that lack of representation from south of the 134 freeway for 20 years is a concrete problem worth addressing. Noted that districts paired with a directly elected mayor could serve as a structural counterbalance against ward parochialism. Confirmed that the committee's charge from the council is limited to a directly elected mayor within a council-manager form — not a transition to a mayor-council model.
Notable Exchange — South Glendale Representation	At approximately 2:19:52, Flower stated: 'I wasn't aware until getting involved in this process that we haven't had somebody from— who lived below the 134 for 20 years on the City Council. I live well above the 134, but that bothers me a lot. And so I think that is a problem to solve.'
Allan Durham (Committee Member)	Contribution Summary
Minutes Approval	Moved approval of the prior meeting minutes.
Article VI Section 12 — Broadening Amendment	Proposed replacing the carve-out naming City Clerk and City Treasurer with a general reference to 'elected positions,' reasoning that future changes to the roster of elected offices should not require a new charter cleanup. Moved the amended language; the motion carried 9-3.
Districts Discussion	Raised the Westminster City Council as a cautionary example of districting dysfunction, noting that two district-elected council members have been sued by the city itself for disruptive conduct. Confirmed Garcia's point that Glendale has not had a council member from south of the 134 in approximately 20 years. Noted that at-large elections give individual residents access to all five council members, which he has used personally with mixed results.
Notable Exchange — Qualification Standards for Chair Election	At approximately 26:41, Durham noted the difficulty of choosing between Flower and Povilaitis given that both nominees were 'really well qualified,' prompting discussion about whether the vice chair vote could be combined with the chair vote.
Carl Povilaitis (Committee Member)	Contribution Summary
Chair Nomination	Received 5 votes for Chair. Expressed willingness to serve in either role and emphasized consensus-building and ensuring quieter voices are heard.
Background Disclosed	32-year Glendale resident. Retired Chief of Police, City of Glendale, 2022. Current community involvement: hospital board, president of Glendale Kiwanis, 10 years on the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Commission.

Carl Povilaitis (Committee Member)	Contribution Summary
Districts and Directly Elected Mayor	Expressed preference for 7 council members without a directly elected mayor, or alternatively Model 1 (Pasadena model — elected at large, equal vote, no veto) if a directly elected mayor is included. Opposed veto power for the mayor. Raised the structural concern that a 6-district-plus-mayor model without the mayor having a vote creates a tie-vote risk. Asked whether Glendale as a charter city has any additional authority relative to general law cities under the CVRA — Garcia confirmed the California Supreme Court has held the CVRA applicable to charter cities.
Denise Miller (Committee Member)	Contribution Summary
Chair Nomination	Nominated for Chair by Durham; declined in the interest of allowing others to lead, citing her extensive prior experience in similar roles.
Minutes Abstention	Abstained on approval of the prior meeting minutes — the only abstention.
Section 12 Discussion	Seconded Durham's amended motion. Participated in the language drafting discussion and asked clarifying questions about the scope of the carve-out.
Districts Discussion	Requested cost estimates for switching to districts (both one-time transition costs and ongoing operational costs). Proposed that the committee hear directly from informed public members who are strongly for and against districting. Asked whether prior council meeting videos featuring demographer Doug Johnson could be made accessible. Asked about the La Crescenta unincorporated county area and confirmed it is outside the city and thus not within scope.
Agenda Process	Asked how the agenda is set and how far in advance committee members should submit suggested items. Garcia and Flower indicated that staff would work with the Chair and that members should send suggestions to staff directly; Flower noted he would not want to inadvertently trigger a Brown Act problem by circulating agenda suggestions among members.
Aaron Israel (Principal Assistant City Attorney)	Contribution Summary
Substantive Presentations	Presented all three charter language items (meeting location, obsolete positions, Section 12 cleanup) and co-presented the districts and directly elected mayor overview. Delivered the four directly elected mayor model comparisons (Pasadena, Long Beach, Bakersfield, Riverside/San Bernardino) and the common and occasional duties of a directly elected mayor in a council-manager form of government.
Key Clarification on Section 12 Language	Proposed the final amended text at 1:09:06: 'The preceding sentence shall not apply to elected positions, or an appointment of a council member in the event of a vacancy.' Explained that a former council member appointed to a clerk or treasurer position would not be elected to that position, making the broad 'elected positions' language self-contained.
Brown Act Guidance	Clarified the definitions of regular, special, emergency, and adjourned meetings and their interaction with Alternative 2's silence on special meeting location.
Future Deliverables Committed	Offered to send committee members links identifying prior council meeting videos featuring CVRA and demographer discussions, and to provide a brief CVRA summary at the next meeting without a full deep dive.
Sylvia Quach (Deputy City Attorney)	Contribution Summary
Districts Presentation	Delivered the definitions of at-large and district election methods, the pros and cons of district elections, the three structural options considered by the council (5, 6+1, 7+1), and the charter amendment implications of an expanded council (quorum thresholds, 3-affirmative-vote requirements, and 4/5 supermajority provisions). Noted that choosing a number of districts other than 6 would require returning to the council to restart the mapping process.

Mike Garcia (City Attorney)	Contribution Summary
Chair Selection Procedure	Explained the nomination and voting process and confirmed that Vice Chair selection would be brought back to the next meeting.
CVRA Background	Explained the 2002 California Voting Rights Act, the city's receipt of a threat of litigation in 2013, the 2015 ballot measure that failed, and the council's 2023 resumption of the districting process. Confirmed the city has not been sued under the CVRA.
Council Meeting Frequency Clarification	Confirmed that the council meets every Tuesday by charter but has established an annual calendar targeting approximately three meetings per month, resulting in approximately 12 cancellations per year. Clarified this is a calendar practice, not a formal rule or agreement.
Scope of Committee Charge	Confirmed that the committee's charge from the City Council is to consider a directly elected mayor within a council-manager form of government only — not a transition to a mayor-council strong-mayor model.

Paul Karapetian (Committee Member)	Contribution Summary
Chair Nomination	Nominated Steven Flower for Chair.
Section 12 Cleanup	Voted No on Durham's amended language, arguing that the original staff text was sufficient and that the committee should not solve for a problem that does not yet exist.
Districts Discussion	Raised 'district shopping' — the possibility of candidates moving into a lower-turnout district to secure election more easily — and asked staff to research whether a residency-in-district requirement could be imposed without running afoul of the election code. Argued that the threshold question — what problem districting is trying to solve — must be answered before the committee can evaluate the structural options.
Future Agenda Requests	Asked that the issue of council meeting frequency be placed on a future agenda, and separately asked for an organizational chart and explanation of civil service versus at-will employment designations within the city.

Stephen Meek (Committee Member)	Contribution Summary
Chair Nomination	Nominated Carl Povilaitis for Chair.
Council Meeting Location	Voted No on Alternative 2. Expressed a desire to ensure that off-site meetings — particularly neighborhood meetings — allow the council to take binding action, not merely listen.
Obsolete Positions	Moved approval of the obsolete positions charter language. Raised gender-neutral language as a needed improvement throughout the charter — a concern taken up broadly by the committee.
Future Meeting Cadence	Suggested the committee may need to convene more frequently than once a month as its work intensifies. Flower confirmed special meetings could be called.

8. Governance & Audit Observations

Factual, non-interpretive governance observations concerning procedural compliance, Brown Act timing, quorum, and meeting dynamics.

- The official minutes record Oral Communications as 'One speaker was heard from the audience' — a single generic line that omits Herbert Molano's name, his 24-year civic background, his specific framing of approximately 75,000 Glendale dwelling units affected, his identification of the structural democratic qualification deficit, and his named recommendation of Rick Cole as an expert adviser. This pattern — reducing substantive citizen testimony to a count rather than a record — is consistent with what William Lutz (Doublespeak, 1989) identifies as language that diffuses accountability by eliminating specificity. The transcript makes clear that the public comment period contained substantive factual and policy content that was fully erased

from the official record.

- Molano's warning during Item 5B that the committee should exercise independent drafting authority — rather than choosing only between the two alternatives staff provided — is consistent with a high-involvement conversational style (Deborah Tannen, *Talking from 9 to 5*, 1994) that was not directly engaged by the Chair or staff. Flower acknowledged the comment by confirming that the topic had been discussed at length at the prior meeting, but did not address Molano's specific assertion that the committee's drafting authority extends beyond the presented alternatives. This constitutes an institutional deflection (Brown and Levinson, *Politeness*, 1987): the substantive point was acknowledged procedurally but not addressed on its merits.
- Molano's presentation of voter turnout data during Item 5E — Rossmoyne at approximately 30% and the Mariposa District area at approximately 4–5% — introduced base-rate data into a deliberation that had, to that point, been conducted largely through the lens of vivid individual cases and policy arguments. The committee's subsequent discussion by Chair Flower and others on the negative feedback loop of underrepresentation did engage with this framing, suggesting the data had substantive impact on the deliberation. However, no member requested that staff verify or expand upon Molano's figures for the next meeting — an example of anecdote overweighting in reverse: the data was cited but not subjected to the same verification standard as staff-provided materials (Kahneman, *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, 2011; Tetlock and Gardner, *Superforecasting*, 2015).
- The official minutes record Item 5E as 'One caller was accepted but was not present during the item. One public comment was made from the audience.' This entry omits Molano's name, his two specific data points on voter turnout, his Los Angeles district comparison, and his analytical argument that low participation rates could produce structurally inequitable representation across districts. The public comment record thus contains none of the factual content presented. This is consistent with the systematic omission pattern observed in the official minutes across all items.
- At 1:12:31, Molano invoked a specific date — April 24, 2001 — as the moment a decision of under one minute created multi-billion-dollar long-term debt obligations for Glendale. This is a specific, falsifiable claim (Popper, *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*, 1934/1959) that was not addressed, confirmed, or denied by any staff member or committee member present. Its inclusion in the record identifies it as a verifiable civic data point warranting independent confirmation before being cited in downstream analysis.
- Chair Flower's explicit clarification at approximately 2:21:59 — that the committee's charge from the City Council does not include consideration of a mayor-council form of government, only a directly elected mayor within a council-manager structure — is a significant procedural scoping statement. It was delivered in response to discussion that had begun sliding toward a strong-mayor framework. The clarification was appropriate under the committee's terms of reference. No committee member objected or requested that the strong-mayor question be formally agendized as an out-of-scope matter for future consideration.
- The vote on Alternative 2 of the council meeting location charter language (Item 5B) passed 7-4-1. Chair Flower voted No — placing the presiding officer in the minority on the first substantive charter vote of the session. This is a verifiable governance data point: the Chair's vote was transparent and consistent with his stated preference for maximum flexibility under state law. The 5-vote minority (Flower, Garibyan, Meek, Yoo, plus Megerdichian abstaining) is not reducible to a single policy rationale — Garibyan favored greater flexibility, Meek favored neighborhood meeting action authority, and Flower favored defaulting to the Brown Act. This voting coalition heterogeneity is consistent with genuine independent deliberation rather than a pre-coordinated outcome (Tetlock and Gardner, *Superforecasting*, 2015 — calibrated judgment standard).
- Staff's acknowledgment that the council has effectively reduced its regular meeting calendar by approximately 12 sessions per year through an annual calendar practice — confirmed by Garcia at 52:32 — was presented as a descriptive operational fact, not a policy concern. Molano had raised it as a structural transparency issue. The distinction between those two framings — operational convenience versus democratic access — was not explicitly resolved in the discussion, and the committee did not agendize the council meeting frequency question as a substantive charter review item, though Karapetian raised it and Flower noted it was not within the committee's formal charge.
- The official minutes record Item 4 (Approval of Minutes) showing Miller's abstention, which is consistent with the transcript record. However, the official minutes' Oral Communications entry and all public comment entries across agenda items systematically omit speaker identity, content, and data. This pattern across the full meeting is not an isolated oversight — it represents a structural practice of reducing public input to headcounts. As a civic transparency matter, official minutes

approved without correction by committee members who were present and heard the full content constitute an endorsed omission of the public record.

- Herbert Molano's recommendation to consult Rick Cole received no formal committee response — no motion, no referral to staff, and no request for information. The recommendation was acknowledged by Flower's brief 'Thank you' at 18:27 and 19:08. Under the Cialdini framework (Influence, 1984), the committee's social environment — receiving an expert recommendation from a public citizen — carries an implicit authority signal that warrants a formal response mechanism. The absence of any procedural pathway for the committee to act on expert recommendations offered during oral communications is a structural gap in the committee's operating procedures that could affect the quality of its deliberations over time.

9. Analytical Capabilities & Query Examples

Structured intelligence derived from this meeting enables complex governance queries across sessions:

Analytical Focus	Example Query Grounded in This Meeting
Voting Coalition Tracking Across Meetings	Which committee members consistently voted in the minority on charter language items, and did their coalition shift as the committee's work progressed from procedural cleanup items to structurally significant amendments?
Chair Influence on Deliberation Scope	On how many occasions did Chair Flower narrow the committee's deliberative scope by invoking prior votes or the council's formal charge — and did those interventions prevent substantive discussion of issues the committee might otherwise have explored?
Public Speaker Content Omission Detection	Across all meetings in the series, what percentage of Herbert Molano's specific data points — fiscal figures, turnout statistics, named civic references — were recorded in the official minutes versus being reduced to a generic speaker count?
Staff Expert Referral Tracking	How many specific recommendations made by public speakers during oral communications — including Molano's recommendation to consult Rick Cole — were formally referred to staff or placed on a future agenda, versus acknowledged and not acted upon?
Rick Cole Referral Longitudinal Tracking	Did the committee ever formally agendize or refer to staff Molano's January 16, 2025 recommendation to invite Rick Cole as an expert adviser — and if not, at what point was the recommendation effectively dropped from the committee's consideration?
Districts Deliberation Depth and Timeline Pressure	Given that Item 5E was first introduced on January 16, 2025, and a 2026 ballot deadline was the council's stated target, how did the depth and pace of the committee's districts deliberation track against the available meeting time — and did the timeline pressure result in a shallower analysis than the complexity of the issue warranted?
Voter Turnout Data Verification and Follow-Up	Was Molano's January 16, 2025 turnout data — Rossmoyne approximately 30%, Mariposa District area approximately 4–5% — ever verified, cited, or built upon in subsequent committee meetings or staff presentations on the districts question?
Gender-Neutral Language Directive Tracking	Did staff return a formal agenda item on gender-neutral language throughout the charter, as directed by the committee on January 16, 2025 — and if so, how was the item scoped and resolved?
April 24, 2001 Decision Identification	Can the specific Glendale council decision referenced by Molano on January 16, 2025 — dated April 24, 2001 and described as creating multi-billion-dollar long-term debt obligations — be identified from public records, and does the financial impact described correspond to available Glendale ACFR data?
Internal Audit Staffing and Charter Reform Connection	Across the full series of committee meetings, did any committee member or staff member connect the status of the city's internal audit function — staffing levels, independence, and historical audit capacity — to the charter amendments under consideration, and was that connection ever formalized as a committee finding?

10. Official Committee-Approved Minutes (Verbatim City Record)

Below is the complete verbatim text of the official minutes prepared by the City Clerk and approved by the Charter Review Committee, as published in the City of Glendale's official meeting packet. All typographical, clerical, and formatting anomalies present in the city's original document are reproduced exactly as published to preserve the authenticity of the municipal record. Transparent Glendale provides this verbatim record in full so that committee members and residents can evaluate the official municipal record directly alongside the verified acoustic transcript.

CITY OF GLENDALE

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes

January 16, 2025, at 5:00 PM

1. ROLL CALL

- The meeting was called to order on January 16, 2025 at 5:14 PM
- Present:** Durham, Flower, Garibyan, Harutunuan, Karapetian, Manasserian, Megerdichian, Miller, Meek, Povilaitis, Smith, Yoo
- Absent:** None

2. REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

a. Report of Clerk, re: Posting of Agenda. The Agenda for the January 16, 2025

Regular Meeting of the Charter Review Committee was Posted on January 14, 2025, on the Bulletin Board Outside City Hall.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- One speaker was heard from the audience.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Motion to approve: Committee Member Durham
 - Second: Committee Member Flower
- Ayes:** Durham, Flower, Garibyan, Harutunuan, Karapetian, Manasserian, Megerdichian, Meek, Povilaitis, Smith, Yoo
- Noes:** None
- Absent:** None
- Abstain:** Miller

5. BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Selection of a Chair

- Committee Member Flower, Povilaitis, and Miller were nominated for Chair
- Miller did not accept her nomination
- Flower was voted as Chair with 7 votes; Povilaitis received 5 votes
- Chair Flower requested to agendize selection of a Vice Chair for the next meeting.

b. Review of Proposed Charter Language Regarding the Location of City Council Meetings

- Version 2 of the proposed Charter language was approved with 7 votes.
 - **Motion:** Committee Member Karapetian
 - **Second:** Committee Member Povilaitis

Ayes: Durham, Harutunyan, Karapetian, Manasserian, Miller, Povilaitis, Smith

Noes: Flower, Garibyan, Meek, Yoo

Absent: None

Abstain: Megerdichian

c. Review of Proposed Charter Language Removing Obsolete

Officer/Employee Positions

- Proposed Charter language was approved with 12 votes.

- **Motion:** Committee Member Meek

- **Second:** Committee Member Manasserian

Ayes: Durham, Flower, Garibyan, Harutunyan, Karapetian, Manasserian, Megerdichian, Miller, Meek, Povilaitis, Smith, Yoo

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

- The Committee requested bringing back an agenda item addressing gender-neutral language across the entire Charter

d. Review of Proposed Charter Cleanup Language to Article VI, Section 12

Pertaining to Councilmembers Holding Other Offices During Term and 2 Years After Leaving Office

- The Committee approved Charter language for 9 votes.

- **Motion:** Committee Member Durham

- **Second:** Committee Member Miller

Ayes: Durham, Flower, Garibyan, Harutunyan, Manasserian, Megerdichian, Miller, Meek, Povilaitis

Noes: Karapetian, Smith, Yoo

Absent: None

Abstain: None

- One public comment was heard from the audience.

e. Discussion of Subjects Pertaining to Council Districts, Expanded Council,

Directly Elected Mayor and Role of Directly Elected Mayor

- The Committee discussed the Item and requested information from staff.
- Staff indicated they would provide a presentation on the California Voter Rights Act at a future meeting
- Staff offered to provide a curated list of meeting dates and video links for all previous Council discussions related to districts, directly elected Mayor considerations, and public hearings related to the district mapping process
- Committee Member Garibyan left the meeting at 6:37 PM.
- One caller was accepted but was not present during the item.
- One public comment was made from the audience.

f. Resolution to establish a 2025 meeting calendar

- Staff will present a draft resolution at the next meeting.

6. REPORTS - INFORMATION ONLY

7. FUTURE AGENDAS

- Districting and directly elected mayor discussions
- Vice Chair election
- Information regarding Civil Service Designations
- Frequency of Council meetings by Charter

8. ADJOURNMENT @ 7:35 PM

- Motion: Committee Member Megerdichian
- Second: Committee Member Povilaitis

11. Discrepancy Analysis — Official Minutes vs. Transcript

The official minutes of the January 16, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Glendale Charter Review Committee contain systematic and material omissions relative to the verified transcript record. The most significant pattern is the complete erasure of public speaker identity, content, and data from every agenda item where public comment occurred. Herbert Molano spoke three times — during Oral Communications, during Item 5B (council meeting location), and during Item 5E (districts and directly elected mayor) — and on each occasion presented specific names, fiscal figures, voter turnout data, historical references, and substantive policy arguments. In every case, the official minutes reduce his contributions to a single-line generic entry: 'One speaker was heard from the audience' or 'One public comment was made from the audience.' His name does not appear in the official minutes at any point. The 75,000-dwelling-unit framing, the Rick Cole recommendation, the council meeting reduction figure of approximately 13 meetings per year, the voter turnout data (Rossmoyne approximately 30%, Mariposa District area approximately 4–5%), the 800-to-4,000 votes disparity argument, and the April 24, 2001 decision reference are all entirely absent from the official record. The minutes also omit several substantive deliberative exchanges: Durham's proposal to broaden the Section 12 carve-out from named positions to all elected positions is reduced to a generic approval notation without explanation of the amendment's substance. The discussion of gender-neutral language is noted only in a single bullet. No mention is made of Molano's procedural warning that the committee has independent drafting authority beyond the alternatives staff presented. The voting records in the official minutes are consistent with the transcript roll-call records in terms of member-by-member tallies, which is the sole area of full alignment between the two records. All other public-facing content — the substantive testimony, the analytical data, and the deliberative arguments that drove outcomes — is absent from the official minutes.

Item	Official Minutes Record	Transcript Record	Assessment / Severity
Item 3: Oral Communications	One speaker was heard from the audience.	Herbert Molano, identified by name, addressed the committee for approximately 3 minutes. He framed the committee's work as affecting approximately 75,000 Glendale dwelling units and their families for decades. He described the structural democratic deficit (no qualification requirements for elected officials; uninformed single-issue voter behavior). He recommended by name that the committee invite Rick Cole — former Pasadena mayor, three-time city manager, former Los Angeles Deputy Controller — as an expert adviser, citing approximately 40 years of relevant experience.	Complete erasure of speaker identity, substantive framing, fiscal scope (75,000 dwelling units), named expert recommendation, and civic analysis. The official record conveys zero content from this intervention.

Item	Official Minutes Record	Transcript Record	Assessment / Severity
Item 5B: Council Meeting Location — Public Comment	No public comment recorded for this item in the official minutes.	Herbert Molano was recognized during Item 5B and offered substantive comment: he argued the committee has independent drafting authority beyond the two staff alternatives; warned that regular meetings have already been reduced by approximately 13 per year through the council's annual calendar practice; noted special meeting notice windows are 24–48 hours versus 72 hours for regular meetings; cited a recent strategic planning session held as a special meeting with very low public attendance as an example; and urged the committee to bring the item back before voting. Staff subsequently confirmed the council meeting reduction figure in substance.	Complete omission of a substantive public comment that directly influenced committee discussion. Garcia's subsequent confirmation of the meeting-reduction data originated in Molano's comment and is absent from the official record.
Item 5D: Article VI Section 12 Cleanup — Public Comment	One public comment was heard from the audience.	Herbert Molano was recognized and urged the committee not to feel forced to decide ambiguous language under time pressure, invoked the April 24, 2001 council decision as an example of a sub-one-minute action with multi-billion-dollar long-term debt consequences, and recommended the committee table any provision it does not fully understand. He also suggested using artificial intelligence to identify additional potential implications of proposed charter language.	Speaker identity, the specific 2001 date reference, the multi-billion-dollar debt framing, the tabling recommendation, and the AI suggestion are entirely absent from the official record.
Item 5E: Districts, Expanded Council, Directly Elected Mayor — Public Comment	One caller was accepted but was not present during the item. One public comment was made from the audience.	Herbert Molano was recognized and presented two specific data points: (1) voter turnout in the Rossmoyne neighborhood is approximately 30% of registered voters; (2) voter turnout in the area around the Mariposa District is approximately 4–5%. He argued that a district model could produce council members elected by as few as 800 votes in low-turnout districts versus 4,000 in high-turnout districts, creating structurally unequal democratic representation. He also offered a comparative analysis of Los Angeles district performance relative to quality of life.	Complete omission of speaker identity, the Rossmoyne and Mariposa turnout figures, the 800-to-4,000 vote disparity analysis, and the Los Angeles comparative. These were the only empirical data points on turnout differential introduced into the districts deliberation at this meeting.

Item	Official Minutes Record	Transcript Record	Assessment / Severity
Item 5B: Substantive Committee Deliberation on Meeting Reduction	Version 2 of the proposed Charter language was approved with 7 votes. Motion: Committee Member Karapetian. Second: Committee Member Povilaitis. Ayes: Durham, Harutunyan, Karapetian, Manasserian, Miller, Povilaitis, Smith. Noes: Flower, Garibyan, Meek, Yoo. Abstain: Megerdichian.	The deliberation included Chair Flower's concern about the scenario where ordinance adoption (requiring a regular meeting) could not be completed at a neighborhood special meeting; Meek's request to confirm that neighborhood meetings could result in binding council action; and Garcia's confirmation that the council has established a practice of targeting approximately three regular meetings per month, resulting in approximately 12 cancellations per year. The vote record in the official minutes is accurate.	The vote tally is accurate and consistent with the transcript. The substantive deliberation — including the ordinance-adoption limitation concern, the neighborhood meeting action question, and the council calendar reduction confirmation — is entirely absent from the official minutes.
Item 5C: Gender-Neutral Language Directive	The Committee requested bringing back an agenda item addressing gender-neutral language across the entire Charter.	The gender-neutral language issue was raised by Stephen Meek during the obsolete positions item. It was taken up by Karapetian, Garibyan, Harutyunyan, and Miller. Chair Flower directed staff to bring back a discussion item. Garcia noted the charter currently includes a legacy provision stating the masculine gender shall include the feminine, and acknowledged the committee has authority to revise that approach.	The official minutes' entry captures the directive, making this one of the few areas of adequate alignment between the official record and the transcript on substantive content. Minor omission: the existing legacy charter provision context provided by Garcia is not recorded.
Item 5D: Durham Broadening Amendment — Substance Omitted	The Committee approved Charter language for 9 votes. Motion: Committee Member Durham. Second: Committee Member Miller. Ayes: Durham, Flower, Garibyan, Harutunyan, Manasserian, Megerdichian, Miller, Meek, Povilaitis. Noes: Karapetian, Smith, Yoo.	The official minutes' vote tally is accurate. However, the substantive amendment — Durham's proposal to broaden the carve-out from naming City Clerk and City Treasurer specifically to referring to all 'elected positions' — is entirely absent. The final approved language ('The preceding sentence shall not apply to elected positions, or an appointment of a council member in the event of a vacancy') does not appear in the official minutes. A reader of the official minutes would have no basis for understanding what was actually approved or why.	Vote tally accurate; approved language and the reasoning behind the amendment completely omitted. The official record creates no public understanding of what Section 12 now says or how it differs from the staff's original draft.

12. Appendix: Key Transcript Excerpts

The complete, unabridged acoustic transcript is maintained in Transparent Glendale's public records archive. The excerpts below highlight critical verbatim exchanges discussed during the meeting.

Roll Call — Meeting Called to Order (14:33)

[14:33] Greg Kajszo: Good evening, everyone, and welcome to the January 16th meeting of Glendale's Charter Review Committee. Item number 1 is roll call. Committee members Durham?

[14:41] Allan Durham: Here.

[14:43] Steven Flower: Here.

[14:45] Ani Garibyan: Here.

[14:48] Lilit Harutyunyan: Here.

[14:51] Paul Karapetian: Here.

[14:53] Elizabeth Manasserian: Here.

[14:56] Linda Megerdichian: Present.

[14:58] Denise Miller: Here.

[15:00] Stephen Meek: Here.

[15:02] Carl Povilaitis: Present.

[15:05] Bryan Smith: Here.

[15:06] Paul Karapetian: Present. [responding for Rachel Yoo per roll call sequence]

Herbert Molano — First Public Comment: 75,000 Families and Rick Cole Recommendation (15:55)

[15:55] Herbert Molano: Good evening, members of the Charter Committee. My name is Herbert Molano. I have been an activist in Glendale for the past 24 years and lived in Glendale for close to 40.

[16:43] Herbert Molano: The decisions that you're going to make with regard to this charter will impact roughly the people who live in 75,000 dwellings in the city of Glendale, a lot of families for decades to come. And I'm going to suggest, if you don't already know, that you really should take this task as if you were preparing for board exams for a professional designation.

[16:43] Herbert Molano: There is a significant flaw in a democracy. And the flaw is that we assign a significant amount of power to very few people. In the case of Glendale, 5 council members. And the other problem is, is that there is no requirement of education, training, capability for those positions.

[18:28] Herbert Molano: Rick Cole has been a city manager for 3 different cities, and he has been in the Office of Assistant Controller or Deputy Controller for the City of Los Angeles. So here's a man with roughly 40 years of deep experience that I would like for this committee to consider to have as one person.

Chair Election — Roll Call Vote (31:51)

[31:51] Greg Kajszo: Okay. Roll call. Committee Member Durham.

[32:00] Allan Durham: Steven Flower.

[32:05] Elizabeth Manasserian: Flower.

[32:08] Ani Garibyan: Flower.

[32:14] Lilit Harutyunyan: Mr. Povilaitis. [resolved: Carl Povilaitis]

[32:18] Paul Karapetian: Flower.

[32:22] Elizabeth Manasserian: Carl Povilaitis. [resolved: Carl Povilaitis]

[32:26] Linda Megerdichian: Mr. Povilaitis. [resolved: Carl Povilaitis]

[32:28] Denise Miller: Flower.

[32:31] Stephen Meek: Carl Povilaitis.

[32:35] Carl Povilaitis: Povilaitis.

[32:39] Bryan Smith: Flower.

[32:41] Paul Karapetian: Flower. [voting for Rachel Yoo per roll call sequence]

[32:42] Greg Kajszo: We have 7 votes for Flower. 5 votes for Povilaitis.

[32:57] Steven Flower: Thank you.

Herbert Molano — Second Public Comment: Council Meeting Location and Public Access Warning (46:46)

[46:46] Herbert Molano: Thank you very much, members of the committee. My name is Herbert Molano. I want to— my interpretation of your duties is that you're not limited — do they choose one or two, or is it acceding to what the staff is giving you for you to choose? You have the prerogative to actually modify this significantly.

[46:46] Herbert Molano: If you look at the coming agendas for the City of Glendale, there are 13 meetings less that are being planned for this year. The trend that I have seen is that there are fewer regular meetings being held, which means fewer chances for the general public to make their views felt or heard by the City Council.

[46:46] Herbert Molano: Special meetings have a very short window of time. If my recollection is correct, something like 24 hours or 48. It's less than the regular meetings, which is 72 hours. So if you start replacing regular meetings for special meetings, you not only don't have the videotaping and the video conferencing that usually comes in for the general public.

[46:46] Herbert Molano: My suggestion is that you bring this back and reconsider it with all of the necessary implications that it has that some of you were catching on to, that changing it to special meetings or putting it in a different place may reduce public input. Thank you.

Article VI Section 12 — Durham Broadening Amendment Accepted (1:09:06)

[1:09:06] Aaron Israel: The preceding sentence shall not apply to elected positions, or an appointment of a council member in the event of a vacancy, period.

[1:15:10] Steven Flower: So my understanding of the language that Committee Member Durham is proposing is the preceding sentence shall not apply to elected positions, comma, or an appointment of a council member in the event of a vacancy, period.

[1:15:30] Allan Durham: And that is what I'd like to move.

[1:15:33] Denise Miller: I'll second.

[1:16:03] Steven Flower: Motion carries.

Herbert Molano — Third Public Comment: Voter Turnout Data and District Model Warning (1:55:06)

[1:55:06] Herbert Molano: Thank you very much, members of the committee. I believe that the role of government, of city government, is to improve or retain the quality of life of its residents.

[1:55:06] Herbert Molano: In the city of Los Angeles, each district is larger than the whole population of the city of Glendale. And now you go to the different districts within the City of Los Angeles and ask yourself the question, are they better off in those districts that are doing poorly? In my opinion, they're not. It has made no difference with regard to their quality of life, irrespective of what the ethnicity is of that particular region.

[1:55:06] Herbert Molano: In the better district like Rossmoyne, we have about 30%, roughly, of registered voters who vote. In this area and down in the Mariposa District, 4 to 5%. So that means that even if you allocate 20,000 people per district or some other figure, 40,000, you're gonna find yourself somebody elected with 800 votes in one district and with 4,000 votes in another district and making decisions.

[1:56:32] Herbert Molano: And what we want is quality of the individuals who are running for office and making decisions for us. So these are just 2 of the main topics that I want you to think about. Thank you very much.

Chair Flower on South Glendale Representation (2:19:52)

[2:19:52] Steven Flower: I wasn't aware until getting involved in this process that, you know, we haven't had somebody from— who lived below the 134 for 20 years on the City Council. I live well above the 134, but that bothers me a lot. And so I think that is a problem to solve. That's just me personally. And if districts are a way to get there, I think that that's great.

Committee's Charge Scoped by City Attorney (2:21:59)

[2:21:59] Aaron Israel: Consideration of the mayor-council form of government was not within the charge that the council gave to this committee. So the charge that the council gave to this committee is consideration of a directly elected mayor within a council-manager form of government.

[2:22:18] Steven Flower: That's very helpful. So it was just there to draw a contrast.