Call to Order
Roll Call

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
This is the opportunity to address the Charter Review Committee. Unless additional time is authorized by the Committee, all commentary shall be limited to three minutes.

SCHEDULED MATTERS

1. Minutes of October 23, 2013
   Re: Approving draft Minutes of the Charter Review Committee Meeting of October 9, 2013.

2. Consideration of City Charter Section 4.1 – Intergovernmental Powers.
   Re: Consideration of amendment to provide greater flexibility.

3. Consideration of City Charter Section 9 pertaining to timing of Municipal Elections.
   Re: Approving proposed language to move City general elections from June of even years to coincide with federal elections in November of even years.

4. Consideration of Section 10 – Time and Place of Council Meetings; Meetings to be Open to Public; Council to Adopt Rules for Conduct of its Own Proceedings.
   Re: Consideration of amendment to provide great flexibility with regard to Council Meeting locations.

5. Consideration of City Charter Section 16 – Vacancies in Office; When Offices Declared Vacant.
   Re: Considering amendment to clarify what "absenting" oneself means.

6. Consideration of City Charter Section 24 – Director of Finance; Payment of Demands; To Check Annual Tax Roll.
   Re: Consideration of amending language pertaining to frequency of reporting.

7. Consideration of City Charter Section 39 – Fiscal Year.
   Re: Consideration of the timing of the fiscal year.

   Re: Considering amendments to ensure compliance with applicable laws.
   Re: Consideration of amending section.

10. Consideration of City Charter Section 48 – Payment of City Money; Expenditures and indebtedness; Presentation of Demands; Warrants on Treasury.
    Re: Consideration of amendments to section to provide clarity.

    Re: Consideration of amendment for consistency with proposed language in Section 24.

    Re: Consideration of amendments, including bidding requirements, definition of public works projects, and approval requirement.

13. Consideration of City Charter Section 62 – Public Improvements
    Re: Consideration of amendments for clarity and consistency.

14. Consideration of City Charter Section 63 – Franchises; Limitation on Renewals.
    Re: Consideration of amendments.

15. Consideration of Committee Member Items of Interest

16. Scheduling of Future Meetings

OTHER MATTERS

ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the California Ralph M. Brown Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, or to be able to access this agenda and documents in the agenda packet, please contact the Office of City Clerk at (559) 782-7464. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting and/or provision of an appropriate alternative format of the agenda and documents in the agenda packet.

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Committee after distribution of the Agenda packets are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Office of City Clerk, 291 North Main Street, Porterville, CA 93257, and on the City's website at www.ci.porterville.ca.us.
Called to Order at 5:34 p.m.
Roll Call: Member Green, Member Irish, Member Salazar, Member Stowe, Chair Bailey
Absent: Member Bush, Member Cortez, Member Hardin, Vice Chair Giraudi

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Barry Caplan, Porterville, inquired about the state of e-mail communications with the public; and requested that the committee consider the number of council members and district elections.

Chair Bailey addressed comments made by Mr. Caplan regarding e-mail communications, stating that the committee has received three e-mails to date.

SCHEDULED MATTERS

1. Minutes of October 9, 2013

Chair Bailey introduced the item. He noted that Luisa Zavala, Deputy City Clerk, had amended the draft minutes to reflect the receipt and distribution of written communications. Mr. Bailey then welcomed a motion or any additional amendments.

COMMITTEE ACTION: MOVED by Vice Chair Giraudi, SECONDED by Member Irish that the Charter Review Committee approve the minutes of October 9, 2013, as amended.

AYES: Green, Irish, Salazar, Bailey
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: Stowe
ABSENT: Bush, Cortez, Hardin, Giraudi

Documentation: M.O. 01-102313
Disposition: Approved, as amended.

2. Consideration of New City Charter Section 67.1, Pertaining to Political Activities

Chair Bailey introduced the item. City Attorney Julia Lew explained that the language proposed for Section 67.1 already existed in the Charter, but that it was being proposed that it be made its own section.

Member Salazar recalled there being a question regarding the definition of working hours, to which Ms. Lew advised that it was best to defer to State law.
COMMITTEE ACTION: MOVED by Member Green, SECONDED by Member Salazar that the City Council approve new Charter Section 67.1 as presented.

AYES: Green, Irish, Salazar, Stowe, Bailey
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Bush, Cortez, Hardin, Giraudi

Documentation: M.O. 02-102313
Disposition: Approved, as presented.

3. Consideration of New City Charter Section 74 – General Penalty

Chair Bailey introduced the item. City Attorney Lew stated that proposed language emphasized the fines and penalties, included civil remedies, recovery of costs when possible, and authorized the Council to implement the section via adoption of ordinances.

A discussion followed regarding the City’s ability to recover certain costs, during which Chair Bailey expressed concern regarding the absence of a general attorney’s fees provision. Member Salazar made a motion to approve the proposed language, which was seconded by Member Irish. In response to Mr. Bailey’s concerns, City Attorney Lew stated that it could be amended to include, “This section constitutes statutory authority for recovery of costs and attorney’s fees.” Ms. Lew noted that it was important to understand that inclusion of the language did not guarantee recovery of the costs. The amendment was accepted by Members Salazar and Irish.

COMMITTEE ACTION: MOVED by Member Salazar, SECONDED by Member Irish that the City Council approve new City Charter Section 74, as amended to include, “This section constitutes statutory authority for recovery of costs and attorney’s fees.”

AYES: Green, Irish, Salazar, Stowe, Bailey
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Bush, Cortez, Hardin, Giraudi

Documentation: M.O. 03-102313
Disposition: Approved, as amended.

4. Consideration of Modifications to Charter Section 9

Chair Bailey introduced the item, and identified a separately elected mayor as the first topic for consideration. Staff addressed questions regarding how separate elections for mayor would work, and a discussion ensued regarding the practicality. Member Salazar requested that the committee explore the process further. She noted
that the spreadsheet provided by staff showed a large number of cities with separately elected mayors, and added that there was public interest to move in that direction. The rest of the committee members spoke in opposition to further consideration.

Administrative Services Director Patrice Hildreth reviewed statistics with regard to voter turnout and agency participation. She advised that the numbers presented were supportive of moving the municipal election to coincide with the federal election, and then addressed questions regarding terms of current members and election costs.

Chair Bailey spoke of the benefits of increased voter turnout and saving money. City Attorney Lew stated that the thinking of the last committee was that voters who turned out solely for municipal elections were focused on city matters.

Member Salazar requested that each item be voted on for consistency, noting that there was no vote following consideration of a separately elected mayor. She also inquired about the need to bring back language regarding timing of elections.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** MOVED by Member Stowe, SECONDED by Chair Bailey that the committee propose no modifications to the Charter pertaining to a separately elected mayor.

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<tr>
<th>AYES:</th>
<th>Irish, Stowe, Bailey</th>
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<td>NOES:</td>
<td>Green, Salazar</td>
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<td>Bush, Cortez, Hardin, Giraudi</td>
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**Documentation: M.O. 04-102313**
**Disposition: No modification.**

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** MOVED by Chair Bailey, SECONDED by Member Stowe that the committee direct staff to bring back draft language consistent with direction to have municipal elections coincide with federal elections.

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<th>AYES:</th>
<th>Green, Irish, Salazar, Stowe, Bailey</th>
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**Documentation: M.O. 05-102313**
**Disposition: Direction given.**

Chair Bailey spoke of varying philosophies with regard to payment of elected officials. Some members argued that a truly civic minded individual would serve the public for free, while other questioned whether higher pay would motivate individuals to serve. A discussion ensued regarding previous failed efforts to raise Council compensation and the likelihood of a raise passing in the current environment.
COMMITTEE ACTION: MOVED by Member Irish, SECONDED by Member Salazar that the committee approve leaving council compensation as is.

AYES: Irish, Salazar, Stowe
NOES: Green, Bailey
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Bush, Cortez, Hardin, Giraudi

Documentation: M.O. 06-102313
Disposition: No modification.

5. Consideration of Modifications to Charter Section 13

Chair Bailey indicated that he had been approached by staff regarding term limits for appointment to committees and commissions. Staff spoke of difficulties associated with filling vacancies and of the Council’s ability to establish term limits through the legislative process via ordinance.

COMMITTEE ACTION: MOVED by Member Irish, SECONDED by Member Green that the committee approve leaving Charter Section 13 as is.

AYES: Green, Irish, Salazar, Stowe, Bailey
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Bush, Cortez, Hardin, Giraudi

Documentation: M.O. 07-102313
Disposition: No modification.

6. Consideration of Modifications to Charter Section 19, Pertaining to Duties of the Mayor

Chair Bailey introduced the item. Member Irish spoke in favor of granting the mayor sole authority to receive and approve all proclamations and ceremonial documents.

A discussion followed regarding the history of the proclamation approval process, and recent changes. Staff indicated that the vast majority of cities grant the authority to the mayor, and that the proclamation itself is ceremonial in nature. Member Green spoke in support of the current process.

COMMITTEE ACTION: MOVED by Member Green, SECONDED by Member Salazar that the committee approve leaving Charter Section 19 as is.
AYES: Green, Salazar, Bailey  
NOES: Irish, Stowe  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Bush, Cortez, Hardin, Giraudi  

Documentation: M.O. 08-102313  
Disposition: No modification.

The committee took a ten minute break at 7:04 p.m.

7. Consideration of New City Charter Section Establishing a Citizens Watch Dog Committee

Chair Bailey introduced the item. Member Green, who had requested the item, stated that while the concept sounded good in theory, he found it to be impractical and difficult to implement.

COMMITTEE ACTION: MOVED by Member Green, SECONDED by Member Irish that the Committee round file the proposed new City Charter section establishing a citizens watch dog committee.

AYES: Green, Irish, Salazar, Stowe, Bailey  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Bush, Cortez, Hardin, Giraudi  

Documentation: M.O. 09-102313  
Disposition: No modification.

8. Staff Report Regarding SB7 (New Legislation Affecting Charter Cities Regarding Prevailing Wages)

Staff provided the committee with an informational report about new litigation pertaining to prevailing wages, and addressed questions regarding the types of projects affected and the need to establish prevailing wages for the central valley.

Documentation: None.  
Disposition: Information only.

9. Consideration of Committee Member Items of Interest

Chair Bailey welcomed items of interest from the committee. The following items were suggested:

Member Salazar: City Charter Section 39 – Fiscal Year  
City Charter Section 4.1 – Intergovernmental Powers (if not already taken care of)
Member Salazar also requested clarification regarding committee reports at Council meetings and Council’s response to the committee’s punt regarding pension reform. Staff indicated that the committee had the opportunity to report, but was not required to or given direction to.

City Attorney Lew:  
City Charter Section 48 – Payment of City Money; Expenditures and Indebtedness; Presentation of Demands; Warrants on Treasury.

Chair Bailey:  
City Charter Section 9 Pertaining to timing of Municipal Elections  
City Charter Section 16 – Vacancies in Office; When Offices Declared Vacant  
City Charter Section 24 – Director of Finance; Payment of Demands; To Check Annual Tax Roll  
City Charter Sections 40 through 45 pertaining to Tax Provisions  
City Charter Section 47 – Application of Surplus Bond Money  
City Charter Section 49 – Monthly Financial Reports Required  
City Charter Section 61 – Competitive Bidding for Contract Work for Erection, Improvement and Repair of Public Buildings, Etc., Where the Amount of in Excess of Five Thousand Dollars  
City Charter Section 62 – Public Improvements  
City Charter Section 63 – Franchises; Limitation on Renewals

Member Irish:  
City Charter Section 10 – Time and Place of Council Meetings; Meetings to be Open to Public; Council to Adopt Rules for Conduct of its Own Proceedings.

Disposition:  Items added to next agenda by consensus.

10. Scheduling of Future Meetings

The committee reviewed the timeline, and without objection, Chair Bailey set the next meeting for November 6, 2013. City Manager Lollis communicated Mr. Hardin’s request to change the meeting day.

Disposition:  Meeting scheduled.

OTHER MATTERS
None
ADJOURNMENT
The Committee adjourned at 7:54 p.m. to the meeting of November 6, 2013.

_______________________________
Luisa M. Zavala, Deputy City Clerk

_______________________________
Allan Bailey, Chair
TO: Porterville Charter Review Committee  
Cc: John Lollis, City Manager  
FROM: Julia M. Lew, City Attorney  
DATE: October 31, 2013  
SUBJ: City Charter Section 4.1 – Intergovernmental Powers

The following item is scheduled for consideration per the direction of the Committee (and staff’s request). Staff would like the Committee to consider a modification to expand the City’s powers to clarify that it includes Indian Tribes. This office also recommends clarifying that special districts are included as well.

The current Charter Section reads as follows:

Sec. 4.1. Intergovernmental Powers.  
The City may exercise and perform any of its functions and may participate in the financing thereof, jointly or in cooperation, by agreement or otherwise, with any one or more states or any agency of California, or any governmental jurisdiction or nonprofit corporation thereof, or the United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities. (3-4-03)

The proposed Charter Section is as follows:

Sec. 4.1. Intergovernmental Powers.  
The City may exercise and perform any of its functions and may participate in the financing thereof, jointly or in cooperation, by agreement or otherwise, with any one or more states or any agency of California; any special district; or any governmental jurisdiction, including Indian Tribes, or nonprofit corporation thereof; or the United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities.
TO: Porterville Charter Review Committee  
Cc: John Lollis, City Manager  
FROM: Julia M. Lew, City Attorney  
DATE: October 31, 2013  
SUBJ: City Charter Section 9 (Timing of Election)  

Per the direction of the Charter Review Committee, the following is draft language for the above-referenced Section. This edits reflect all proposed changes recommended by the Committee (so far).

Sec. 9 Legislative Body; Composition; Election; Term; Compensation; Ineligibility for Other City Office; President of the Council; Vice-President; Installation of Newly Elected Officer; Powers to be Exercised by Council.

The legislative body of the city shall consist of five persons elected at large, which body shall be known as the council.

The members of the council shall be elected by the qualified voters of the city at a general municipal election to be held in the said city at the same time as the primary election for state federal offices for the state of California. They shall hold office for the period of four (4) years from and after the date upon which they are installed in office in accordance with this section and/or until their successors are elected and installed in office.

The members of the council shall each receive the sum of twenty dollars ($20.00) for each council meeting actually attended; the mayor shall receive the sum of twenty-five dollars ($25.00) for each meeting of the council actually attended, provided, however, that the members of the council shall not receive compensation for more than seven meetings in any one calendar month. In addition, the council shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred for authorized city business.

The members of the council shall not be eligible to any other office or employment with the city.

The council shall reorganize at the meeting following each municipal election wherein the newly-elected members are installed and shall choose one of its number to serve as president of the council to be known as mayor. At
this time, the council shall also choose one of its number to serve as vice-

president, and he/she shall act as mayor pro tempore in case of the

absence, sickness or other disability of the mayor. The mayor and mayor

pro tempore shall serve a two year term, but either may be removed at any
time by a four fifths (4/5) vote of the council. If the council removes the

mayor prior to the expiration of his/her term pursuant to this provision, the
council shall choose one of its number to serve as mayor until the next
organizational meeting.

Where the canvass of the vote is to be completed by the city elections
official, the canvas shall be completed no later than the fourth Friday after
the election. Upon completion of the canvass, the elections official shall
certify the results to the city council, which shall meet at its usual place of
meeting no later than the fourth Friday after the election to declare the
results and to install the newly elected officers. For a consolidated election,
the city elections official, upon receipt of the results of the election from the
elections official conducting the election, shall certify the results to the city
council, which shall meet at its usual place of meeting no later than the next
regularly scheduled city council meeting following the presentation of the
canvass of the returns, or at a special meeting called for this purpose, to
declare the results and to install the newly elected officers.

All powers granted to and vested in the city of Porterville by law or by the
provisions of this charter, shall, except as herein otherwise provided, be
exercised by the council to be designated the “Council of the City of
Porterville.” The council shall be the governing body of the city and subject
to the express limitations of this charter shall be vested with all powers
necessary or convenient for a complete and adequate system of municipal
government, consistent with the constitution of the state.
TO: Porterville Charter Review Committee
Cc: John Lollis, City Manager

FROM: Julia M. Lew, City Attorney

DATE: November 1, 2013

SUBJ: City Charter Section 10 (Place of City Council Meetings)

This item is on the agenda per the direction of the Charter Review Committee, and at the request of City staff. Staff requests that the Charter Review Committee consider modifying the language to allow for more flexibility as to where regular City Council meetings may be held.

Current Section 10 of the Charter reads as follows:

Sec. 10. Time and place of council meetings; meetings to be open to public; council to adopt rules for conduct of its own proceedings.

The council shall provide by ordinance for the time and place of holding its meetings. Special meetings shall be called in accordance with the provisions of general law. There shall be at least one (1) regular meeting in each month. Any regular meeting may be adjourned to a date and hour certain, and such adjourned meeting shall be a regular meeting for all purposes. (4-2-63; 3-4-03)

Except for special meetings with the legislative bodies of other political subdivisions, or informational meetings held within the community where no action is to be taken, all meetings of the council shall be held in the city hall, unless by reason of fire, flood, or other disaster, or lack of seating capacity, the city hall cannot be used for that purpose, and all meetings shall be open to the public. The council shall adopt rules for conducting its proceedings and may punish its members or other persons present at any meeting for disorderly conduct. (4-2-63; 3-4-03)

Amendment note—The first paragraph of § 10 was amended April 6, 1971, by changing the manner of calling special meetings. Formerly the council provided by ordinance “the manner in which its special meetings may be called.” The second paragraph of § 10 was amended March 4, 2003 to allow meeting outside city hall.

Staff proposes modifications as follows:
Sec. 10. Time and place of council meetings; meetings to be open to public; council to adopt rules for conduct of its own proceedings.

The council shall provide by ordinance for the time and place of holding its meetings. Special meetings shall be called in accordance with the provisions of general law. There shall be at least one (1) regular meeting in each month. Any regular meeting may be adjourned to a date and hour certain, and such adjourned meeting shall be a regular meeting for all purposes. (4-6-71)

Except for special meetings with the legislative bodies of other political subdivisions, or informational meetings held within the community where no action is to be taken, all meetings of the council shall be held in-the-city-hall at or on city-owned facilities, unless by reason of fire, flood, or other disaster, or lack of seating capacity, the city hall facilities cannot be used for that purpose, and all meetings shall be open to the public. The council shall adopt rules for conducting its proceedings and may punish its members or other persons present at any meeting for disorderly conduct.
TO: Porterville Charter Review Committee
Cc: John Lollis, City Manager

FROM: Julia M. Lew, City Attorney

DATE: November 1, 2013

SUBJ: City Charter Section16 (City Council Member Vacancies)

This item is on the agenda per the request and direction of the Charter Review Committee. Concerns were expressed concerning the use of the phrase “if any legislative officer of the city shall remove from the city of absent himself/herself therefrom…. .”

Current Section 16 of the Charter reads as follows:

Sec. 16. Vacancies in office; when offices declared vacant. A vacancy in any legislative office, from whatever cause arising excluding any vacancy created due to a successful recall election, shall be filled by appointment by the council, such appointee to hold office until the next general municipal election, when a successor shall be chosen by the electors for the unexpired term; provided, that if the council fails to agree or for any other reason does not fill such vacancy within thirty days after the same occurs, then such vacancy shall be filled by the mayor; provided, however, that if for any reason the seats of a majority of the council shall become vacant, then the city clerk shall call a special election at once to fill the vacancies for the unexpired terms, and the same shall be conducted substantially in the manner provided for general municipal elections. (3-4-03)

If any legislative officer of the city shall remove from the city or absent himself/herself therefrom for more than thirty (30) days consecutively without permission of the council, or for said period shall willfully fail or refuse to perform the duties of his office, though able so to do, or shall fail to qualify, or shall resign, or be convicted of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude, or be adjudged mentally incompetent, his/her office shall thereupon become vacant. (3-4-03)

Staff will review examples from other cities and provide these for discussion purposes at the time of the meeting.
MCCORMICK KABOT JENNER & LEW
MEMORANDUM

TO: Porterville Charter Review Committee
Cc: John Lollis, City Manager

FROM: Julia M. Lew, City Attorney

DATE: November 1, 2013

SUBJ: City Charter Section 24 (Frequency of Financial Reports)

This item is on the agenda per the request and direction of the Charter Review Committee, due to the request of staff. The City Council has been requiring quarterly financial reports, instead of the required monthly reports. Staff proposes the following changes to Section 24 of the Charter:

Sec. 24. Director of finance; payment of demands; to check annual tax roll.

The city manager shall appoint the director of finance of the city, who shall serve as the general accountant of the city. He/she shall receive and preserve in his office all accounts, books, vouchers, documents and papers relating to the accounts of the city, its debts, revenues and other financial affairs. He/she shall keep an account of all moneys paid into and out of the treasury, and keep informed as to the exact condition of the treasury at all times. (4-6-71)

Every demand upon the treasury, before its approval by the council, must be presented to the director of finance, who shall satisfy himself/herself whether the money is legally due, and its payment authorized by law. If satisfactory, he/she shall draw a warrant upon the treasury for the payment thereof. Every demand approved by the director of finance shall specify on its face the several items composing it, with the amounts and dates thereof. The approval of the council shall not be necessary to draw warrants for the payment of regular salaries of officials and employees of the city, or for payment of any obligation previously authorized by law, or by resolution or order of the council. (4-6-71)

He/she shall render, each-month on at least a quarterly basis, a statement to the council showing the financial condition of the city, and annually a like statement covering all of the financial transactions of the city during the year previous.

After the annual tax roll has been completed, and before it is deposited with the collector, the director of finance shall make a check of the roll correcting any errors that may be found and endorse same with his/her approval. (4-6-71; 3-4-03)

Amendment note—The first, second and fourth paragraphs of § 24 were amended April 6, 1971. Formerly the auditor was the general accountant of the city who performed the duties set out in the section.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6
This item is on the agenda per the request and direction of the Charter Review Committee, originally due to the request of staff. However, in light of the proposal by the Committee to change the election date to coincide with the federal general elections, staff recommends that no changes be made to this section.

For the Committee's information, Section 39 reads as follows:

Sec. 39. Fiscal year.
The fiscal year of the city shall commence on the first day of July of each year, or at such other time as may be fixed by ordinance. (3-4-03)
TO: Charter Review Committee  
FROM: Michael Maurer, Deputy City Attorney  
DATE: November 1, 2013  
SUBJ: Comments on Tax Provisions of Charter (§§ 40-45)

The following is our office’s review and analysis of the tax provisions of the existing charter. Each section is set forth in full followed by our comments. Sections 41 and 43 are not discussed because they have previously been repealed.

Sec. 40. Taxation to Conform To General Laws Of The State.

Except as otherwise herein provided the council shall, by ordinance, provide a system for the assessment, equalization, levy, and collection of taxes, which, as nearly as may be, shall conform to the system provided by the general laws of the state; provided, that all sales for delinquent taxes shall be made to the City of Porterville. Should the council fail to fix the tax rate within the time prescribed, then the tax rate of the previous year shall constitute the rate for the current year.

COMMENTS: The City is in compliance with the first part because the Municipal Code incorporates the state Revenue and Taxation Code and establishes the rules for other City taxes. The City should continue to provide the authority to establish the tax system by ordinance. It should be noted that under Propositions 13, 218, and 26, the City cannot establish a tax by ordinance. Any new or increased taxes would still need voter approval.

The second sentence is preempted by state law. To the extent it is not preempted, it is redundant to Section 45 below. To avoid confusion we recommend that it be eliminated.

The third sentence is preempted by state law as far as it applies to general property taxes. However, the City could issue a different general or special tax that would be fixed annually – for example by deciding whether or not to institute an approved escalator. We recommend leaving this sentence in place.

Sec. 42. Annual Tax Levy To Be Affixed.

The council, not later than its second regular meeting in August, shall fix a rate of taxation sufficient to raise the amounts established by council action pursuant to Section 44. The council shall notify the county assessor who shall thereupon compute and carry out the amount of tax so levied on each parcel of property contained in the assessment roll for the city. (4-6-1971; 3-4-2003).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8
COMMENTS: This section only applies to special taxes, which the council might have the authority to annually set the rate, depending on the tax. Therefore this should remain in place. Note that under Section 40 any failure to fix the rate will result in the previous year’s rate.

Sec. 44. Limitation On Special Tax Levies; Enumeration Of Purpose For Which Special Taxes May Be Levied.

The council shall have the power to levy and collect taxes, in addition to the taxes herein or by general law authorized to be levied and collected, sufficient to pay and maintain the sinking fund of the bonded indebtedness of the city; and for the following purposes: (4-6-1971);

(a) For the support and maintenance of the fire department, for fire protection purposes, at the rate of not more than three miles on each dollar of the assessed valuation of the real and personal property within the city; (4-6-1971);

(b) For the acquisition, construction and maintenance, as the case may be, of permanent public improvements, of real property, of public buildings and structures, and of public offices, including equipping and furnishing the same, at the rate of not more than two mills on each dollar thereof;

(c) For the maintenance and support of free public libraries and reading rooms in said city, at the rate of not more than two mills on each dollar thereof;

(d) For the maintenance and support of free public parks and playgrounds in said city, at the rate of not more than two mills on each dollar thereof;

(e) For music, entertainment and promotion, at the rate of not more than one mill on each dollar thereof. (2-5-1935; 4-5-1949);

COMMENTS: This section limits the City’s ability to pass special taxes. The committee may want to reconsider this section in light of Proposition 218, which requires 2/3 voter approval to pass a special tax. Thus, the council does not necessarily have the power to levy taxes. Given that a special tax now needs a significant majority, the committee may want to consider eliminating any charter limitations. Ultimately, any special tax outside the scope of this chapter would require the voters to approve both a charter amendment and the tax itself. But if the taxed passed with a supermajority, the charter amendment would likely pass as well, since it only needs a simple majority. To be clear, we are not recommending eliminating this section, but merely pointing out that the law has changed since it the section was adopted.

If the section remains as written it will not obviate the need for voter approval, but the section will continue to effectively limit the ability to impose special taxes without a future charter amendment.

Sec. 45. Taxes And Assessments To Constitute A Lien; Foreclosure.

All taxes and assessments levied, together with any percentages imposed for delinquency and cost of collection, shall constitute liens on the property assessed; every tax upon the personal property shall be a lien upon the real property of the owner thereof. The liens provided for in
this section shall attach as of the first Monday in March each year and may be enforced by actions to foreclose such liens in any court of competent jurisdiction, or by a sale of the property affected and the execution and delivery of all necessary certificates and deeds therefore, under such regulations as may be prescribed by ordinance; provided that when real estate is offered for sale for city taxes due thereon the same shall be sold to the city in like case and manner, and with like effect and right of redemption as it may be struck off and sold to the state when offered for sale for county taxes; and the council shall have power to provide by ordinance for the procedure to be followed in such sales to the city and redemption thereafter.

**COMMENTS:** This section is redundant to general law, which provides the City with rights of sale and redemption for tax defaulted property. However, we recommend adding a provision that indicates that this section is cumulative to any rights and remedies the City may have under the general laws relating to the enforcement and collection of taxes and assessments.
TO: Porterville Charter Review Committee  
Cc: John Lollis, City Manager  
FROM: Julia M. Lew, City Attorney  
DATE: November 1, 2013  
SUBJ: City Charter Section 47 (Application of Surplus Bond Money)  

This item is on the agenda per the request and direction of the Charter Review Committee, due to the request of staff. However, staff reviewed this section with the City Finance Director and has determined that no changes are recommended.

For the Committee’s information the current Section reads as follows:

Sec. 47. Application of surplus bond money.  
All moneys derived from the sale of bonds, including premiums and accrued interest, shall be applied to the purposes for which the bonds were voted. After such purposes have been fully completed and paid for, any remaining surplus shall be transferred to the bond and interest redemption fund.
§ 45. Taxes and assessments to constitute a lien; foreclosure.

All taxes and assessments levied, together with any percentages imposed for delinquency and cost of collection, shall constitute liens on the property assessed; every tax upon the personal property shall be a lien upon the real property of the owner thereof. The liens provided for in this section shall attach as of the first Monday in March each year and may be enforced by actions to foreclose such liens in any court of competent jurisdiction, or by a sale of the property affected and the execution and delivery of all necessary certificates and deeds therefor, under such regulations as may be prescribed by ordinance; provided, that when real estate is offered for sale for city taxes due thereon the same shall be sold to the city in like case and manner, and with like effect and right of redemption as it may be struck off and sold to the state when offered for sale for county taxes; and the council shall have power to provide by ordinance for the procedure to be followed in such sales to the city and redemption thereafter.

§ 46. Disposition of city money.

All moneys collected for the city by any officer or department thereof shall be paid into the treasury daily if possible, and at least once each week.

§ 47. Application of surplus bond money.

All moneys derived from the sale of bonds, including premiums and accrued interest, shall be applied to the purposes for which the bonds were voted. After such purposes have been fully completed and paid for, any remaining surplus shall be transferred to the bond and interest redemption fund.

§ 48. Payment of city money; expenditures and indebtedness; presentation of demands; warrants on treasury.

No money shall be expended and no indebtedness shall be incurred on behalf of the city, for any purpose, unless and Supp. No. 3, Rev.
§ 48 PORTERVILLE CITY CODE § 48

until the same shall have been authorized by ordinance, resolution or order of the council. Any expenditure, purchase, or indebtedness to be made or incurred of $500.00 or more, shall first require specific council authorization except as otherwise provided for in this Charter.

All demands against the city shall, before being paid, be presented to and approved by the proper board, commission or officer, as herein provided. Demands for which no appropriation has been made shall be presented to the city manager, provided, that any person dissatisfied with the refusal of the city manager to approve any demand, in whole or in part, may present the same to the council, and the approval of such demand by the council shall have the same effect as its approval by the city manager; and provided further, that if the council shall provide for other boards or commissions, it may make provision for the presentation to and approval by any such board or commission of demands for liabilities incurred by them.

The council may provide for a revolving petty cash fund of not more than three hundred dollars to be paid to the city manager, and used by him for the payment in cash, of expenditures provided for in the budgets that cannot conveniently be paid otherwise. He shall account to the council for all payments by him out of said fund when making demand for the replenishment of the same, and at such other times as the council may require, and they shall thereupon be charged against the proper appropriations.

All demands approved by the proper board, commission or officer shall be presented to the director of finance, who shall examine the same, and if the amount thereof is legally due and there remains on his books an unexhausted balance or an appropriation against which the same may be charged, he shall approve such demand and draw and sign his warrant on the treasurer therefor, payable out of the proper fund. Objections of the director of finance to any demand may be overruled by the council, and the director of finance shall Supp. No. 3, Rev.
thereupon draw his warrant as directed by the council. Such warrants, when presented to the treasurer, shall be paid by him out of the fund therein designated, if there be sufficient money in such fund for that purpose. A warrant not paid for lack of funds shall be registered, and all registered warrants shall be paid in the order of registration when funds are available therefor; all such registered warrants shall bear interest at the rate of six per cent per annum. The director of finance shall draw his warrants for payment of municipal or other bonds payable out of the funds in the treasury upon presentation and surrender of the proper bonds or coupons without approval of anybody or officer. The council may make further regulations by ordinance regarding the presentation, approval and payment of demands against the city.

Amendment note—Section 48 was amended April 6, 1971, to read as set out. The second sentence was added to the first paragraph. Provisions relating to demands against the library and park funds were eliminated in the second paragraph. The petty cash fund, in the third paragraph, was increased from $100.00 to $300.00. In the fourth paragraph the director of finance was substituted in lieu of the city auditor.

Sec. 49. Monthly financial reports required.

All officers required by this Charter or by ordinance to submit monthly financial reports to the council, shall submit the same in duplicate, and upon their approval by the council, one of each of such duplicate reports shall be posted forthwith in the office of the city clerk in such manner as to be readily accessible to the public, and shall remain so posted until the approval by the council of the next succeeding financial report when the same procedure shall be followed in relation thereto. The council, in addition to such posting, may, in its discretion, cause any of such reports to be published at any time.

Sec. 50. Approving illegal claims to forfeit office.

Every officer who shall wilfully approve, allow or pay, any demand on the treasury not authorized by law, shall be liable to the city individually and on his official bond for the Supp. No. 3
TO: Porterville Charter Review Committee
Cc: John Lollis, City Manager

FROM: Julia M. Lew, City Attorney

DATE: November 4, 2013

SUBJ: City Charter Section 49 (Frequency of Financial Reports)

This item is on the agenda per the request and direction of the Charter Review Committee, due to the request of staff. If Section 24 is modified to reflect that the reports will be provided to the City Council at least on a quarterly basis (instead of monthly basis), this section should be modified to reflect that change.

For the Committee’s information the modified Section could read as follows:

Sec. 49. Monthly Quarterly financial reports required.

All officers required by this Charter or by ordinance to submit monthly quarterly financial reports to the council, shall submit the same in duplicate, and upon their approval by the council, one of each of such duplicate reports shall be posted forthwith in the office of the city clerk in such manner as to be readily accessible to the public, and shall remain so posted until the approval by the council of the next succeeding financial report when the same procedure shall be followed in relation thereto. The council, in addition to such posting, may, in its discretion, cause any of such reports to be published at any time.
TO: Porterville Charter Review Committee  
Cc: John Lollis, City Manager  
FROM: Julia M. Lew, City Attorney  
DATE: November 4, 2013  
SUBJ: City Charter Section 61 (Public Project Bidding)

This item is on the agenda per the request and direction of the Charter Review Committee, due to the request of staff. Public Works and other staff have requested that the Committee consider increasing the bid limit from $5,000.00 to at least $25,000.00 and clarify that the City retains the right, no matter the cost, to do work with its own forces. Staff requests that the Committee consider broadening the emergency provisions of Section 61 to include threats affecting the health and safety of City residents.

Some proposed changes are included in the Section below as a starting point for consideration by the Committee:

Sec. 61. Competitive bidding for contract work for erection, improvement and repair of public buildings, etc., where the amount estimated contract cost is in excess of five thousand twenty-five thousand dollars.

When the City determines to contract for work for a public project, and the cost estimate for said work exceeds twenty-five thousand dollars, it shall be contracted for and let to the lowest responsible bidder after notice. (4-6-71)

As used in this section public project means a project for the erection, improvement and repair of public buildings and works; work in or about streams, embankments, or other work for protection against overflow; street sewer work except maintenance or repair; furnishing supplies or materials for any such project, including maintenance or repair of streets, sewers or water lines.

The council may reject any or all bids presented and may, at its discretion, readvertise for other bids, or, the council may, after rejecting bids, determine and declare by a four-fifths (4/5) vote of all of its members that the work in question may be more economically or satisfactorily performed by day labor, or the labor or materials purchased at a lower price in the open market and after the adoption of a resolution to this effect it may proceed to have the same done in the manner stated without further observance of the foregoing provisions of this section.

The notice inviting sealed bids shall set a date for the opening of bids; the first publication shall be at least ten (10) days before the date of the opening of the bids; shall
be published at least twice not less than five (5) days apart in the official newspaper selected by the council.

In case of a great public calamity, such as an extraordinary fire, flood, storm, epidemic or other disaster, or in the case of circumstances resulting in a serious threat to public health and/or safety, the council may, by resolution passed by a vote of four-fifths (4/5) of its members, determine and declare that the public interest or necessity demands the immediate expenditure of public money to safeguard life, health, or property, and thereupon they may proceed without advertising for bids or receiving the same, to expend, or enter into a contract involving the expenditure of any money required in such emergency, on hand in the city treasury and available for such purpose. (4-10-61)

The City reserves the right to perform any public project or make or repair any public property or improvement using its own forces, regardless of cost.

Amendment note—The first paragraph of § 61 was amended April 6, 1971 by increasing the amount from $2,500.00 to $5,000.00.
The Charter Cities Information was updated on Dec. 13, 2012

Click here for SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA charter cities.

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**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

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Pipe Bursting May Bust Ross Valley's Budget... Violating the Law is Expensive...

The Ross Valley Sanitation District (RVSD) has failed to answer CIFAC Executive Director Cathryn Hilliard's letter telling them that they must competitively bid sewer line replacement work that exceeds $15,000 in value. Hilliard and Marin Builders Association representative Casey Mazzioli spoke at two hearings of the Board in June and July of 2011. They told the RVSD Board that if they were to proceed as suggested by their former General Manager, they could face a costly legal challenge. Read more...

New Force Account Limits Increase Inquiries

Communicating and understanding the changes in the California Public Contract Code appear to be...
CIFAC - Charter Cities Information

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UCON Magazine (May 2013): CIFAC Fights with Charter Cities; Keeping Public Works Public

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* these cities do not have a link to additional charter information