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# City Freeholders Prune, Polish Up Charter Sections

With only three committee members present, out of more than 90 who worked on various sections of the proposed new city charter, Watsonville freeholders Tuesday night made excellent time as they polished up their new city government model before presenting it to the public Feb. 18.

In buffing out some excess wordage and tightening up a few loose joints, freeholders made no major changes in the machinery designed to be run by a city manager, under the guidance of a mayor and six councilmen.

Highlight of the session at Veterans Memorial hall was payment to charter consultant Allen Grimes of the first \$500 of his \$2,500 fee.

Grimes was given the down payment by Bob Petersen, chairman of a committee of the junior chamber of commerce, which went out to raise Grimes' fee after city aldermen refused to pay it.

"You've certainly earned your pay," said Petersen, in turning over the check. He said the junior chamber felt the freeholders should have the best advice available, regardless of whether the members agreed with the charter that resulted.

Petersen said the chamber had all but about \$450 of the fee on hand, in cash; that the balance had been pledged, and that Grimes would have his full \$2,500 "very shortly."

"I never doubted for a minute that I would get paid," said the smiling Grimes. "In this government business you have to have confidence in human nature."

Tuesday's meeting all but wound up the work of the freeholders. They will be on hand to answer questions about the charter at the public hearing set for 7:30 p.m. Feb. 18 at the E. A. Hall school auditorium. They will meet again Feb. 21 to make any changes that might result from points raised at the hearing. On Feb. 28 they will present the final product to the city clerk, who will present it to the board of aldermen to call an election. Freeholders hope to have the charter election combined with the regular city election May 9.

They voted to send a copy of this time schedule to aldermen, with the object of avoiding any conflict in timing.

(This newspaper will publish a complete copy of the proposed charter next Monday, in preparation for the public hearing the following Friday.)

Freeholder Gerald Marcus raised one last question Tuesday night on the section which calls for the city to advertise for bids on any contract involving an expense of more than \$1,250. Marcus said it was possible the city never would get the work or materials if only one or two firms bid and their prices were out of line with the estimates.

From the audience, Ted Taylor, Granite Construction Co. manager, pointed out the \$1,250 bid limit applied only to formal contracts. There was nothing in the charter to prohibit the city from doing any project itself

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## Aldermen Turn Down Fee Again

Final attempt to get the city to help pay the fee of the consultant to the board of freeholders was rejected Tuesday night by a 4-4 vote of the board of aldermen.

Earl Callender, acting as a "disinterested citizen" who felt that anything pertaining to the city was a justifiable expense of the city, asked aldermen to consider allocating \$445 for this purpose. The junior chamber of commerce already has raised \$2,055 of the \$2,500 needed through public subscription.

Callender said he had been asked to make the request as chairman of the public and business affairs committee of the Kiwanis club. "I hold no brief for anyone, don't represent anyone," he said. "I don't like criticism, but feel that lots of times these things can be smoothed over by compromise."

"This deal is larger than any group of people," he said.

He thought perhaps the \$2,500 originally asked was too large for the aldermen to consider; but that they might be willing to take part in payment to the consultant, Allen Grimes of Modesto, with the comparatively small amount of \$445.


His appeal brought a motion from alderman John Eastman after aldermen individually expressed their attitude on the request.

Eastman, Louis Gluhan, F. B. Lewis and Stan Silverstone voted in favor of the payment. Mayor W. J. C. Ramsay, C. Vincent Anderson, Glenn Spencer and Howard Ditlevsen voted against.

Ramsay said "I don't feel like giving them any money for this consultant." He contended freeholders had gone ahead with plans to hire the consultant without consulting with the board of aldermen. A precedent had been set two or three years ago during the Jamison report considerations when a \$375 bill was turned down because it had not been taken up with the board in advance. He also claimed that during the campaign for election of freeholders it had been promised that two, possibly three, forms of charters would be prepared, but now only one was to be presented.

Anderson said "I am not in favor of allocating anything to help pay Mr. Grimes as a consultant." He said a statement had been made that preparation of a new charter would not cost the taxpayers any money. "As far as I am concerned I am not in favor of charging up anything

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**WHO WOULDN'T SMILE FOR \$500?**—Allen Grimes, left, Modesto city attorney and charter consultant for the Watsonville board of freeholders, received a \$500 down payment on his \$2,500 fee Tuesday night from Bob Petersen, right, of the junior chamber of commerce. Petersen said the JC had raised all but some \$450 of the fee in cash, in a subscription campaign after the board of aldermen refused to help out the freeholders. Aldermen again Tuesday night refused to pony up the balance, in a 4-4 split. Petersen said the \$450 had been pledged, however, and Grimes would receive his whole \$2,500 "very shortly."