



**2018 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2017**

The 2018 Charter Review Commission convened in a regular meeting on Monday, November 13, 2017, Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Room 1029, Austin, Texas.

The City Clerk called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Borgelt
Commissioner Lewis
Commissioner Hersh
Commission Martinez-Moncada
Commissioner Musselman

Commissioner Palvino
Commissioner Smith
Commissioner Ward
Commissioner Weigand

Commissioners Authur and Cotera were absent

Staff in Attendance:

Jerikay Gayle, Law Department
Jannette Goodall, City Clerk's Office
Lynn Carter, Law Department

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There were no citizens who registered to speak.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of minutes from November 6, 2017

The minutes of the November 6, 2017 meeting were approved on Commissioner Borgelt's motion, Commissioner Smith's second on a 9-0 vote.

3. OLD BUSINESS

The Commission may discuss and take action on the following agenda items:

a) Nomination and election of Commission Chair

A motion to nominate Commissioner Lewis as Chair was made by Commissioner Borgelt. Commissioner Lewis declined the nomination.

This item was postponed to November 27, 2017 on Commissioner Hersh's motion, Commissioner Smith's second on a 9-0 vote.

b) Nomination and election of Commission Vice-Chair

This item was postponed to November 27, 2017 on Commissioner Hersh's motion, Commissioner Smith's second on a 9-0 vote.

- c) Future meeting dates

The Commission agreed that November 27, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. would be the next scheduled meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

The Commission may discuss and take action on the following agenda items:

- A. Staff briefing on the Zimmerman lawsuit relating to campaign finance.

A memorandum from City Attorney Anne Morgan was distributed to Commissioners giving a status update on the Zimmerman lawsuit. Lynn Carter, Staff Attorney with the Law Department, provided additional briefing on the Zimmerman lawsuit as it relates to campaign finance issues.

- B. Discussion of campaign finance.

Discussion occurred, with no action being taken.

- C. Discussion and identification of additional Charter sections which the Commission is interested in exploring.

The following areas were identified:

- **More staff independence of the City Manager (See attachment)**
 - **Transfer Oversight of the City Attorney's office to the Council.**
 - **Transfer budget development and financial oversight to an independent body under the Council.**
 - **Adopt budget participatory and transparency provisions so the budget is more transparent and there is more participation.**
 - **Create an independent Commission Staffing Office, whose staff serves Commission members and not the City Manager.**
 - **Create an independent Ethics Commission that enforces ethics, lobbyist disclosure, campaign finance, and conflict of interest independent of city attorney, city manager, and Council.**
- **Increase Council oversight of the City Manager and staff (See attachment)**
 - **Council legislative oversight functions.**
 - **Auditor and Implementation Compliance**
 - **Apex Staff Oversight**
- **Ethics and Campaign Finance (See attachment)**
 - **Council and staff may not take gifts**
 - **Quasi-Governmental entities receiving public monies may not spend public funds to influence elections.**
 - **Enhanced public campaign financing system**
 - **Independent Citizen Redistricting Commission**
 - **Provide citizens standing in municipal court to remove commission members who are disqualified from service.**
- **Protect valid petition rights for rezoning (See attachment)**
- **Petition requirements**

- **Strong Mayor Form of Government**
- **Making the Charter language gender neutral**

Direction was given to staff to reach out to the Ethics Review Commission (ERC) to inquire on recommendations from the ERC on campaign finance and to provide any insight on the justification for Council establishing a one-year campaign fundraising period.

D. Discussion of staff recommendation for corrections of clerical matters, routine harmonizing, and clarification of verbiage.

Jerikay Gayle and Jannette Goodall provided staff recommendations for corrections of clerical matters, routine harmonizing, and clarification of verbiage (see attachments).

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Commission may discuss and identify future agenda items, topics or presentations.

In addition to the topics listed under item 4C, the Commission will discuss establishing working groups and time frames for selected topics.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m. without objection.