

2024 Staff Proposed Charter Amendments

City Council Briefing

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This Briefing Will Cover:

- Process
- Substantive Staff Recommendations from the following Departments:
 - Economic Development
 - Planning
 - City Clerk
 - Financial Services
 - City Auditor
 - Law
- Timeline Moving Forward



Process

- Parallel review process to Charter Review Commission (CRC) beginning in August 2023
- City departments evaluated the charter and recommended revisions: both substantive and non-substantive
- Non-substantive revisions:
 - deletion of legacy/transitional text;
 - updates for changes in law and references to controlling state law; and
 - updates based on current practices since the time of the charter's adoption.



Substantive Staff Recommendations

- **Disposition of City Property** – Add language to allow the City to implement procedures for the disposal of salvage or surplus property.
Economic Development Dept
- **Annexation** – Amend language related to landowner consent and limited purpose annexations to harmonize with state law. *Planning Dept*
- **Redistricting:**
 - Clarify meaning of “independent” in reference to the ICRC;
 - Permit redrawing of districts following annexation or disannexation;
 - Create an effective date for new district lines;



Substantive Staff Recommendations

- **Redistricting (cont.):**

- Update process for selecting members of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission and filling commission vacancies;
- Allow commission and staff to communicate with or receive redistricting information outside of a commission meeting. TOMA will still apply.

- **Elections:** *City Clerk*

- Set election date for a special election to fill a council vacancy to align with state law;
- Revise deadline for ballot applications and add references to petition in lieu of filing fee in accordance with state law;



Substantive Staff Recommendations

- **Elections (cont.):**
 - Align publication of campaign contribution limits by January first instead of with the adoption of the budget in August;
 - Remove campaign fundraising time restrictions and disgorgement requirements to comply with Fifth Circuit case law;
- **City Council:**
 - Remove language setting weekly council meetings to reflect current meeting schedule.



Substantive Staff Recommendations

- **Municipal Court:**
 - Update resign-to-run requirements for municipal court judges to align with Texas Constitution.
- **Finance:** *Financial Services Dept*
 - Remove language inconsistent with GAAP principles;
 - Remove requirement for departments to submit annual work programs;
 - Revise purchase procedures to reflect best practices and create efficiency;
 - Increase manager's spending authority to \$150,000;



Substantive Staff Recommendations

- **Personnel:**

- Remove appointees and employees of the Auditor's Office from Municipal Civil Service requirements; *City Auditor*
- Revise retirement system language to refer to controlling state law.
Financial Services Dept/HRD

- **General Provisions:**

- Remove requirement for a notarized affidavit to file a claim against the City



Timeline Moving Forward

- **April**: Brief Council on staff and CRC recommendations
- **May 2 or 16**: Council action item directing staff on which recommendations to place on ballot
- **End of May - Early June**: – Law Dept drafts ordinance and legal documents associated with ordering a Special Charter Election
- **July 18**: Action item for Council to order election (emergency item)
- **August 14-16** – Latest scheduled Council meetings to order election (deadline to order election August 19)
- **November 5**: Election Day



Questions?

