

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
MAY 21, 2015**

1. Declaration of quorum and call meeting to order
The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.
2. Roll call
Present: Fred Raschke, Greg Garrison, Rocky Sullivan, Don Davison, Steve Greenberg, Richard Batie, Raymond Lewis, Elizabeth Beeton, and Taylor Schwab.
3. Approval of the April 14, 2015 Minutes
Motion was made by Raymond Lewis, second by Elizabeth Beeton, to approve the April 14, 2015 minutes, with the addition of Steve Greenberg that seconded the motion on Item E. Unanimously approved.
4. Discuss and review recommendations to amend the City Charter
 - a. **Finance Director Mike Loftin provided an overview of current City Code relating to Finances, including purchasing, general obligation and revenue bonds, and the limitation on taxation. He recommends adopting state purchasing regulations. He will meet with the City Manager and bring back recommendations to the committee.**
 - b. **Article II – The Council, Section 5 - Investigative Powers of the Council—staff recommended no changes.**
 - c. **Article II – The Council, Section 13 - Publication of Ordinances—staff recommended a change in language to follow state law.**
 - d. **Article II – The Council, Section 15 – Emergency Powers—staff recommended adding the language “The Council shall by Ordinance provide for the designation of a member of Council who will have all the emergency management powers and duties as authorized by State law in the event of the absence or disability of both the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. The authority of the Mayor Pro Tem or Council designee to exercise emergency powers shall cease when the Mayor ceases to be absent or disabled.**

Motion was made by Steve Greenberg, second by Rocky Sullivan, to approve the add language with one change to read: “the authority of the Council designee to exercise emergency powers shall cease when the Mayor ceases to be absent or disabled. Unanimously approved.

- e. **Article III - Elections, Section 2 - Election of Mayor and Councilmember—At its April meeting, the Committee expressed its desire to adopt a 4-2-1 district plan as follows:**

“Section 2. Election of Mayor and Councilmembers. The City shall be divided into four (4) districts. The Mayor shall be elected at large. One member of Council shall be elected from each of the four (4) districts. Two (2) members of Council shall be elected at-large from two (2) at-large positions, position “A” and position “B”. The Mayor and all members of Council shall be elected at a regular City election, to be held for such purpose on the first Saturday in May in every even-numbered year.

- (a) It shall be the duty of the City Council to establish the boundaries of districts covering the entire City for the purpose of electing District Councilmembers. Such boundaries shall be established by Ordinance, which shall be final for the purposes of this Charter. The boundary lines of each district shall be drawn from North to South, and shall follow an existing City street even if the street does not run the entire width of the City from North to South, and the population of each district shall be as equal as possible with only minor variations depending upon the streets selected for district boundaries. Any subsequent establishment shall be made when required by this Charter. Except as changed hereby, all other provisions of the City Charter relating to elections of the members of the City Council shall remain unchanged.
- (b) Promptly following the addition of territory to the City by a boundary change, the City Council shall, by Ordinance, add such territory to an adjacent district or districts. The Mayor shall be elected at large and four (4) Councilmembers shall be elected from districts, and two (2) Councilmembers shall be elected from two at-large positions. The districts from which Councilmembers shall be elected shall be designated by City Council as Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4, according to the boundaries of these districts, as established by Ordinance, in accordance with this Section. The at-large Council positions shall be designated by City Council as Position A and Position B. At each election, candidates shall be voted upon and be elected separately from each Councilmember district, and from the two at-large positions.
- (c) Any qualified person who desires to become a candidate for the office of Mayor or Councilmember shall file with the City Secretary, no earlier than seventy-five (75) days nor less than forty-five (45) days prior to the election, a signed application for the candidate's name to appear on the ballot, specifying the office and position for which the candidate is filing. The order of the ballot of the names of the candidates for each office shall be determined by lot in a drawing to be held under the supervision of the City Secretary. Every qualified voter shall be entitled to vote for Mayor and for one (1) candidate for Councilmember who runs for the district in which the voter lives, and for one candidate who runs for at-large position "A", and for one candidate who runs for at-large position "B". The City Council shall be the judge of the election and qualifications of Councilmembers, subject to review by the courts in case of contest. Each district Councilmember shall be elected by the qualified voters of each respective district. Each at-large Councilmember shall be elected by the qualified voters of the City. The candidate for Mayor and the candidate for each Councilmember district and for each Councilmember at-large who shall receive fifty (50) percent of the votes plus one (1) vote shall be declared elected. A candidate for Mayor shall not be a candidate for Councilmember at the same election and a person may not be a candidate for Councilmember at the same election and a person may not be a candidate for more than one (1) Councilmember position or district at the same election.
- (d) All candidates elected at the regular City election shall, upon being sworn, take office on the first Thursday following the election."

Motion was made by Taylor Schwab, second by Raymond Lewis, to approve proposed Sections A, B, C, and D, removing wording in italics, recommending the 4-2-1 district plan, but leaving it up to the Council to decide how to divide in a manner that is proper under law. Unanimously approved.

- f. **Article III – Elections, Section 6, Privatizing the Sanitation Department—staff recommended deletion of Section 6.**

Motion was made by Steve Greenberg, second by Richard Batie, to delete Section 6.

For: Steve Greenberg, Taylor Schwab, Raymond Lewis, Fred Raschke, Greg Garrison, Rocky Sullivan, Don Davison, and Richard Batie.

Against: Elizabeth Beeton.

Motion passes.

Elizabeth Beeton requested the minutes reflect she would like to hear from the public before she votes to eliminate Section 6.

- g. **Article III – Elections, Section 7, Seawall Parking—staff recommended no changes.**

- h. **Article III – Elections, Section 5 – Elections on Creation of Mass Transit Systems—staff recommended no changes.**

Motion was made by Fred Raschke, second by Steve Greenberg, to add language to Section 5 to read “approved at an election by a majority of qualified voters voting in such election”. Unanimously approved.

- i. **Article IV - Initiative, Referendum, and Recall—staff recommended no changes.**

Section 3, Line 5—Don Glywasky will look into the existing language “written by a licensed Texas Attorney”.

Section 3—Don Glywasky will look at options for the percentage of qualified voters needed to initiate a petition. The City Secretary will provide the population.

Section 10—Don Glywasky will look at (1) new legislation, and (2) what is the definition of water area.

- j. **Article V – Administrative Organization, Section 1—staff recommended changes that would put all Council appointees together. This change adds Sections 7 and 8 currently in other areas of the Charter. Don Glywasky will ask the City Auditor and City Secretary for comments on these sections.**

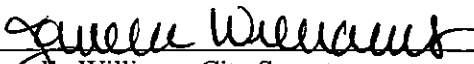
- k. **The Finance Director will send information on the Finance section for the committee’s review prior to the next meeting.**

5. **Set date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 16th at 4:00 p.m.

6. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.



Janelle Williams, City Secretary