

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
JUNE 16, 2015**

1. Declaration of quorum and call meeting to order
The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.
2. Roll call
Present: Fred Raschke, Raymond Lewis, Richard Batie, Steve Greenberg, Taylor Schwab, Greg Garrison, Rocky Sullivan, and Don Davison.

Absent: Elizabeth Beeton.

3. Approval of the May 4, 2015 and May 21, 2015 Minutes
Motion was made by Rocky Sullivan, second by Taylor Schwab, to approve the May 4, 2015 minutes with one correction on page 2, item j. Unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Taylor Schwab, second by Greg Garrison, to approve the May 21, 2015 minutes. Unanimously approved.

4. Discuss and review recommendations to amend the City Charter
Don Glywasky provided a status report on progress of the committee and a review of items tentatively approved for submission to the City Council. The committee has reviewed Articles I through VI.

- a. **Article VII—Finance, Section 8—Approval of the Budget – recommended changes: Providing for adoption of the budget at the second regularly scheduled meeting of the Council in September; correcting the spelling of “desirable”; and providing if a budget is not adopted by the beginning of the budget year the last budget proposed by the City Manager shall be used until a budget is adopted by Council.**

Motion was made by Raymond Lewis, second by Rocky Sullivan, to approve the recommended changes. Unanimously approved.

- b. **Article VII—Finance, Section 10—Emergency Appropriations – recommended changes:**

Adding a second numbered item: (2) At any time in any fiscal year, where the City has experienced a natural or manmade disaster that results in the issuance of a Proclamation of Public Disaster by the President of the United States, the Council may make emergency appropriations to alleviate the effects of the natural or manmade disaster, and the limitations on the total amount of emergency expenditures set out in the preceding section shall not apply.

Motion was made by Steve Greenberg, second by Greg Garrison, to approve the recommended changes with the addition of “or the Governor of Texas” and correcting one typographical error. Unanimously approved.

- c. **Article VII—Finance, Section 15a—Limitation on Borrowing – recommended changes:**

This section shall not apply to borrowing to meet “a natural or manmade disaster resulting in the declaration of a Proclamation of Public Disaster by the President of the United States.”

Motion was made by Taylor Schwab, second by Rocky Sullivan, to approve the recommended changes with the addition of “or the Governor of Texas.” Unanimously approved.

d. Article VII—Finance, Section 17—Purchase Power – recommended changes:

(2) It shall be the policy of the City to obtain written competitive bids on purchases or contracts ~~involving the expenditure of City funds, and such bidding shall be required when the amount involved is more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00)~~ when required to comply with the laws of the State of Texas.

(3) The Council may by ordinance confer upon the City Manager the power and authority to enter upon such purchases and contracts without further action of the Council where the expenditure is provided in the budget and does not exceed the amount over which competitive bidding or procurement is required ~~does not exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00)~~ Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00).

(6) The requirement of competitive bidding shall not apply to purchases made at publicly advertised auctions if the items do not exceed the amount authorized by State Law and as allowed by Council in City Ordinance Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) each, and items may be purchased at such auctions for amounts in excess of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) with the prior approval of the Council.

Discussion held on the Subsections 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 without a vote.

Don Glywasky will bring back suggested language—removing dollar amounts from Subsections 2 and 3, and adding language that purchases will be in accordance with State Law; eliminating Subsections 4, 5, and 6, and making an editor’s note referencing State Law.

e. Article VIII—Taxation, Section 2—Powers of Taxation – recommended changes:
Discussion held on whether the \$.05 library rate is included in the \$0.70.

Section 2(c) Partial exception for capital improvement bonds. The debt service for capital improvement bonds approved by the voters and issued after January 1, 2016, or for bonds for the refunding of capital improvement bonds approved by the voters and issued after January 1, 2016, shall be excluded from the limitation of the tax rate imposed by Section 2 of this Charter.

Motion was made by Greg Garrison, second by Taylor Schwab, to approve the recommended changes.

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

Against: Steve Greenberg.

Motion passes.

(2) As an additional expenditure from the tax rate not to exceed Seventy Cents (\$0.70) on each \$100.00 the City Council shall provide effective January 1, 1979, for

the conduct, maintenance, improvement and extension of Rosenberg Library, a tax rate which will yield that amount which would be derived by the levy of a Five Cent (\$.05) tax, or at the discretion of the City Council, an additional amount up to a maximum total of an Eight Cent (\$0.08) tax, per \$100.00 of assessed valuation based upon a one hundred (100) per cent assessment ratio.

Motion was made by Taylor Schwab, second by Raymond Lewis, to approve the recommended changes.

For: None.

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

Motion fails.

f. Article VII—Finance, Section 3—City Auditor recommended changes:

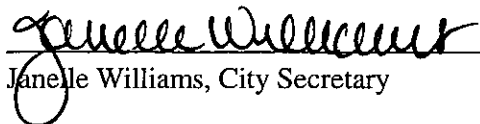
~~Section 3. Reserved. City Auditor. There shall be a qualified City Auditor who shall be appointed by the Council and be responsible directly to the Council. The City Auditor shall reside and be domiciled in the City no later than ninety (90) days after the effective date of hire and shall continue to reside and be domiciled in the City while serving as City Auditor. The City Auditor may be removed only by a majority of the City Council. The City Auditor shall have such duties, responsibilities and staff as determined by ordinance including the responsibility to conduct or cause to be conducted, financial, performance, investigative, and other audits following government auditing standards as promulgated by the Comptroller General of the United States. The City Auditor shall assist the City Council in establishing accountability and in improving City system and service delivery.~~

Don Glywasky advised this entire section was moved to Article V.

Motion was made by Greg Garrison, second by Don Davison, to approve the recommended changes. Unanimously approved.

Discussion held regarding the inclusion of a Public Comment section on future agendas, and making the agenda items more specific.

5. Set date and time of next meeting
The next meeting will be held on June 23, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.
6. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.



Janelle Williams, City Secretary