

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON  
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE  
JUNE 23, 2015**

1. Declaration of quorum and call meeting to order  
**The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.**
  
2. Roll call  
**Present: Fred Raschke, Greg Garrison, Richard Batie, Elizabeth Beeton, Rocky Sullivan, Don Davison, and Raymond Lewis.**  
  
**Absent: Steve Greenberg and Taylor Schwab.**
  
3. Discuss and review recommendations to amend the City Charter—including, but not limited to, Article IX – Personnel, Article X – Planning, Article XI – Franchises and Public Utilities, Article XII – Galveston Wharves, Article XIII – Succession in Government, and Article XIV – General Provisions.

**Don Glywasky provided a timeline for a November charter election.**

**Discussion was held regarding taking a step back and getting more information on 4-2-1 Council districts or other alternatives that would not limit minority representation, coming up with a plan that is fair to all, inviting a demographer to speak to the committee or requesting that the City Council seek advice from a demographer, waiting on the outcome of litigation in Pasadena on a similar plan, and not reverting to a system that would require DOJ input since the 4-2-1 has been litigated at least three times.**

**Elizabeth Beeton, Richard Batie, and Raymond Lewis provided clarification that the original vote taken on May 4, 2015 in favor of the 4-2-1 plan passed six to three, with Beeton, Batie, and Lewis voting against the plan; and the second vote taken on May 21, 2015 that passed unanimously was a vote leaving it up to the Council to decide how to divide the districts, not an endorsement of the 4-2-1 plan itself.**

**Public Comment**

**Steve McIntyre inquired whether district lines can be drawn in 4-2-1 to ensure minority representation. He advised Bob Heath's best plan was kicked back by the DOJ.**

**Lisa Blair advised the local Democratic group has pledged to work with the Interfaith to oppose a 4-2-1 plan.**

**Marcy Casey commented the 4-2-1 has a potential for abuse, and it would bring a lot of money into the large races for Council districts.**

**Cornelia Banks commented the interest groups would be financially able to run and would end up in office, and the city committees do not look like the city.**

**Alice Wilson commented the Constitution elects representatives from districts, there is a need to vet potential candidates, and not wanting taxpayer money to go to a lawsuit.**

Nigel Gusdorf commented under the 4-2-1 it would cost more money to get elected, it would silence certain voices, and all voices should be heard.

Leon Phillips provided history of public housing units being torn down and replaced with single family homes. He advised after Hurricane Ike, Cedar Terrace and Magnolia Homes were wiped out and the African American vote is being diminished. He commented the 6-1 district lines were drawn to ensure the minority vote. He advised the committee should find something else to bring the community together, not voting.

Debbie Crawford encouraged everyone to read Michael Smith's article. She commented the West End would be heavily represented with two at-large positions, District 6, and possibly the Mayor.

The committee requested inviting Dr. Eshbock to a committee meeting.

a. Article IX—Personnel, Section 3(a)—Prohibited Acts – recommended changes:

No person appointed by the Council to any board, commission, committee, or agency of the City and no person employed in the administrative service of the City, or who seeks an appointment thereto, shall be appointed, promoted, reduced, removed, or in any way favored or discriminated against because of sex, race or political or religious opinions or affiliations in violation of federal or state law.

Motion was made by Richard Batie, second by Raymond Lewis, to approve the recommended changes with the inclusion of protected classes of people under non-discrimination laws (sex, race, religion, age, political or religious opinions, or otherwise in violation of federal or state law).

For: Richard Batie.

Against: Fred Raschke, Greg Garrison, Elizabeth Beeton, Rocky Sullivan, Don Davison, and Raymond Lewis.

Motion fails.

Motion was made by Rocky Sullivan, second by Don Davison, to adopt the recommended changes. Unanimously approved.

b. Article IX—Personnel, Section 3(b) – recommended changes:

(b) Reserved. ~~No paid appointive officer or employee of the City shall continue in such position after becoming a candidate for nomination or election to any public office.~~

Motion was made by Greg Garrison, second by Rocky Sullivan, to adopt the recommended changes. Unanimously approved.

c. Article IX—Personnel, Section 3(d) – recommended changes:

No person seeking appointment to or retention in or promotion in the administrative service of the City shall either directly or indirectly give, render, or pay any money, service, or other valuable thing to any person for or on account of or in connection with the appointment or promotion, or any examination conducted therefor.

Motion was made by Elizabeth Beeton, second by Greg Garrison, to adopt the recommended changes, with the addition of adding “retention in or” in the last portion of the paragraph also. Unanimously approved.

- d. Article IX—Personnel, Section 3(c) – discussion held but no action was taken. Don Glywasky will research and provide information.
- e. Article X—Planning, Section 2(7) – recommended changes:  
~~Recommended to the Council approval or disapproval of plans for slum clearance, public housing, and urban re-development and renewal projects. After approval of a proposed project for urban renewal, by the voters, the Planning Commission will review any urban renewal plan referred to it by the City Council and make written recommendations related to the plan’s conformity with the general plan for municipal development. The Planning Commission will make such recommendations with the time required by the laws of the State.~~

Discussion held but no action was taken. Don Glywasky will research and provide information.

- f. Article XI—Franchises and Public Utilities, Section 5(7)(b):  
To examine and audit at any time during business hours the accounts and other records of any franchise holder relevant to the City’s right of regulation.

Discussion held but no action was taken.

- g. Article XI—Franchises and Public Utilities, Section 2—Power to Grant Franchise:  
Discussion held on granting a franchise for a period of 50 years. Don Glywasky will research and provide information.
- h. Article XII—Galveston Wharves, Section 9—Payments to the City:  
Staff will get history on payment amount and whether the percentage is being paid to GISD, and how it ties to taxable value.
- i. Article XII—Galveston Wharves, Section 12—Employment Contracts:  
Don Glywasky will research and provide information.
- j. Article XIII—Succession in Government – no changes.
- k. Article XIV—General Provisions, Section 15—Sale of Property – recommended changes:  
No City property shall be sold or otherwise disposed of without the prior approval of the Council. The Council may by ordinance give authority to the City Manager for the routine sale or other disposition of personal property as permitted by State law. ~~without further action by the Council where the value of the property does not exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) and provided that the sale or disposition is reported to the next meeting of the Council.~~

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

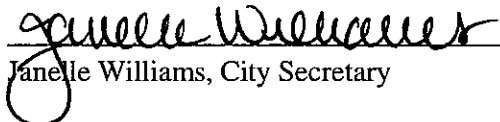
1. **Article XIV—General Provisions, Section 12—Official Newspaper:**

The Council shall have power to designate by ordinance a newspaper of general circulation in the City as the official newspaper, and shall cause to be published therein all ordinances, notices and other matters which are required by this Charter, the ordinance of the City, or the constitution or laws of the State of Texas, to be officially published.

Discussion held on whether State law requires a city to designate an official newspaper.

Motion was made by Elizabeth Beeton, second by Fred Raschke, to add “or as allowed by State law”. Unanimously approved.

4. Set date and time of next meeting  
The next meeting will be held on August 25, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.
5. Adjournment  
The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

  
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Janelle Williams, City Secretary