

City of Big Spring
Charter Committee Meeting
Minutes 03/10/2021

Meeting called to order by John Scott, committee chair.

Committee members present in person were John Scott, Nati Saldivar, Pat Chesworth. Committee members attending virtually were A.J. Weaver and Elias Gamboa. Others in attendance were Mayor Shannon Thomason, Andrew Hagen, John Medina, and Charles Zech.

Public Comment Period – there were none present requesting to make comments.

Old Business

Discussion and Possible Action with Regard to Recommending Amendments to the City Charter, Measure A, Consistency with State Law, and Measure B, Unnecessary to Powers or Duplicative of Other Provisions. Motion by A.J. Weaver; second by N. Saldivar. Adopted unanimously.

New Business

Approval of the Charter Committee Minutes from the Regular Meeting of Jan. 27, 2021 and Feb. 10, 2021. - Minutes for 02/10/21 were not available to review. No further discussion or comments. Motion to approve 01/27/21 minutes by N. Saldivar; second by Pat Chesworth.

City Manager and Staff Comments – none offered. N Saldivar expressed some concerns about the possible removal of a committee member. The Chair J. Scott asked the item be addressed during committee member comment period.

Discussion of City of Sweetwater Charter – N. Saldivar encouraged members to review this item, as she felt it is a good sample and reference point for this body's work.

Discussion and Possible Action with Regards to Recommending Amendments to the City Charter, Articles IV, V, VI and Related Law -

Article 5

Sect. 1 – no changes other than what was changed as part of "Old Business" above

Sect. 2 – Filling of Vacancies – delete existing language, replace with language recommended by Mr. Zech, as follows:

"In the event of a vacancy in the office of City Council, the effective date of which shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code, if there are 365 days or more remaining on the term of the vacated office, the City Council shall call a special election to fill such vacancy. If there are fewer than 365 days remaining in the term of the vacant office, the City Council may, by majority vote of the remaining Members of City Council, at its discretion, leave the office vacant, appoint a new Council Member to fill such vacancy or call a special election to fill such vacancy."

(Sect. 2 cont'd) - N. Saldivar motioned that the language "leave the office vacant" be removed from the language. Second by Pat Chesworth. Motion passed unanimously. A.J. Weaver motioned to amend article, as follows: "if there are fewer than 365 days, but more than 180 days remaining on the term of the vacated office, the City Council shall call a special election to fill such vacancy. If there are fewer than 180 days remaining in the term of the vacant office, the City Council may, at its discretion, appoint a new Council Member to fill such vacancy, or call a special election to fill such vacancy." Second by P. Chesworth. Motion passed unanimously.

Sect. 3 – no changes

Sect. 3a. – Council member term limits. Current language is ambiguous and contradicts itself. Committee tasked Mr. Zech to formulate language to clarify two terms served, two terms off.

Sect. 3b. – no changes

Sect. 4 – no changes

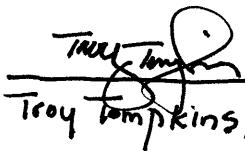
Sect. 5, 6, 7, and 8 were previously eliminated as duplicative or inconsistent with Texas state law

Discussion and Possible Action on Calling Future Meetings and Agenda Items – committee agreed to next meet on Wed. 03/23/2021, and to weekly thereafter.

Committee Input

N. Saldivar expressed some concern about council meeting twice per month and possible recourse. J. Scott polled committee members as to keeping T. Tompkins on the committee, given his recent election to council. There were no objections.

There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting.

 04/07/2021
Troy Tompkins, Committee Secretary