



City of Dallas Citizen Charter Committee

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

4:30 p.m.

Dallas City Hall
187 SE Court St.
Dallas, OR 97338

Members

David Shein
Chair

Mike Bollman

Fred Avera

LuAnn Meyer

Gene Henshaw

Nancy Moen

Kathy Voves

Debra Nord

Paul Trahan

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes of March 12, 2014 Meeting
3. Comments From Audience
This time is provided for audience members to comment on agenda items or other issues pertaining to the charter. The chair may impose time restrictions on comments.
4. Administrative Issues
5. Discussion of Specific Charter Issues
6. Staff Comments
7. Member Comments
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

Staff

Brian Dalton
Mayor

Ron Foggin
City Manager

Lane Shetterly
City Attorney

Jeremy Teal
Recording Secretary

Citizen Charter Revision Committee
Wednesday, March 12, 2014

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Members Present: Chair David Shein, Fred Avera, Gene Henshaw, LuAnn Meyer, Nancy Moen, Debra Nord, and Kathy Voves. Excused: Mike Bollman, Paul Trahan.

Also Present: City Manager Ron Foggin, Mayor Brian Dalton, City Attorney Lane Shetterly, and Recording Secretary Jeremy Teal.

Chair Shein called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2014, MEETING

The minutes of the February 12, 2014, meeting were approved as presented.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

There were none.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Chair Shein stated that Mr. Trahan had taken the girls' softball coaching position at Perrydale and would be unavailable for meetings until after the school year ended.

GUEST SPEAKER

Councilor Jim Brown read a statement regarding some issues of concern, a copy of which is attached to these minutes and incorporated herein.

DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC CHARTER ISSUES

Mr. Shetterly reported that number nine on the list asked if a person could be a candidate for more than one office in an election, and by state law a candidate couldn't run for more than one office at a time. He noted that the role of the mayor was unchanged on all parts. He advised that on number eight, instead of reading continuously resides in the City, it would require that a person must be a resident of the City 12 months prior to the election and/or appointment to a vacancy.

There was discussion regarding how an abstention was treated. It was decided by the Committee to not allow abstentions.

There was discussion regarding a smaller number of Councilors than a quorum compelling the attendance of absent members. It was decided by the Committee to leave the description unchanged.

There was discussion regarding the Mayor being required to countersign all checks regardless of the amount, or purpose, or if it would be more suited to a directive by Ordinance. Mr. Foggin noted the Charter shouldn't cover this item, but it should be under an Ordinance to allow flexibility. It was decided by the Committee to remove this requirement from the Charter.

There was discussion regarding the enumerated powers of the municipal judge. It was decided by the Committee to have Mr. Shetterly research more information.

1 There was discussion regarding the Mayor breaking a tie vote on an Ordinance. It was decided by the
2 Committee to allow the Mayor to break tie votes on Ordinances.

3 There was discussion regarding the role of the Council President. The question was raised by the
4 Committee that this would require two paths, substituting for an absent Mayor or acting as the Mayor to
5 fill a vacancy. Mr. Shetterly advised the language could read the Council President votes when acting as
6 Mayor, except in the case a vacancy had been declared by the Council. It was decided by the Committee to
7 leave the description unchanged and that Mr. Shetterly would add some clarifying language to accompany
8 the description.

9 **STAFF COMMENTS**

10 There were none.

11 **MEMBER COMMENTS**

12 There were none.

13 **OTHER**

14 Chair Shein announced the next meeting would be April 9, 2014, at 4:30 p.m.

15 **ADJOURNMENT**

16 There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

March 12, 2014

Charter Revision Committee

Thank you for offering me the opportunity to add my opinion regarding the charter revisions. I have read the minutes of the previous meetings as well as the testimony of mayor Dalton, councilors Fairchild and Woods and council president Wilson.

I am pleased to see that the committee has decided to leave most of the charter unchanged. It seems to me that the current charter has served the city well over the last 48 years and I don't see any major flaws in it.

I see that the committee is discussing the qualifications for elected officials. I agree with the current wording and requirement that the candidate have been a resident for at least 12 months.

I might have been tempted to change the term length for mayor. It seems to me every two years places an unnecessary burden on the mayor and is a distraction from the mayor's everyday functions.

I would be tempted to change section 19 (regarding the requirement for a majority of the whole number of the council for any question). I think the majority of the whole council is important for ordinances.

I thought there was some ambiguity between sections 10 and 21 (c) 3. Regarding the appointment of city officers.

Wording might need change under sec 21 (c) 7 with the addition of digital materials.

As for the mayor being a neutral facilitator or using the position as a 'bully pulpit' (councilor Fairchild's expression), I can see advantages to either approach. The neutral facilitator role seems to speed the process but it deprives the council of the unique perspective that only the mayor can offer on certain subjects.

The dollar amounts attached to sec. 40 (Bids) and sec. 41 (Debt limits) might be reworded so that the charter isn't affected by shifting monetary requirements. The LOC model charter just refers to state law.

The remaining issues have been adequately covered by previous testimony and I'll remain silent on them. If anything, I think further simplification of the charter is the direction we should take and the everyday details should be moved into procedural law.

Jim Brown
City Councilor