

**CITY OF FREEPORT**  
**Charter Review Commission Recommendations**  
**January 8, 2026**

**Summary:** Prior to this date, the Charter Review Commission has met on six (6) different occasions to discuss and consider potential modifications to the City's Charter. The outcome of those discussions is detailed below. The Commission proffers these limited proposals in the hopes that the Council will opt to draft a new Charter at its next opportunity to do so.

**Proposed Changes to the Existing City of FREEPORT Home Rule Charter:** The following changes are proposed for Council consideration to be placed on the Ballot for the May 2026 General Election. In keeping with prior years' recommendation reports where the text in BLACK is the current language, the GREEN text is the proposed language for inclusion in the Charter, the text in RED is the proposed ballot language.

**PROPOSED CHANGE NO. 1: Sec. 3.05. – Mayor Pro Tem**

**Proposed Ballot Language:**

Shall the charter be revised to eliminate conflicting language to fill council vacancies and conform with state law.

**Current Language**

At the meeting of the city council at which the returns of the annual election are canvassed each year, the members of the city council shall select, on a rotating basis among the wards, a member of the city council who has been on city council for at least two years to serve as mayor pro tem until the meeting of the city council at which the returns of the annual election for the next succeeding year have been canvassed. The mayor pro tem shall perform all of the duties of the mayor in the absence or disability of the mayor and shall assume the office of mayor for the remainder of the unexpired term in the event the office of the mayor becomes vacant. If both the mayor and the mayor pro tem are absent from any meeting of the city council, the members present shall elect from among themselves a temporary mayor pro tem to preside at such meeting.

When a vacancy occurs in the city council, the remaining members thereof, must, within ten days, appoint a qualified person to fill the unexpired term of such vacancy; provided, however, the city council shall not appoint more than one council member in any twelve-month period, and in the event of the occurrence of a vacancy in the city council within a twelve-month period in which a vacancy in the city council has been filled by the said city council, or in the event that more than one vacancy shall occur at the same time; then in such event a special election shall be held within 40 days from the date the last vacancy occurred, for the purpose of electing the successor or successors. In the event that the mayor and mayor pro tem should resign at the same time, the remaining members of the city council, or any of them, shall have the right and power to issue legal notice of such election to be so held, and to elect and appoint election officials. Should all positions on the city council become vacant at one time, then in such event, the county judge of Brazoria County, Texas, is hereby empowered and directed to issue notice of such special election for and on behalf of said city, and to appoint qualified persons as election officials.

**Proposed Language:**

At the meeting of the city council at which the returns of the annual election are canvassed each year, the members of the city council shall select, on a rotating basis among the wards, a member of the city council who has been on city council for at least two years to serve as mayor pro tem until the meeting of the city council at which the returns of the annual election for the next succeeding year have been canvassed. The mayor pro tem shall perform all of the duties of the mayor in the absence or disability of the mayor and shall assume the office of mayor for the remainder of the unexpired term in the event the office of the mayor becomes vacant. If both the mayor and the mayor pro tem are absent from any meeting of the city council, the members present shall elect from among themselves a temporary mayor pro tem to preside at such meeting.

**PROPOSED CHANGE NO. 2 - Sec. 8.02. Development of property.**

**Proposed Ballot Language:**

Shall the charter be revised to require any legally valid development agreement, rather than only an agreement under Chapter 380, approved by council before expenditure of public funds for economic development can be authorized?

**Current Language:**

The expenditure of public funds shall be authorized for the development of privately-owned land or subdivisions for economic development, only with a legally valid 380 agreement approved by city council and signed by the mayor, following a public hearing on the matter. Such expenditures may be for projects situated within or beyond the corporate limits of the city.

**Proposed Language:**

The expenditure of public funds shall be authorized for the development of privately-owned land or subdivisions for economic development, only with a legally valid **development** agreement approved by city council and signed by the mayor, following a public hearing on the matter. Such expenditures may be for projects situated within or beyond the corporate limits of the city.

**PROPOSED CHANGE NO. 3 - Sec. 9.24 Taxes; when due and payable.**

**Proposed Ballot Language:**

Shall the charter be revised to reflect that all city taxes shall be payable to the Brazoria County tax assessor-collector at the place and methods designated by the Brazoria County tax assessor-collector.

**Current Language:**

All taxes due the City of Freeport may be paid at any time after the tax roll for the year has been approved, which shall be not later than October 1; and such taxes shall be payable at the office of the county assessor-collector of taxes at Angleton, Texas, if the city council has required the county to assess and collect city taxes pursuant to section 6.22 of the tax code, as now or hereafter amended; otherwise, such taxes shall be due and payable at the office of the city assessor-collector.

**Proposed Language:**

All taxes due the City of Freeport may be paid at any time after the tax roll for the year has been approved, which shall be not later than October 1; and such taxes shall be payable to the Brazoria County assessor-collector, at the place and methods designated by the Brazoria County tax assessor-collector, if the city council has required the county to assess and collect city taxes pursuant to section 6.22 of the tax code, as now or hereafter amended; otherwise, such taxes shall be due and payable at the office of the city assessor-collector.

**PROPOSED CHANGE NO. 4 - Sec. 11.01 Publicity of Records.**

**Proposed Ballot Language:**

Shall the charter be revised to provide that the City shall not violate state or federal law when producing records to the public.

**Current Language:**

All records and accounts of every office, department, or agency of the city shall be open to inspection by any citizen or by any representative of the press at all reasonable times and under such reasonable regulations as may be established by the city council or the mayor, except records and documents the disclosure of which would tend to defeat the lawful purpose which they are intended to accomplish.

**Proposed Language:**

All records and accounts of every office, department, or agency of the city shall be open to inspection by any citizen or by any representative of the press at all reasonable times and under such reasonable regulations as may be established by the city council or the mayor, except **as restricted by state or federal law.**

**PROPOSED CHANGE NO. 5 – Sec. 11.20 Residency Qualification of Board Members**

**Proposed Ballot Language:**

Shall the charter be revised to provide that except for the Main Street Board, the Historical Commission, and the Economic Development Corporation, no person shall be qualified to serve on a City Council-appointed board unless they are a resident of the City of Freeport, Texas?

**Current Language:**

None.

**Proposed Language:**

**Sec. 11.10 – Qualification of Board Members**

Except for the Main Street Board, the Historical Commission, and the City of Freeport Economic Development Corporation Board, no person shall be qualified to serve on a City Council-appointed board unless they are a resident of the City of Freeport, Texas.