

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Charter Review Commission met on Monday, August 26th, 2019, at the Freeport City Hall, 1st floor Code Department Office, 200 West 2nd Street, Freeport Texas for the purpose of considering the following agenda items:

Charter Review Members: Sandra Barbree
Amy Carrales
Donna Hayes Absent
Ana Silbas
Rita Cundieff

Visitors: Tim Kelty, City Manager
Betty Wells, City Secretary
Chris Duncan, City Attorney

Call to Order.

Sandra Barbree opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Administer Oath of Office

City Secretary Betty Wells administered the oath to Rita Cundieff.

Consideration and possible action on the approval of Charter Review meeting minutes from August 12, 2019

On a motion by Ana Silbas, seconded by Amy Carrales, with all present voting “Aye”, the Charter Review Commission unanimously approved the Charter Review Commission meeting minutes from August 12, 2019.

Discuss the review of Charter.

City Manager Tim Kelty, City Attorney Chris Duncan, Brooks Bass and the Charter Review Members discussed Article 1. Sections 1.02-1.03. Article 3 Sections 3.01(b), 3.02, 3.04, 3.07, 3.08, 3.10-3.11. Article 4, Sections 4.02(b), 4.06, 4.07, 4.08.

1.02 Boundaries: Chris Duncan, the City Attorney stated that this section should be changed to; ‘these are the boundaries as existed and as annexed in the future and may be amended.’ Attorney Duncan to recommend alternate language.

1.03 Annexation: Discussion on what does ‘Rights and Privileges’ mean? Is it for the water and sewer? This section will be looked into and discussed again in the future.

3.01(b) Number, Selection, and Term: Chris Duncan the City Attorney stated that Elections will have to be amended. In the next few years the State will be changing the General Election date from May to November, he stated that the City will have to do what the State and County does. Mr. Duncan said he will get the correct language for this change.

3.02 Qualifications: City Manager, stated that he thinks “valid excuse needs to be defined in this section. Sandra Barbree thinks that this should to be changed and stated that she did not know the correct wording, and this would be up to the City Attorney to make this amendment. Brooks Bass and Tim Kelty, stated that Mayor Pro Tem in this section is misspelled and needs to be amended as well. Attorney Duncan to recommend alternate language.

3.04 Compensation: City Attorney Chris Duncan, and Sandra Barbree propose that City Council and the Mayor should be compensated double in what they are being compensated at present time, if this is amended it would change the pay per month to \$200.00 for City Council and Mayor would be \$400.00 the meetings should be doubled as well, which would be \$50.00 per meeting.

3.07 Powers of the City Council:

(i) Mr. Kelty recommended that this should say “Adopt, modify and carry out plans proposed by the Planning Commission.

(j) Mr. Kelty recommended that this should just say “Adopt, modify, and carry out the plans proposed by the Planning Commission”.

(k) Mr. Kelty asked what this section was about, and Brooks Bass said that the City has a taxi service.

(q) Chris Duncan stated that this section is outdated.

(r & s) In this section the employee hospitalization insurance and National and State Social Security programs, discussion was on if these should be in the Charter or in the Policy handbooks of the City.

3.08 CITY COUNCIL NOT TO INTERFERE IN APPOINTMENT:

In this section the discussion was on the City Manager is in charge of City employees. According to Charter the City Manager must go before Council with a plan before he reorganizes any departments. No recommended changes for this section

3.09 MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

In this section Mr. Kelty stated that Charter states that City Council holds two meetings a month; it was discussed to possibly have one meeting a month. All agreed that this is something Charter should discuss again in a few years, as they do not feel this would be supported by the citizens of Freeport at this time.

3.10 RULES OF PROCEDURE:

Mr. Kelty stated in this section, that no members of Council shall be excused to vote, unless there is a conflict of interest. All ordinances, resolutions, and motions shall be recorded in a book. Mr. Bass suggested that this be changed to electronic.

3.11 PROCEDURE FOR PASSING OF ORDINANCES:

City Manager asked in this section if “The Clerk” was referring to the City Secretary. It was stated if the Charter was amended then this needed to be changed.

4.02 DEPARTMENT OF POLICE:

(b) In this section Brooks Bass said there is no need for the Special Police, but there is no reason to remove this from the Charter.

4.06 CITY ATTORNEY:

This section was changed recently to require that the City Attorney for the City of Freeport must be a qualified voter of Brazoria County; Mr. Kelty stated that this limits the competition for candidates and is uncommon for cities to require.

4.07 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SANITATION:

Discussion on this section was that Dr. Corey Anderson acts in the capacity of Health Officer for the City of Freeport. Brooks Bass also stated the County Health Department will work with the City in the case of an epidemic outbreak. No action recommended

Adjourn

On a motion by Rita Cundieff, seconded by Amy Carrales, with all present voting “Aye”, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Chairperson Sandra Barbree

Charter Review Committee

Secretary

Charter Review Committee