

Meeting Minutes

City Charter Amendment

Resident Advisory Committee

Regular Meeting

October 15, 2025 | 5:00 p.m.
Council Chambers Conference Room
88 E. Chicago St., Chandler, AZ



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lopez at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Commission Attendance

Chair René Lopez
Committee Member Brad Davis
Committee Member Heather Anguiano
Committee Member Ursula Gordwin
Committee Member Sherida McMullan
Committee Member Lisa Askey
Committee Member Jim Jurnak
Committee Member Jennifer Pawlik
Committee Member Allison Stewart

Staff Attendance

Ryan Peters, Deputy City Manager
Jen Winkler, Assistant City Attorney
Dana DeLong, City Clerk

Consent Agenda and Discussion

1. September 2025 City Charter Amendment Resident Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Move City Charter Amendment Resident Advisory Committee approve the meeting minutes of the September 11, 2025, Regular Meeting

Consent Agenda Motion and Vote

Committee Member McMullan moved to approve the Consent Agenda of the October 15, 2025, City Charter Amendment Resident Advisory Committee Meeting; Seconded by Committee Member Anguiano.

Motion carried unanimously (9-0).

Public Comment

TERRI KIMBLE, Chandler Chamber of Commerce, provided comments regarding suggestions for the charter amendments considered by the committee. The Chandler Chamber supports an at-large rather than a districted Council structure. Business leaders supported adding an ethics committee to ensure a high standard of conduct for appointed and elected members of Chandler public bodies. Business leaders supported the two meetings a month to support the speed of business. The Chamber supports Council retaining oversight of creating, changing, or eliminating city departments. She mentioned the Chamber supports the residency requirements for appointed officers of the city and department directors. She thanked the committee for considering these recommendations.

Discussion

2. Discussion and consideration of proposed revisions to Charter Articles III - X developed from prior discussion

RYAN PETERS, Deputy City Manager, presented the following presentation.

- City Charter Amendment Resident Advisory Committee
- Agenda
- Article III. City Manager
- Article IV. Administrative Departments
- Article V. Finance and Taxation

COMMITTEE MEMBER STEWART asked if the definition of “publish” was added in the charter amendments and why “published electronically” is specified in section 2.15(b).

MR. PETERS explained there was a lot of prior conversation around the requirements of publication in the charter.

COMMITTEE MEMBER STEWART suggested removing “electronically” from this specific section to keep the definition of publication as what was defined earlier in the charter. This is required for state statute, and the city goes above the minimum requirement set in the charter anyways.

MR. PETERS noted the word “electronically” would be removed from the sections where publications are mentioned.

MR. PETERS continued the presentation.

- Article VI. Boards and Commissions
- Article VII. Nominations and Elections
- Article VIII. Initiative, Referendum, and Recall

- Article IX. General Provisions

COMMITTEE MEMBER PAWLIK noted that she is against the proposed change regarding residency requirements for the city manager only.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ASKEY asked when the committee could discuss the comments submitted by the Chandler Chamber of Commerce, as they provided feedback on this change.

CHAIR LOPEZ said discussion on this subject could be reopened and reconsidered.

Mr. Peters summarized that the current state of the clause in the charter requires the City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk, City Magistrate, and all department directors to reside within the city within six months of employment. The proposed change, discussed previously by the committee, aims to eliminate department directors from this requirement, so that only the City Manager would be required to reside within city limits.

CHAIR LOPEZ asked if they had decided this requirement would also apply to the appointed city officials.

COMMITTEE MEMBER STEWART said they had decided to leave it up to the discretion of City Council, if they wanted to negotiate residency in contracts with the appointed officers.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ASKEY asked if it has to be stated in the charter that the Council has discretion to require residency in contracts with the appointed officials.

MR. PETERS said no.

MS. WINKLER explained that this reflects earlier consideration regarding contract law versus the city charter. It is not required to put in language that Council has discretion through ordinary contract principles.

CHAIR LOPEZ said the committee agrees that the City Manager should remain as a residency requirement position. The question for consideration is should this apply to the other three appointed officials, and / or the department directors.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PAWLIK said she would prefer to leave the language as it is currently in that section.

COMMITTEE MEMBER GORDWIN said she supports the Council determining residency through contracts on an individual basis rather than have this set by the charter.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ASKEY suggested adding language that certain items such as residency are at the discretion of Council into the charter.

COMMITTEE MEMBER STEWART said this change could impact the city budget.

MR. PETERS explained that trends for city manager positions have been for cities to offer a significant relocation package.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JURNAK said he would prefer to leave the language as it is currently in that section.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANGUIANO supported the change as written.

CHAIR LOPEZ said he agreed with the change as written and mentioned added the clarifying language of residency requirements in other employment contracts.

MR. PETERS said the City Manager is the hiring authority for department directors, so if any additional department director positions are wished to live in Chandler, they must be named in the charter specifically.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ASKEY noted that she would like to see appointed officials in the language to have the residency as set by Council contractual discretion.

CHAIR LOPEZ asked if this would apply to the City Manager, and the three other appointed officials: City Attorney, City Clerk, and City Magistrate.

MS. WINKLER said the Council does not have any involvement in the hiring of department heads. They can enter into contract negotiations with the appointed officers.

COMMITTEE MEMBER GORDWIN suggested a broader term than naming the three positions, as additional appointed positions may be created in the future.

MR. PETERS summarized that the suggested change by the committee was for City Manager must establish residency within the city within six months of appointment, and Council shall have discretion to negotiate with contracts the residency of all appointed officials.

MR. PETERS continued the presentation.

- Article X. Succession in Government
- Committee Review and Recommendation Process

COMMITTEE MEMBER STEWART asked if the committee would see how the package is presented to Council, or how it is presented on the ballot.

MR. PETERS said he would like to get feedback primarily on how it will be presented to the committee for a formal vote.

CHAIR LOPEZ said it would likely be easiest for it to be presented to each in a similar way.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JURNAK said there are quite a few recommendations made by the committee, beyond language and grammatical changes. He suggested separate voting items for each unique proposed change.

CHAIR LOPEZ suggested that all sections be highlighted with every change and then coded to show what kind of change it is.

MR. PETERS asked when these items are brought forward to the committee, what format should they be in. He asked how the items should be separated out so that committee members can vote how they would like to.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JURNAK requested an opinion on what items were significant to be considered as separate ballot questions.

MS. WINKLER explained that all charter amendments must be voted on.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JURNAK said yes but suggested that grammar changes could be grouped together for convenience, while keeping significant changes grouped together to capture how the committee looked at these items.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MCMULLAN asked if context is provided to Council about the changes suggested.

CHAIR LOPEZ said that when the committee is done, his responsibility is to present the package to Council.

DANA DELONG, City Clerk, explained that most of the item would have to be separate ballot measures because citizens cannot decide two issues on one ballot measure.

MR. PETERS suggested that grammatical changes and gender-neutral language changes will be considered grouped. Substantive policy proposals will return to the committee separately.

3. Discussion and consideration of potential Charter revisions proposed by individual committee members

COMMITTEE MEMBER JURNAK presented the following presentation.

- Committee Member Jurnak Proposed Changes to Article 2
- Chandler Population by Year Chart
- Background
- Rationale
- Rationale Continued
- Proposed System
- Proposed System Continued
- Proposed Update to City Council Districts
- Thank You

MR. PETERS asked for the committee to determine if there was any interest in pursuing the idea presented.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MCMULLAN asked why it matters how expensive it is to run as a candidate.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JURNAK explained that it is easier for incumbents to raise funds than it is a non-incumbent.

COMMITTEE MEMBER STEWART asked if there is any comparative data for the candidate spending in districted cities.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JURNAK explained that the population across cities in districts is not comparable to each other. Census data is used to establish districts, not registered voter data.

Committee consensus determined this proposal will not be pursued.

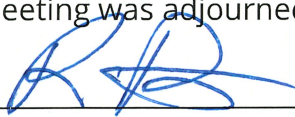
Calendar

4. The next Regular Meeting date, time, and location will be determined at the meeting.

Committee consensus was to meet on Monday, November 17 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room, pending location availability.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.



Ryan Peters, Staff Liaison



René Lopez, Chair



October 15, 2025

City of Chandler
175 S Arizona Ave
Chandler, AZ 85225

Re: Chandler Business Community Recommendations on the City of Chandler Charter

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Chandler Chamber of Commerce and the broader Chandler business community, we appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the City of Chandler's Charter review process. As Chandler evolves, it is crucial that the Charter reflect the principles that have long defined our city's success. We have reviewed the Charter as it stands, and have provided recommendations that we feel are necessary additions to this document.

The Chamber's recommendations are informed by ongoing dialogue with local businesses and community leaders who share a collective purpose in maintaining Chandler's reputation as a premier destination for innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as maintaining the city's core values of transparent and ethical governance. These recommendations aim to ensure that any proposed Charter amendments foster collaboration between the public and private sectors and preserve Chandler's unified approach to economic and community development.

Outlined below are the business community's recommendations for the City Charter. These suggestions are provided with the goal of strengthening the Chandler's ability to serve its residents and businesses effectively, while upholding the integrity and efficiency of the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Terri Kimble'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Terri' being more prominent than the last name 'Kimble'.

Terri Kimble
President/CEO
Chandler Chamber of Commerce



Chandler Business Community Recommendations for City of Chandler Charter

KEY

Blue = Charter Language/City Presentation

Black = Business Community Comments/Recommendations

Article II

2.01 – Composition, Eligibility, Terms and Election

Mandates election of 6 councilmembers by district, rather than by election at-large

- The City of Chandler should have the best candidates for council regardless of where they reside in the city. Council Districts can dilute the City's unified economic development strategy because the district system can create competition between council districts for infrastructure, incentives, or redevelopment projects.
- In an at-large system, every councilmember is accountable to every resident and business, which encourages open access and broad engagement.

2.05 - Resigning for other office

Councilmembers must resign to run for Mayor if their term extends beyond the next Mayor's start date. Such resignation must occur upon the earliest of the following events: When nomination papers are taken out; or 105 days prior to the primary election

- A candidate for City Council is not officially on the ballot until they submit the required number of valid petition signatures. These signatures must be reviewed and verified by the City Clerk and the County Elections Office. Only after this verification process is completed and approved will the candidate's name be confirmed to appear on the ballot.

2.06 – Vacancies; forfeiture of office; filling vacancies

Vacancies occur upon death, resignation, forfeiture or lawful removal from office

- In order to strengthen public trust, enhance government transparency, and ensure the highest standards of conduct among elected officials, appointed Board and Commission members, the City Charter shall be amended to formally establish an Ethics Committee.
- The Ethics Committee shall serve as an independent advisory and investigatory body responsible for reviewing allegations or questions concerning ethical conduct.
- The Ethics Committee shall consist of **seven (7)** voting members appointed as follows:
 1. **One (1)** member shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to Council approval.
 2. **Two (2)** members shall be appointed by the City Council as a whole.
 3. **One (2)** members of the business community shall be appointed by the City Manager.
 4. **One (1)** member shall be a barred attorney in good standing with the State Bar of Arizona, specializing in constitutional law, municipal law, or ethics in government, jointly appointed by the City Attorney and City Clerk to ensure neutrality.
 5. **One (1)** member shall who has previously served in an elected capacity representing the City of Chandler, at any level of government, appointed by the City Council.
- Members must be residents of the City of Chandler for at least three (3) year prior to appointment.
- Members shall not be current elected officials, candidates for office, city employees, or immediate family members of such individuals.

2.12 - Council Meeting Frequency

Requires Council to meet at least twice per month

- The Chandler Chamber has heard firsthand accounts from businesses are experiencing delays in permitting, licensing, and other time-sensitive approvals. As such, fewer Council meetings will worsen turnaround times and increase wait periods for critical business actions.
- We are in support of City Council's current meeting schedule.

Article II/III

2.13/3.04 – Admin Offices & Departments

Outlines actions that require action by ordinance, including:

Change or eliminate a city department*

- Changes to city departments have budget impacts that can affect taxes, fees, and the city's capacity to invest in infrastructure.
- For this reason, the Mayor and Council, elected to represent the community, should retain oversight to ensure such decisions are fiscally responsible.

Leasing city land and property for 3 years or more*

- Council oversight helps confirm the city is receiving fair market value and that the lease terms protect the city from financial risk. City property belongs to the residents, and elected officials are entrusted to manage it in the public's best interest. A public process review helps ensure leases of public land are negotiated openly and with full transparency.

Article IX

9.03 - Residency Requirements

Requires that the city manager and all department heads be residents of the city within 6 months of appointment

- When leaders live there they lead, they experience city policies as residents do, fostering transparency and responsiveness. City leaders who call Chandler home are more involved in the communities evolving needs and can respond quickly and effectively when challenges arise.