

THE STATE OF TEXAS                   §  
COUNTY OF ANDERSON               §  
CITY OF PALESTINE                   §

The Charter Review Committee of the City of Palestine convened in a Special Meeting on Monday, November 6, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., in the City Hall Conference Room, 504 N. Queen Street, Palestine, Texas, with the following people present: Dan Bochsler, Jessie Sweet, Tracy Torma, Mattie Jackson, Jodi Davis, Marilyn Ester-Barnes, and Cotrina Davis. Committee Member Edwina Miller was absent. Committee Member Tracy Torma arrived at 4:10 p.m.

Staff present: City Manager Teresa Herrera, City Secretary April Jackson, and City Attorney Rezzin Pullum.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

With a quorum present, Chair Dan Bochsler called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

### **PROPOSED CHANGES TO AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no proposed changes to agenda items.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES**

No action was taken.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Consider approval of minutes from the September 9, 2024, meeting.

Chair Dan Bochsler noted the wrong section number was listed for the section entitled Boards, Commissions and committees.

Motion by Committee Member Jessie Sweet, seconded by Committee Member Jodi Davis, to approve corrected minutes from the September 9, 2024, meeting. Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0. Committee Member Tracy Torma was absent from the vote.

### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

1. Discussion and possible action regarding Section 6.2. – Term and removal of city manager, Article VII. – Budget, and Article VII. – Officers and Employees.

### **ARTICLE VI. – COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT**

- **Section 6.2. – Term and removal of city manager**

City Attorney Rezzin Pullum provided the language previously suggested after a request from the Committee for additional language to provide more transparency and remove the ambiguity of the current language at the prior Charter Review Committee meeting. Discussion was held on whether

more language should be provided in addition to what was previously proposed. The consensus of the Committee was that the language proposed by the City Attorney was sufficient.

The Committee recommended the following revisions in red as follows: **The Council shall notify the City Manager of its intent to consider removal of the City Manager. The City manager shall have the opportunity to request a public hearing on their removal within 14 days of the notice Council's intent to remove.** The action of the council in removing the city manager **shall be made in an open and public meeting of the Council and** shall be final, it being the intention of this charter to vest all authority and fix all responsibility of such suspension or removal in the council.

## **ARTICLE VII. – BUDGET**

- **Section 7.4. – Public record**

City Manager Herrera proposed removing the second sentence from this section regarding copies of the budget and budget message due to the availability of these documents online. Ms. Herrera also noted that requests for copies of these documents would be requested as a public information request.

The Committee recommended deleting the following sentence in its entirety: The council shall cause sufficient copies of the budget and budget message to be prepared for distribution to interested persons.

City Attorney Pullum recommended that the City Manager, with the expertise of the Finance Director, review Article VII for any necessary revisions. Staff will bring revisions, if any, back to the Committee for review.

## **ARTICLE VIII. – OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES**

- **Section 8.1. – Compensation for mayor and Section 8.2. – Compensation of councilmembers**

The Committee discussed the compensation for the mayor and council members. Staff provided the mayor and council members compensation in similar cities as a comparison. In 2018, the recommendation from the previous Charter Review Committee for the compensation for the mayor was \$2,400 and \$1,600.00 per council member. The previous Charter Review Committee also proposed that the mayor or a council member could decline compensation. Both proposals were denied by the voters in the 2018 Charter Amendment Election.

City Manager Herrera recommended that the proposition for the increase in the mayor and council members' compensation be separate from other propositions in Article VIII on the ballot.

City Attorney Pullum recommended increasing the compensation for the mayor to \$1,800.00 and the compensation for council members to \$1,200.00. The Committee agreed to the recommendation.

- **Section 8.5. – Residence requirement for city employees.**

City Manager Herrera recommended revising the section due to only the City Manager being required to be a resident of the City of Palestine. The Committee recommended deleting the section in its entirety and changing the section to reserved.

- **Section 8.16. – City Physician.**

The Committee recommended deleting the section due to not having a city physician employed.

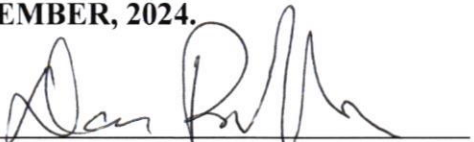
**ITEMS FOR PLACEMENT ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

Chair Dan Bochsler requested the continued review of Article IX, Article X, and Article XI at the next meeting.

**ADJOURN**

With no other business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 20TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.**

  
DAN BOCHSLER, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

  
APRIL JACKSON, CITY SECRETARY