

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

The Charter Review Committee of the City of Palestine convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., in the City Hall Conference Room, 504 N. Queen Street, Palestine, Texas, with the following people present: Dan Bochsler, Edwina Miller, Jessie Sweet, Tracy Torma, and Mattie Jackson.

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

Committee Members Jodi Davis, Marilyn Ester-Barnes, and Cotrina Davis were absent.

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Chair Dan Bochsler called the meeting to order at 3:33 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 November 20, 2024, meeting.

Motion by Committee Member Mattie Jackson, seconded by Chair Dan Bochsler, to approve the item as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0.

SECTION-BY-SECTION REVIEW OF EXISTING CHARTER

1. Review of Article VII. – Budget, Article X. – Taxation, and Article XI. – Miscellaneous Provisions.

ARTICLE VII. – BUDGET

- **Section 7.4. Public record.** – City Manager Herrera recommended removing the following: "The council shall cause sufficient copies of the budget and budget message to be prepared for distribution to interested persons."
- **Section 7.13(c). General budget items.** – City Manager Herrera reported that the Finance Director reviewed the article and suggested removing the redundancy in Section 7.13 (c) since the City Council granted this authority to the City Manager in the City of Palestine Purchasing Policy.
- **Section 7.16. Depository.** – Following the Finance Director's recommendations, Ms. Herrera suggested removing the language "at the beginning of a fiscal year." She clarified that requests for bids for depository services are usually made in April or May, and there is neither a strategic advantage nor a legal requirement for selecting depositories in October.

ARTICLE X. – TAXATION

- **Section 10.3. Franchise fee.** – City Attorney Pullum proposed clarifying language to specify that the City has the right and authority to levy and collect an annual franchise fee from applicable utility corporations. This clarification is necessary because certain state regulations preempt cities from imposing fees on specific utilities.
- **Section 10.8. Tax levy.** – The following revisions were proposed: The city council at its first regular a meeting in September of each year in accordance with State law, ~~or as soon thereafter as practicable,~~ shall levy the annual ad valorem tax for such year, but special taxes or assessments allotted by this charter may be levied, assessed, and collected at such time as the council may provide.
- **Section 10.13. Corrections of assessments.** – The Committee recommended removing the section because the County has the responsibility and authority to correct or adjust any tax assessments.

ARTICLE XI. – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- **Section 11.3. Proof of ordinance; ordinance book.** – City Attorney Pullum recommended removing the section from the Charter due to redundancy, as it is already authorized in Local Government Code §53.006.
- **Section 11.5. Publication of ordinances; codification exempt.** – City Manager Herrera recommended removing the term "daily" because there is no daily newspaper.
- **Section 11.9. Areas where sale of alcoholic beverages permitted.** – City Attorney Pullum recommended removing that section from the Charter and adding it to an ordinance due to its ever-changing nature. The Committee discussed potential conflicts and restrictions related to the language in the Charter. They recommended revisiting this

section at the next meeting to give staff time to clarify the language and ensure it aligns with the practices currently used by the City.

- **Section 11.12. Periodic review of charter.** – Section number was corrected to Section 11.11.
2. Final review of Article I. – Name, Form of Government and Boundaries and Article II. – Enumerated Powers.

The Committee delayed the final review of Article I. – Name, Form of Government and Boundaries and Article II. – Enumerated Powers until the next meeting.

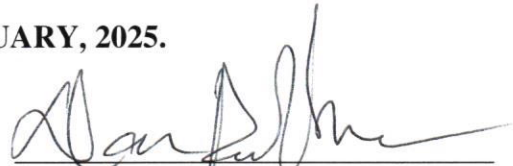
ITEMS FOR PLACEMENT ON FUTURE AGENDAS

The Committee proposed conducting the final review of the existing Charter.

ADJOURN

With no other business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 6TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2025.


DAN BOCHSLER, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:


APRIL JACKSON, CITY SECRETARY