

DRAFT

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING February 6, 2024

A Regular Meeting was held by the Charter Review Committee of the City of Schertz, Texas, on February 6, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. in the Hal Baldwin Municipal Complex Council Chambers, 1400 Schertz Parkway, Building #4, Schertz, Texas. The following members present to-wit:

Present: Chair Dana Eldridge; Vice Chair Richard Dziewit; Commissioner David Bennett; Commissioner Roger Booker; Commissioner Danielle Craig; Commissioner Chris Evans; Commissioner Marcus Forte; Commissioner Benjamin Guerrero; Commissioner Demetric Herron; Commissioner Michele Tereletsky; Commissioner Paul Wiley

Staff present: City Manager Steve Williams; City Attorney Daniel Santee; Deputy City Secretary Sheree Courney

Call to Order

Chair Dana Eldridge called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Hearing of Residents

This time is set aside for any person who wishes to address the Charter Review Committee. Each person should fill out the speaker's register prior to the meeting. Presentations should be limited to no more than **3** minutes.

All remarks shall be addressed to the Committee as a body, and not to any individual member thereof. Any person making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks while addressing the Committee may be requested to leave the meeting.

No residents addressed the Committee.

Discussion and Action Items

1. **Minutes**-Approval of the minutes from the January 16, 2024, Charter Review meeting. (S.Edmondson)

Minutes for the January 16, 2024, Charter Review meeting will be presented for approval at the February 20, 2024, meeting.

2.
 - **2.A. Review and possible action on amendments to Charter Article I.**
 - Mr. Williams, City Manager, requested an update to Article I, Section 1.02 (b) Extension of Boundaries; Annexation of Territory. The section needs to be changed to reflect a change in the applicable annexation laws of the state. The City Council no longer has the power by ordinance to annex territory lying adjacent to the City, with or without the consent of the owners or inhabitants.

Suggested change: The City Council has the power by ordinance to annex territory in accordance with State law, thereby extending and enlarging the bounds and limits of the city.

- Commissioner Herron suggested a change to Section 1.02 (c)(ii) which reads, Before the 10th day before the hearing date before the Planning and Zoning Commission, written notice of the public hearing shall be sent to each owner, as indicated by the most recently approved municipal tax roll, of real property within 200 feet of the area to be disannexed. Commissioner Herron recommends increasing the notification area to 1,000 feet of the area to be disannexed, which is consistent with some neighboring cities to include San Antonio, Converse, and Live Oak.

Mr. Santee explained that the 200 feet notification area was consistent with statutory rules, but nothing that requires the City to limit the area. Notification is only required to be given to property owners within the City limits, not property owners within an ETJ. Any additional costs for increasing the area can be passed along to the disannexation applicant.

City wants to control disannexation in the Charter as a Home-rule municipality.

Action item: Mr. Williams will bring data to show the effects of increasing the area to 500 feet and 1,000 respectively to the next meeting.

- **2.B. Review and possible action on amendments to Charter Article II.**

- No changes were recommended to Article II.

- **2.C. Review and possible action on amendments to Charter Article III.**

- No changes were recommended to Article III.

- **2.D. Review and possible action on amendments to Charter Article IV.**

- **Section 4.01 Number, Selection and Term.**

Commissioner Forte asked at which point the City would consider increasing the number of councilmembers given the rapid growth of the City. It was noted that many large cities only consist of seven councilmembers. The number of councilmembers is generally not determined by population growth. Not a consideration for Schertz right now.

Discussion regarding districts vs at-large places. Some commissioners stated having districts would give greater representation to the residents. Mr. Santee provided some additional items for consideration to include the cost and work involved for cities that are governed by district representatives. There is a defined process that must be followed to change from one format to another. Each census may require redistricting and reapportionment. If approved by voters, the city would need to start by apportioning the city accordingly. Additionally, current councilmembers would need to be assigned to districts and/or at-large seats based on the location of their residence.

Commissioner Booker stated that using districts is a greater benefit to the residents of the City. It provides greater data, larger census track, better representation, helps with grant applications. Overall, a good thing.

Commissioner Herron doesn't like the current set-up because he feels they don't understand the issues of individual areas, nor do they represent individual areas. He is a strong proponent of changing to district representation.

Several commissioners would like to see data on various cities that use different combinations of council representation.

Commissioner Evans asked what type of education and/or training is required for new council members. Mr. Williams stated there is a newly elected officials' orientation that deals mostly with administrative processes, but the City is working to expand on the onboarding process to include the roles and responsibilities of the Council. Council also has a Rules and Procedures guide that they are provided and expected to follow. The City cannot require Council members to attend any training sessions. Only the residents can hold them accountable.

Action items: Mr. Williams to provide data on districts vs at-large council organizations.

- **No changes to Sections 4.02, 4.03, or 4.04.**

- **Section 4.05 Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem**

City Council does not sign official plats, so that item needs to be stricken from the Charter.

Review of Charter Article IV to continue at next meeting.

- **2.E. Review and possible action on amendments to Charter Article V.**

3. Next Charter Review Meeting: February 20, 2024.

Adjournment

Chair Eldridge adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Dana Eldridge, Chair

ATTEST:

Sheila Edmondson, City Secretary