

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Charter Review Commission met on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 5:30P.M., at the Freeport City Hall, Conference Room, 1201 North Avenue H, Freeport, TX for the purpose of considering the following agenda items:

Charter Review Members: Sam Reyna
Lila Diehl
Theodore Baker
Douglas Domingues
Ruben Renobato (Not Present)

City Council Liaison: Jarvis Davis, Councilman Ward B
City Manager: Lance Petty
City Attorney: Tommy Ramsey, Interim (Via Phone)
City Secretary: Clarisa Fernandez

Call to Order.

Chairperson Sam Reyna opened the meeting at 5:31 pm.

Consideration and possible action approving Charter Review meeting minutes from March 19, 2025.

A motion was made by Theodore Baker to approve Charter Review meeting minutes from March 06, 2025, seconded by Douglas Domingues with all present and voting "Aye" 4-0. The Charter Review Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Consideration and possible action to approve suggested revisions to Articles 3-4.

The committee engaged in a detailed discussion concerning proposed amendments to Articles 3.05 and 3.06 which pertain to the procedures for filling vacancies on the City Council. Lila Diehl identified a discrepancy between these articles. She said Article 3.05 requires an election to be called within 40 days, whereas Article 3.06 extends this requirement to 120 days. She said on Article 3.05 it states within ten days, appoint a qualified person to fill the unexpired term of such vacancy; provided, however, the city council shall not appoint more than one council member in

any twelve-month period, and in the event of the occurrence of a vacancy in the city council within a twelve-month period in which a vacancy in the city council has been filled by the said city council, and she said that Article 3.06 does not specify these conditions.

There was discussion about whether the 10-day time frame for appointing a council member as stipulate in Article 3.05 should be retained or revised. Several members were concerned that the 10-day limit was a short time it was also suggested extending the timeline to 30 or 60 days which would facilitate a more practical process.

Interim City Attorney Tommy Ramsey confirmed that State law does not demand a specific timeline for these appointments but if there is more than a year left in a term a special election within 120 must be held.

The committee decided to revisit this topic at the next meeting.

City Secretary Clarisa Fernandez asked the committee if any changes were needed for the redline that was provided. The committee said no and all changes will be approved at the final meeting.

Discuss and review Charter Articles 5-6.

Theodore Baker said for Article 5.10 said this should align with any decisions made by the committee concerning term lengths for elected officials. He said the current section outlines limits on consecutive terms but with discussions around potentially changing terms but what the committee ultimate decides should align with Article 5.10.

Chairperson Sam Reyna handed out papers to everyone so they could look at before the next meeting which pertained to Article 6. He said for the committee to review and make recommendations at the next meeting.

Theodore Baker pointed out that on Article 6.02 refers to both “district” and “ward, but in Freeport the word “ward” is used only.

A motion was made by Theodore Baker to remove the word “district” from Article 6.02, seconded by Douglas Domingues with all present and voting “Aye” 4-0. The Charter Review Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Adjourn

On a motion by Douglas Domingues, seconded by Lila Diehl, with all present voting “Aye”, the meeting adjourned at 6:30P.M.



Chairperson Sam Reyna
Charter Review Committee



Secretary Theodore Baker
Charter Review Committee