



2024 City of Dallas Charter Review Commission

Meeting Record

The Charter Review Commission meetings are recorded.
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Meeting Date:
February 20, 2024

Convened:
6:31 pm

Adjourned:
10:06 pm

Commission Members Present:

The Honorable Allen Vaught, Chair
The Honorable Adam Medrano, District 6, Vice Chair
David de la Fuente, District 1
The Honorable Miguel Solis, District 2
Lisa LeMaster, District 3
Isaac Steen, District 4
Nancy Bernardino, District 5
Stuart Campbell, District 7
Gregory Franklin, District 8
P. Michael Jung, District 9
The Honorable Patti Clapp, District 10
Terry Lowery, District 11
The Honorable Adam McGough, District 12
Marshall Mills, District 13
The Honorable Angela Hunt, District 14

AGENDA

Call to Order 6:31pm
A quorum was present

Approval of February 6, 2024 Charter Review Commission Meeting Minutes Presenter(s): Allen Vaught, Chair

Approval of minutes from the previous commission meeting. Commissioner Medrano moved to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Franklin. Commissioner Jung offered a friendly amendment to clarify the motion he made on Item O of the February 6th agenda, to which the commission agreed, and staff made the recommended change. The motion carried with no opposition.

Action Taken: APPROVED

BRIEFING ITEMS**A. Staff Briefing: City Council Composition, Term Lengths, and Term Limits.
Presenter: Jake Anderson, Manager, Office of Government Affairs**

Staff provided a briefing regarding how multiple agenda items affect each other, and what considerations the Commission should make when voting on individual components later in the meeting. There was no discussion or questions following the presentation.

Action Taken: BRIEFED

**B. Staff Briefing: Moving the Election Day.
Presenter: Jake Anderson, Manager, Office of Government Affairs**

Staff presented considerations for the Commission to consider as it related to any recommendation to move the election day from May to November.

Action Taken: BRIEFED

**C. Commissioner Briefing: Council Terms and Election Dates
Presenter: Lisa LeMaster, Commissioner**

Commissioner LeMaster gave two presentations, the first on the length of councilmember terms of service, and the second on the date of the election. She advocated for 3-year terms and for the election date to remain in May.

Action Taken: BRIEFED

**D. Commissioner Briefing: Moving the Election Date
Presenter: David de la Fuente, Commissioner**

Commissioner de la Fuente's presentation highlighted why he advocated for a November election date, rather than a May date.

Action Taken: BRIEFED

**E. Commissioner Briefing: Staggering City Council Terms
Presenter: David de la Fuente, Commissioner**

Commissioner de la Fuente's presentation laid out challenges with staggering terms for councilmembers, and he advocated against the suggestion.

Action Taken: BRIEFED**CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS****F. Change the City's form/organization of government.*****Possible options based on submitted proposals:***

- From a Council-Manager form to a Mayor-Council form (eliminates position of city manager). [Amendments 42 and 50]
- City auditor, city attorney, and city secretary to report to the city manager instead of the city council. [Amendments 76 and 102]

Commissioner Hunt moved to exclude all four amendments from further consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Medrano and carried with no opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE**G. Expand the size of city council in Chapter III through the addition of single-member or at-large districts.*****Possible options based on submitted proposals:***

- Expand council from 14-1 to 20-1 (20 single-member districts, one at-large mayor). [Amendment 6]
- Expand council from 14-1 to 18-1 (18 single-member districts, one at-large mayor). [Amendment 52]
- Expand council from 14-1 to 15-1 (15 single-member districts, one at-large mayor). [Amendment 69]
- Expand council by adding two or three at-large districts to the 14-1 composition (14 single-member districts, two or three at-large members, one at-large mayor). [Amendment 79]

Commissioner Solis moved to include the expansion of council to 20-1. The motion failed due to not receiving a second. Commissioner Clapp then moved to exclude all expansion proposals from further consideration, which was seconded by Commissioner Hunt. The motion carried 12-3, with Commissioners Solis, Bernardino, and Campbell in opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE**H. Abolish or amend the appointment process of the mayor pro tem and deputy mayor pro tem positions in Chapter III §11.**

Note: This item was held under advisement by the Charter Review Commission on January 23, 2024 with direction to include Amendment 95 in the consideration moving forward.

Possible options based on submitted proposals:

- Abolish the positions of mayor pro tem and deputy mayor pro tem. [Amendment 8]
- Allow the mayor to select the mayor pro tem and deputy mayor pro tem instead of the city council. [Amendment 39]
- If at-large council seats are recommended to be added to the city council composition (Agenda Item D), have the voters elect the mayor pro tem and deputy mayor pro tem as the at-large positions. [Amendment 95]

Commissioner McGough moved to exclude Amendment 8 from further consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lowery. During discussion, Commissioner Solis moved to amend the main motion to also exclude Amendment 39 from further consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lowery. Following discussion, the motion to amend carried 14-1, with Commissioner McGough in opposition. The main motion to exclude both then carried unanimously. Commissioner Jung moved to exclude Amendment 95 and was seconded by Commissioner Solis. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE

- I. Amend the term-length for City Council positions from two years for councilmembers and four years for mayor.

Possible options based on submitted proposals:

- To four years for councilmembers, keeping four years for mayor. [Amendment 5]
- To three years for councilmembers and mayor. [Amendments 17 and 21]
- To three or four years for councilmembers, keeping four years for mayor. [Amendments 82]

Commissioner de la Fuente moved to exclude Amendment 82, and was seconded by Commissioner Medrano. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner LeMaster then moved to include her proposal, Amendment 21, for final consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McGough. The motion failed, 10-5, with Commissioners LeMaster, Clapp, Lowery, McGough, and Mills voting in favor of the motion.

Commissioner de la Fuente then moved to exclude Amendment 21 from further consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lowery and carried 14-1, with Commissioner McGough in opposition.

Commissioner McGough then moved to exclude Amendment 5, which Commissioner Clapp seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE**J. Stagger council terms. [Amendments 17 and 105]*****Possible options based on submitted proposals:***

- Do not stagger (no change to charter). [Amendment 5]
- Stagger. [Amendments 17 and 105]

Commissioner de la Fuente moved to exclude the staggering of terms from further consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner McGough moved to exclude Amendment 5, which was seconded by Commissioner Jung, and also carried unanimously.

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE**K. Align the terms for members of boards and commissions in XXIV §13 with the term lengths of councilmembers, should councilmember terms be extended from two years to three or four years. [Amendment 36]**

Commissioner Medrano moved to exclude this item from further consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clapp and carried unanimously.

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE**L. Align the terms for municipal judges in VIII §4 with the term lengths of councilmembers, should councilmember terms be extended from two years to three or four years. [Amendment 48]**

Commissioner Medrano moved to exclude this item from further consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McGough and carried unanimously.

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE**M. Move the election date from May of odd-numbered years.*****Possible options based on submitted proposals:***

- To November of odd-numbered years. [Amendments 3, 57, and 82]
- To November of even-numbered years. [Amendments 59 and 82]

Commissioner McGough moved to exclude Amendments 3, 57, 59, and 82 from further consideration. Commissioner LeMaster seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion failed, with 11 in opposition and Commissioners Steen, Clapp, McGough, and Mills in support.

Commissioner de la Fuente then moved to include amendments 3 and 57 for further consideration, which was seconded by Commissioner Campbell. The motion failed, with 6 in favor and 9 opposed. Those in favor were Commissioners de la Fuente, Bernardino, Campbell, Jung, Lowery, and Vaught.

Commissioner Jung then moved to exclude the remaining amendments, 59 and 82. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clapp and passed unanimously.

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE

N. Amend Chapter III §3A regarding the waiting period between serving the maximum number of consecutive terms and any future service on the city council.

Possible options based on submitted proposals:

- Future service on city council prohibited after having termed out. [Amendment 38]
- Extend waiting period from two years to four years. [Amendment 44]

Commissioner Medrano moved to exclude Amendments 38 and 44. Commissioner McGough seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

O. Charter Review Commission Calendar

This item was placed on the agenda based on feedback received by staff from the Chair and Commissioners regarding the March 5 meeting date, which coincided with March primary elections at the same time. Because of the potential interest and involvement of Commissioners and other stakeholders in those elections, it was suggested that the date of the next meeting be moved to March 4. The motion was made by Commissioner McGough and seconded by Commissioner Clapp. The motion carried with no opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO CHANGE THE MAR 5 MEETING DATE TO MAR 4

Following the consideration of Item O, Commissioner Franklin moved on behalf of Commissioner Steen to add a new amendment to be added to the March 4 agenda. It would require councilmembers to nominate only people who reside in their district to boards and commissions. In cases where that is not possible, the amendment would require $\frac{3}{4}$ approval by city council to confirm the person, rather than the current simple majority. Additionally, the amendment proposes that those who reside outside of the district which they serve be limited to 12-month terms, rather than 2-year terms.

Commissioner Campbell then seconded the motion to add it to the March 4 agenda. The motion carried with no opposition.

Adjourn 10:06pm

APPROVED BY:

Allen Vaught, Chair
Charter Review Commission

ATTESTED BY:

Jake Anderson, Coordinator
Charter Review Commission

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