



2024 City of Dallas Charter Review Commission

Meeting Record

The Charter Review Commission meetings are recorded.
Agenda materials and recordings are available online at www.dallascityhall.com.

Meeting Date:
March 26, 2024

Convened:
6:30 pm

Adjourned:
9:48 pm

Commission Members Present:
The Honorable Allen Vaught, Chair

Commissioners Absent:
P. Michael Jung, District 9

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
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 6:30pm
A quorum was present

Approval of March 4, 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 Campbell. The motion carried with no opposition.

Action Taken: APPROVED

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

A. Establish a Community Bond Commission. [Amendment 40]

Commissioner McGough summarized the suggestion on behalf of the submitter, Councilmember Mendelsohn, who was not present. Commissioner Clapp then moved to include the item for final consideration, which Commissioner McGough seconded. The motion passed, 8-6, with Commissioners de la Fuente, LeMaster, Steen, Medrano, Campbell, and Lowery in opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO INCLUDE

B. Add a required pension contribution to the Charter. [Amendment 41]

Commissioner McGough summarized the suggestion on behalf of the submitter, Councilmember Mendelsohn, who was not present. He then moved to include the item for final consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mills. The motion failed, 2-12, with Commissioners McGough and Mills in support.

Action Taken: EXCLUDED

C. Add a provision triggering the implementation of ranked choice voting in municipal elections once the state law is amended to allow for ranked choice voting. [Amendment 2]

Commissioner de la Fuente summarized his proposed amendment and then moved to include the item for final consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Solis. Following discussion, a vote was taken and the motion failed due to it being a tie vote – 7 commissioners voted against the motion (Commissioners LeMaster, Steen, Medrano, Clapp, Lowery, McGough, and Mills) and 7 commissioners voted in favor of the motion (Commissioners de la Fuente, Solis, Bernardino, Campbell, Franklin, Hunt, and Vaught).

Following the consideration of Agenda Item J later in the meeting, Commissioner LeMaster made a motion to reconsider Item C. The motion carried, 9-5, with Commissioners Steen, Medrano, Clapp, Lowery, McGough, and Mills in opposition.

The item was taken back up, and Commissioner de la Fuente again moved to include the item for final consideration. Commissioner Solis seconded the motion. The motion then passed, 8-6, with Commissioners Steen, Medrano, Clapp, Lowery, McGough, and Mills in opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO INCLUDE

D. Amend the annual salary for members of the City Council.

Possible options based on submitted proposals:

- **Mayor's salary raised to 135 percent and councilmembers' salaries raised to 100 percent of median household income of the Dallas/Fort Worth/Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area. [Amendment 32]**
- **Mayor's and councilmembers' salaries raised to \$125k/year, indexed to Consumer Price Index. [Amendment 7]**
- **Mayor's salary raised to \$140k/year and councilmembers' salaries raised to \$125k/year, indexed to Consumer Price Index. [Amendment 97]**
- **\$100k/year for mayor and city council positions. [Amendment 111]**

Following brief presentations by the submitters of the amendments who were present, Commissioner Campbell moved to include Amendment 97 for final consideration, with amended language that would replace the current language. The language would tie the salary for councilmembers to 2/3rds of the salary of the lowest paid Dallas County Commissioner. The motion was seconded by Commissioner LeMaster. Following further discussion, the motion failed, 4-8, with Commissioners de la Fuente, LeMaster, Campbell, and Franklin voting in favor.

Commissioner McGough then moved to include Amendment 97 with no changes for final consideration. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion carried, 12-1, with Commissioner Hunt in opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO INCLUDE AMENDMENT 97

- E. Amend Chapter III §4 to clarify that, in addition to annual salaries, mayor and councilmembers also receive benefits for elected officials as permitted by law. [Amendment 109]**

Commissioner McGough moved to include Item E for final consideration and was seconded by Commissioner Solis. Following discussion, the motion carried, 10-3, with Commissioners de la Fuente, Campbell, and Lowery in opposition.

Action Taken: INCLUDED

- F. Provide members of the city plan commission with an annual salary of \$25,000. [Amendment 14]**

Commissioner McGough moved to exclude this amendment from final consideration following a short presentation by the submitter, Philip Kingston, and some questions from the commissioners. Commissioner Medrano seconded the motion. The motion carried, 11-2, with Commissioners Solis and Mills in opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE

G. Grant city council the authority to confirm the hiring of all department directors and require a public hearing for each position. [Amendment 113]

Commissioner Medrano moved to exclude this item from further consideration and was seconded by Commissioner Clapp. The motion carried with no opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE

H. Appointments of the chiefs of the police department and the fire-rescue department.

Possible options based on submitted proposals:

- **Require that the city manager's appointments of the chiefs of the police department and the fire-rescue department be confirmed by the city council. [Amendment 108]**
- **Require the city council, instead of the city manager, to appoint and remove the chiefs of the police department and the fire-rescue department. [Amendment 12]**

Commissioner McGough moved to include Amendment 108, which would allow City Council to confirm the hiring of the chiefs of the police and fire departments, and was seconded by Commissioner Campbell. Following discussion, the motion failed, 3-10, with Commissioners Campbell, McGough, and Mills in favor.

Commissioner Medrano then moved to exclude Amendment 12 from further consideration and was seconded by Commissioner McGough. The motion passed with no opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE 108 AND 12

I. Amend the ways in which the Parks and Recreation Department is overseen.

Possible options based on submitted proposals:

- **Allow city council, rather than the Park Board, to appoint the director of the Parks and Recreation Department. [Amendment 103]**
- **Allow the Parks and Recreation Department's budget be approved directly by city council. [Amendment 121]**

Due to the volume of speakers on this item, it was taken up as the first voting item of the night. The submitters of the items each presented for 3 minutes before motions were made.

Commissioner Campbell moved to exclude Amendment 121 and was seconded by Commissioner Clapp. The motion was withdrawn as the Commission agreed to

consider Amendment 103 first, in the event that the outcome of that vote affect their thoughts on Amendment 121.

Commissioner Medrano moved to include Amendment 103 for final consideration and was seconded by Commissioner Mills. The motion failed, 3-11, with Commissioners Steen, Medrano, and Mills voting in favor.

Commissioner Campbell then made the motion to exclude Amendment 121 from further consideration, with Commissioner Clapp seconding the motion. The motion carried with no opposition.

Action Taken: EXCLUDED 103 AND 121

J. Require that the Office of Community Police Oversight and the Community Police Oversight Board report directly to the city council, rather than the city manager. [Amendment 101]

Commissioner Campbell moved to include the item for final consideration with amended language, which he read into the record. Based on suggested language from the City Attorney's Office that was distributed to the commission, it would include the first sentence of Chapter XIIA, Section 1 while removing the rest of that section; it would include all of Section 2; and exclude all of Section 3 with no language referencing the Community Police Oversight Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt. The motion carried, 11-2, with Commissioners Clapp and Lowery in opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO INCLUDE AS AMENDED

K. Require that the director of the Mayor and City Council Office be appointed by and report to city council and the Mayor and City Council staff be hired by and report to the director of the Mayor and City Council Office. [Amendment 104]

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

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE

V. Prohibit city council candidates from soliciting campaign contributions except during the 180 days prior to the election date. [Amendment 53]

The Commission skipped to Item V, because its submitter was in the audience and the time was getting late. Following the submitter's brief presentation, Commissioner McGough moved to exclude this item from further consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Medrano and carried, 13-1, with Commissioner Campbell in opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

Y. Charter Review Commission Calendar

Due to the time of evening, the Commission skipped to Item Y, to discuss possible dates for future meetings should they be necessary. Following brief discussion, Commissioner Clapp moved to add a commission meeting on April 11th at 6:30pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lowery and carried with no opposition.

Chair Vaught then asked for a motion to table the remaining items until April 2nd. Commissioner Campbell made the motion and was seconded by Commissioner de la Fuente, and the motion carried with no opposition.

Adjourn 9:48pm

APPROVED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

**Allen Vaught, Chair
Charter Review Commission**

**Jake Anderson, Coordinator
Charter Review Commission**