



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:
6:35 pm

Adjourned:
8:51 pm

Commission Members Present:

The Honorable Allen Vaught, Chair

David de la Fuente, District 1

The Honorable Miguel Solis, District 2
(joined 7:09)

Lisa LeMaster, District 3

Isaac Steen, District 4

Nancy Bernardino, District 5 (joined 8:00)

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

Commissioners Absent:

The Honorable Adam Medrano, District 6,
Vice Chair

AGENDA

Call to Order 6:35pm

A quorum was present

Approval of March 26, 2024 Charter Review Commission Meeting Minutes

Presenter(s): Allen Vaught, Chair

Approval of minutes from the previous commission meeting. Commissioner Clapp moved to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Campbell. The motion carried with no opposition.

Action Taken: APPROVED

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

A. Prohibit the creation of jobs exempt from Civil Service in Chapter XVI. [Amendment 15]

Commissioner Hunt moved to exclude this item from final consideration. Following a second by Commissioner McGough, Commissioner Hunt explained that after further consideration and in talking with the original submitter, Mr. Philip Kingston, they no longer felt that it should move forward. The motion carried with no opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE

B. Amend Chapter III §13(b) to allow each council committee to elect their own chairs and vice chairs. [Amendment 122]

Commissioner de la Fuente moved to exclude this item from further consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner LeMaster. The motion carried with no opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE

C. Require that the mayor receive two councilmember co-sponsors for board and commission chair appointments. [Amendment 96]

Following discussion with Commissioner Campbell, who submitted the amendment, Commissioner de la Fuente moved to exclude this item from further consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and carried with no opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE

D. Authorize a limited power of veto for the mayor with a city council override of a two-thirds vote.

Commissioner McGough presented this suggestion and explained his thought process behind it. Following discussion, he moved to include this item and was seconded by Commissioner Clapp. The motion for inclusion failed, 2-11, with Commissioners Clapp and McGough in support.

Action Taken: EXCLUDED

E. Require the city manager to seek and obtain the city council's policy priorities before submitting the city manager's annual budget and require the city manager's annual budget to reflect those priorities. [Amendment 108]

Commissioner McGough explained the reasoning behind this suggestion. Following discussion, he moved to include the item for final consideration, specifying that he chose the first of two options for suggested language provided by the City Attorney's Office. Commissioner Solis seconded the motion. The motion failed, 4-9, with Commissioners Solis, Franklin, Clapp, McGough in support.

Action Taken: EXCLUDED

F. Establish an Office of Ombudsman within the function of the city auditor. [Amendment 37]

The Commission asked questions of City Auditor Mark Swann and ultimately the general sentiment was that this might be something the Commission recommend for Council to consider in other ways, but it did not suit the Charter. Commissioner Jung moved to exclude the item and was seconded by Commissioner Lowery. The motion carried with no opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE

G. Clarify that city council's appointments to boards and commissions are at-will. [Amendment 13]

The submitter, Mr. Philip Kingston, presented his suggestion and then was questioned by the Commission. Following this discussion, Commissioner Hunt moved to include this item for final consideration with language amended, as read into the record. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Campbell.

The motion carried, 12-1, with Commissioner Jung in opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO INCLUDE WITH AMENDED LANGUAGE

H. Delete Chapter III §15 prohibiting city council from interfering with appointments or subordinates of city manager. [Amendment 9]

The submitter, Mr. Philip Kingston, presented his suggestion and then was questioned by the Commission. Commissioner Hunt moved to include this item for final consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McGough. The motion carried, 10-4, with Commissioners LeMaster, Steen, Franklin, and Clapp in opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO INCLUDE

- I. Require appointees to boards and commissions to reside in the council district of the nominating councilmember, while allowing for a 2/3 vote non-district exception. [Amendment 124]**

Commissioner Steen explained the rationale for this item to the Commission and fielded questions. Commissioner Solis then moved to include this item and was seconded by Commissioner Steen. The motion failed, 7-7, with Commissioners de la Fuente, Solis, LeMaster, Steen, Bernardino, Franklin, and Vaught in favor and Commissioners Campbell, Jung, Clapp, Lowery, McGough, Mills, and Hunt opposed.

Action Taken: EXCLUDED

- J. Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of citizen. [Amendment 1]**

Commissioner Solis moved to include this item for further consideration and was seconded by Commissioner Campbell.

During discussion, Commissioner de la Fuente moved to amend the motion to propose alternative language for two sections: those related to Civil Service Board and related to preference in contracts. The amendment was seconded by Commissioner Franklin. The amendment passed, 8-5, with Commissioners Solis, Bernardino, McGough, Mills, and Vaught. Commissioner Steen did not vote.

The Commission then voted on the main motion. It passed, 9-4, with Commissioners Clapp, McGough, Mills, and Vaught in opposition. Commissioner Steen did not vote.

Action Taken: MOVED TO INCLUDE AS AMENDED

- K. Amend the vote requirement for council to modify the redistricting commission’s recommended districting plan from a 3/4 majority vote to a 2/3 majority vote in Chapter IV §5(b)(6). [Amendment 93]**

Commissioner de la Fuente moved to exclude this item from further consideration and was seconded by Commissioner Hunt. The motion carried with no opposition.

Action Taken: MOVED TO EXCLUDE

- L. Amend Chapter IV §5 to add eligibility criteria for serving on the redistricting commission. [Amendment 125]**

Commissioner de la Fuente moved to include this item and was seconded by Commissioner Hunt. The motion carried, 13-1, with Commissioner McGough opposed.

Action Taken: MOVED TO INCLUDE

Adjourn 8:51pm

APPROVED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

Allen Vaught, Chair
Charter Review Commission

Jake Anderson, Coordinator
Charter Review Commission