

Charter Review Commission



Recommended Amendments to the Dallas City Charter presented to the Dallas City Council May 1, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Tab 1: Letter from the Chair.

Tab 2: Chronological list of included amendments by commission agenda date.

Tab 3: Summary of suggested amendments.

Tab 4: Charter language changes.

Tab A: CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Section 3. Council Qualifications.

Section 4. Compensation of the Members of the City Council.

Section 7. Special Meetings.

Section 8. Open Meetings; Speakers.

Section 13. Policy-Making Procedures and Oversight Responsibilities.

Section 15. No Interference by Council with Appointments or Subordinates of City Manager.

Section 19. Independent Audit.

Tab B: CHAPTER IIIA. CITY SECRETARY.

Section 2. Assistants and Employees.

Tab C: CHAPTER IV. ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS.

Section 5. Districts and Redistricting.

Section 6. Candidate's Residence.

Section 13. Disclosure of Candidate Contributions.

Section 14. Ranked Choice Voting.

Tab D: CHAPTER IX. CITY AUDITOR.

Section 2. Assistants and Employees.

**Tab E: CHAPTER XI. THE BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PROCEDURE
RELATING THERETO.**

Section 1. Annual Budget Estimate.

Section 3. Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

Tab F: CHAPTER XII. POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Section 4. Discipline of Police; Hearing.

Tab G: CHAPTER XXIIA. COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT.

Tab H: CHAPTER XIII. FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT.

Section 2. Duties.

Section 9. Discipline of Firefighters and Other Fire-Rescue Department
Personnel; Hearing.

Tab I: CHAPTER IXA. OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

Tab J: CHAPTER XIV. FRANCHISES.

Section 8. Acquisition by Eminent Domain.

Tab K: CHAPTER XV. PLANNING AND ZONING.

Section 3. Zoning Commission.

Section 4. Duties of the Zoning Commission.

Tab L: CHAPTER XVI. CIVIL SERVICE.

Section 3. Civil Service Divided into Classified and Unclassified Service.

Section 6. Board to Provide for Promotions and Reassignments in the
Classified Service.

Section 7. Board to Establish Rules Governing Conduct.

Section 10. Probationary Period.

Section 11. Employee Actions After Probation Period.

Tab M: CHAPTER XVII. PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

Section 2. Organization of Board and Terms of Office Members.

Tab N: CHAPTER XVIII. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

Section 7. Publication of Ordinances.

Section 11. Initiative and Referendum of Ordinances.

Section 15. Promulgation of Ordinances Before Election.

Tab O: CHAPTER XIX. ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF TAXES.

Section 7. Tax Lien; Liability for Taxes.

Tab P: CHAPTER XXI. BORROWING MONEY.

Section 13. Community Bond Commission.

Tab Q: CHAPTER XXII. PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

Section 2. Contract Letting.

Section 3. Public Inspection of Bids.

Section 4. Emergency Spending, Etc.

Tab R: CHAPTER XXIV. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Section 13. Appointment and Tenure of Commissions and Boards.

Section 17. Board and Commission Members.

Section 22. Performance Deadlines.

Tab 5: Charter Amendment Proposals Excluded by the Charter Review Commission.

Tab 6: Resolution Creating the Charter Review Commission and List of Members.

Chronological List of Included Amendments by Commission by Agenda Date

Items in bold are policy issues
Items underlined are changes to city operations
Items in italics are technical corrections

January 11, 2024

Agenda Item	Charter Citation(s)	Description (Amendment No.)
A	XI §1	<i>Require the city manager to submit an estimated budget BY August 15 instead of ON August 15. (22)</i>
B	IV §6(a)	<i>Amend city council candidate residency requirements to match the requirements in the Election Code. (35)</i>
C	IV §6(c)(2)	<i>Delete the requirement that the city secretary verify the truth in a city council candidate's filed affidavit of residency. (45)</i>
D	XXIV	<i>Add a provision to allow for an alternate deadline when the date for performance of an act falls on a weekend or holiday. (61)</i>
E	III §3	<i>Requiring candidates for city council to not be in arrears only in the payment of liabilities due the city that are related to holding office. (62)</i>
F	XIX §7	<i>Allow the city to accrue liens on a monthly basis. (63)</i>
G	XII §4, XIII §9, XVI §11(b)	<i>Amend personnel appeal deadline to be consistent with personnel rules (Chapter 34 of the Dallas City Code). (64)</i>
H	XVI §10(a)	<i>Clarify that a civilian probationary period does not satisfy the requirement for sworn service probationary periods. (65)</i>
I	XVIII §11(1)	<i>Remove voter registration requirement for those who make an application to the city secretary and file an intention to circulate a petition. (66)</i>

January 23, 2024

Agenda Item	Charter Citation(s)	Description (Amendment No.)
E	IV §5(b)(1), XV §3, XVII §2(b), XXIV §13(c)	<u>Require city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs. (19, 67)</u>
I	XXII § 3	<u>Delete the requirement for bids to be opened in a public place and in the presence of persons and remain open to the public. (43)</u>

February 6, 2024

Agenda Item	Charter Citation(s)	Description (Amendment No.)
C	XVI §3(b)(1)	<i>Clarify that city council, not the rules of the civil service board, designates which managerial personnel are included with in the unclassified service. (90, 107)</i>
D	XVI §6	<u>Reorganizations and reductions in force will be treated in the same manner with respect to compensation and reassignment. (91)</u>
E	XVI §7	<i>It is the duty of the Human Resources Dept, rather than the civil service board rules and regulations, to establish rules governing the evaluation of conduct and performance and require remedies for nonperformance for positions in the civil service. (106)</i>
I	III §7	<u>Require that special meetings shall be called upon the written request of five members of the city council rather than three. (123)</u>
J	XVIII §11(1)	Extend the deadline petitioners must meet to collect the required signatures on a petition from 60 days to 120 days. (114)
K	XVIII §11(2)	Reduce the number of signatures required on a petition in support of holding a referendum. (115)
M	IV §5, XV §3, XVII §2	Allow residents to serve on the redistricting commission, the plan commission, and the park and recreation board instead of citizens or registered/qualified voters. (94)
O	IIIA §2, IX §2	<u>Provide the city secretary and city auditor with assistants and employees. (58)</u>

February 20, 2024

No amendments recommended for inclusion.
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March 4, 2024

Agenda Item	Charter Citation(s)	Description (Amendment No.)
A	IXA	<u>Establish the Office of Inspector General in the city charter with the Inspector General being appointed by city council. (83)</u>
V	III §19, IV §13, XI §3, XV §4, XVIII §7, XVIII §15,	<u>Broaden the city's notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication. (110, 118, 119, 120)</u>

	XXII §2	
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March 26, 2024

Agenda Item	Charter Citation(s)	Description (Amendment No.)
A	XXI § 13	Establish a Community Bond Commission (40)
C	IV § 14	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 (2)
D	III § 4	Increase the annual salary for councilmembers to \$125k/year and for the mayor to \$140k/year, indexed to consumer price index (97)
E	III § 4	<i>Clarify that, in addition to annual salaries, the mayor and councilmembers may also receive benefits for elected officials as permitted by law (109)</i>
J	XIIA	<u>Require that the Office of Community Police Oversight director be appointed by and report directly to the city council (101)</u>

April 2, 2024

Agenda Item	Charter Citation(s)	Description (Amendment No.)
G	XXIV § 17(b)	Allow city council's appointments to boards and commissions to be replaced by city council prior to the completion of the member's term. (13)
H	III § 15	<u>Delete the provision prohibiting the city council from interfering with appointments and subordinates of the city manager. (9)</u>
J	III § 8(b) III § 13(a) III § 19 XIII § 2(2) XIV § 8 XVI § 1 XXII § (4)(1), (2) XXII § 10	<i>Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using "resident" or "people" in place of or in addition to "citizen" in certain provisions. (1)</i>
L	XIIA	Add eligibility criteria for serving on the redistricting commission. (125)

SUMMARY OF SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS
RECOMMENDED BY THE 2024 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Items in bold are policy issues

Items underlined are changes to city operations

Items in italics are technical corrections

<u>Citation</u>	<u>Description</u>
III §3	<i>Require candidates for city council to not be in arrears only in the payment of liabilities due the city that are related to holding office.</i>
III §4	Raise the mayor’s salary to \$145k/year and councilmembers’ salaries to \$125k/year, indexed to Consumer Price Index.
III §4	<i>Clarify that, in addition to annual salaries, the mayor and councilmembers also receive benefits for elected officials as permitted by law.</i>
III §7	<u>Require that special meetings shall be called upon the written request of five members of the city council rather than three.</u>
III §8(b)	<i>Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.</i>
III §13(a)	<i>Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.</i>
III §15	<u>Delete the provision prohibiting the city council from interfering with appointments and subordinates of the city manager.</u>
III §19	<u>Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.</u>
III §19	<i>Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.</i>
IV §5(b)(1)	<u>Require city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs.</u>
IV §5(b)(2)	Allow residents to serve on the redistricting commission, the plan commission, and the park and recreation board instead of citizens or registered/qualified voters.
IV §5(b)(2)	Add eligibility criteria for serving on the redistricting commission.

IV §6(a)	<i>Amend city council candidate residency requirements to match the requirements in the Election Code.</i>
IV §6(c)(2)	<i>Delete the requirement that the city secretary verify the truth in a city council candidate's filed affidavit of residency.</i>
IV §13	<u>Broaden the city's notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.</u>
IV §14	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.
VII §3	<u>Establish the Office of Inspector General in the city charter with the Inspector General being appointed by city council.</u>
IXA	<u>Establish the Office of Inspector General in the city charter with the Inspector General being appointed by city council.</u>
XI §1	<i>Require the city manager to submit an estimated budget BY August 15 instead of ON August 15.</i>
XI §3	<u>Broaden the city's notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.</u>
XII §4	<i>Amend personnel appeal deadline to be consistent with personnel rules (Chapter 34 of the Dallas City Code).</i>
XIIA	<u>Require that the director of the Office of Community Police Oversight be appointed by and report directly to the city council, rather than the city manager.</u>
XIII §2(2)	<i>Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using "resident" or "people" in place of or in addition to "citizen" in certain provisions.</i>
XIII §9	<i>Amend personnel appeal deadline to be consistent with personnel rules (Chapter 34 of the Dallas City Code).</i>
XIV §8	<i>Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using "resident" or "people" in place of or in addition to "citizen" in certain provisions.</i>
XV §3	<u>Require city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs.</u>
XV §3	Allow residents to serve on the redistricting commission, the plan commission, and the park and recreation board instead of citizens or registered/qualified voters.

XV §4	<u>Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.</u>
XVI §1	<i>Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.</i>
XVI §3(b)(1)	<i>Clarify that city council, not the rules of the civil service board, designates which managerial personnel are included with in the unclassified service.</i>
XVI §6	<i>Reorganizations and reductions in force will be treated in the same manner with respect to compensation and reassignment.</i>
XVI §7	<i>It is the duty of the Human Resources Dept, rather than the civil service board rules and regulations, to establish rules governing the evaluation of conduct and performance and require remedies for nonperformance for positions in the civil service.</i>
XVI §10(a)	<i>Clarify that a civilian probationary period does not satisfy the requirement for sworn service probationary periods.</i>
XVI §11(b)	<i>Amend personnel appeal deadline to be consistent with personnel rules (Chapter 34 of the Dallas City Code).</i>
XVII §2(a)	Allow residents to serve on the redistricting commission, the plan commission, and the park and recreation board instead of citizens or registered/qualified voters.
XVII §2(b)	<u>Require city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs.</u>
XXII §4(1), (2)	<i>Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.</i>
XVIII §7	<u>Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.</u>
XVIII §11(1)	<i>Remove voter registration requirement for those who make an application to the city secretary and file an intention to circulate a petition.</i>
XVIII §11(1)	Extend the deadline petitioners must meet to collect the required signatures on a petition from 60 days to 120 days.
XVIII §11(2)	Reduce the number of signatures required on a petition in support of holding a referendum.
XVIII §15	<u>Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.</u>

XIX §7	<i>Allow the city to accrue liens on a monthly basis.</i>
XXI §13	Establish a community bond commission.
XXII §2	<u>Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.</u>
XXII §3	<i>Delete the requirement for bids to be opened in a public place and in the presence of persons and remain open to the public.</i>
XXII §10	<i>Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.</i>
XXIV §13(c)	<u>Require city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs.</u>
XXIV §17(b)	Allow city council’s appointments to boards and commissions to be replaced by city council prior to the completion of the member’s term.
XXIV §22	<i>Add a provision to allow for an alternate deadline when the date for performance of an act falls on a weekend or holiday.</i>

Charter Language Changes

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Current language:

“SEC. 3. COUNCIL QUALIFICATIONS.

Each member of the city council shall, in addition to the other qualifications prescribed by law, be at the date of election a qualified voter of the city, and shall not be in arrears in the payment of any taxes or other liabilities due the city.

Recommendation: Require candidates for city council to not be in arrears only in the payment of liabilities due the city that are related to holding office.”

Proposed language:

“SEC. 3. COUNCIL QUALIFICATIONS.

Each member of the city council shall, in addition to the other qualifications prescribed by law, be at the date of election a qualified voter of the city, and shall not be in arrears in the payment of ~~[any taxes or other]~~ liabilities due the city related to holding office.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Current language:

“SEC. 4. COMPENSATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

(a) Effective October 1, 2001, each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$37,500 for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. The mayor shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council. *[Note: This version of subsection (a) is effective until the swearing in of city council members in June 2015.]*

(a) Effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2015, each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. The mayor shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council. *[Note: This version of subsection (a) is effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2015 and until the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014.]*

(a) Effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2015, each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. Effective upon the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014, the mayor shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$80,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council. *[Note: This version of subsection (a) is effective upon the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014.]*

(b) For purposes of this section, a “year” means a 12-consecutive-month period.

(c) The compensation provided for in Subsection (a) will be paid on a biweekly basis.

(d) In addition to receiving the compensation provided for in Subsection (a), all necessary expenses incurred by members of the city council in the performance of their duties will be paid by the city, when authorized by the city council.

(e) If any city council member, including the mayor, misses more than 10 percent of the total number of regular meetings held by the city council during any compensation year, then the city council member’s compensation provided for under Subsection (a) for that year will be reduced proportionately by the percentage of meetings missed. For purposes of this subsection, regular meetings include both those held by the full city council and those held by the standing city council committees on which a member serves. Meetings missed by a city council member while he or she is on the official business of the city council and at the direction of the city council will not be counted towards the percentage of missed meetings for which compensation reduction

is required under this subsection, but will be counted as though the member had attended the meetings that are missed while so engaged in city business.”

Recommendation: Raise the mayor’s salary to \$140,000/year and councilmembers’ salaries to \$125,000/year, indexed to Consumer Price Index.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 4. COMPENSATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

(a) ~~[Effective October 1, 2001, e]~~Each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive a salary in ~~[as compensation for services]~~ the sum of \$60,000 ~~[\$37,500]~~ for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. The mayor shall receive a salary in ~~[as compensation for services]~~ the sum of \$80,000 ~~[\$60,000]~~ for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council. *[Note: This version of S/s]subsection (a) is effective until the swearing in of city council members in June 2025 [2015].]*

(a) Effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2025 [2015], each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive a salary in ~~[as compensation for services]~~ the sum of \$125,000 ~~[\$60,000]~~ for the following ~~[each]~~ year (prorated for a partial year[s]) that the member serves on the city council. The mayor shall receive a salary in ~~[as compensation for services]~~ the sum of \$140,000 ~~[\$60,000]~~ for the following ~~[each]~~ year (prorated for a partial year[s]) served as mayor on the city council. The annual salary for the mayor and members of the city council shall thereafter be subject to a yearly adjustment equal to the year-over-year percentage increase in the local consumer price index. *[Note: This version of S/s]subsection (a) is effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2025 [2015] and until the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014.]*

~~[(a) Effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2015, each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. Effective upon the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014, the mayor shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$80,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council. [Note: This version of subsection (a) is effective upon the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014.]]~~

(b) For purposes of this section, a “year” means a 12-consecutive-month period.

(c) The salary ~~[compensation]~~ provided for in Subsection (a) will be paid on a biweekly basis.

(d) In addition to receiving the salary ~~[compensation]~~ provided for in Subsection (a), all necessary expenses incurred by members of the city council in the performance of their duties will be paid by the city, when authorized by the city council.

(e) If any city council member, including the mayor, misses more than 10 percent of the total number of regular meetings held by the city council during any salary [~~compensation~~] year, then the city council member's salary [~~compensation~~] provided for under Subsection (a) for that year will be reduced proportionately by the percentage of meetings missed. For purposes of this subsection, regular meetings include both those held by the full city council and those held by the standing city council committees on which a member serves. Meetings missed by a city council member while he or she is on the official business of the city council and at the direction of the city council will not be counted towards the percentage of missed meetings for which salary [~~compensation~~] reduction is required under this subsection, but will be counted as though the member had attended the meetings that are missed while so engaged in city business."

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 26, 2024

Approved by vote of 12-1

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Current language:

“SEC. 4. COMPENSATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

(a) Effective October 1, 2001, each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$37,500 for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. The mayor shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council. *[Note: This version of subsection (a) is effective until the swearing in of city council members in June 2015.]*

(a) Effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2015, each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. The mayor shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council. *[Note: This version of subsection (a) is effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2015 and until the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014.]*

(a) Effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2015, each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. Effective upon the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014, the mayor shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$80,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council. *[Note: This version of subsection (a) is effective upon the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014.]*

(b) For purposes of this section, a “year” means a 12-consecutive-month period.

(c) The compensation provided for in Subsection (a) will be paid on a biweekly basis.

(d) In addition to receiving the compensation provided for in Subsection (a), all necessary expenses incurred by members of the city council in the performance of their duties will be paid by the city, when authorized by the city council.

(e) If any city council member, including the mayor, misses more than 10 percent of the total number of regular meetings held by the city council during any compensation year, then the city council member’s compensation provided for under Subsection (a) for that year will be reduced proportionately by the percentage of meetings missed. For purposes of this subsection, regular meetings include both those held by the full city council and those held by the standing city council committees on which a member serves. Meetings missed by a city council member while he or she is on the official business of the city council and at the direction of the city council will not be counted towards the percentage of missed meetings for which compensation reduction

is required under this subsection, but will be counted as though the member had attended the meetings that are missed while so engaged in city business.”

Recommendation: Clarify that, in addition to annual salaries, the mayor and councilmembers also receive benefits for elected officials as permitted by law.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 4. COMPENSATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

(a) Effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2015, each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive a salary in ~~[as compensation for services]~~ the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. Effective upon the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014, the mayor shall receive a salary in ~~[as compensation for services]~~ the sum of \$80,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council.

(b) For purposes of this section, a “year” means a 12-consecutive-month period.

(c) The salary ~~[compensation]~~ provided for in Subsection (a) will be paid on a biweekly basis.

(d) In addition to receiving the salary ~~[compensation]~~ provided for in Subsection (a), all necessary expenses incurred by members of the city council in the performance of their duties will be paid by the city, when authorized by the city council. The mayor and each member of the city council may also receive benefits for elected officials as permitted by state and federal law and adopted by city council through resolution or ordinance.

(e) If any city council member, including the mayor, misses more than 10 percent of the total number of regular meetings held by the city council during any salary ~~[compensation]~~ year, then the city council member’s salary ~~[compensation]~~ provided for under Subsection (a) for that year will be reduced proportionately by the percentage of meetings missed. For purposes of this subsection, regular meetings include both those held by the full city council and those held by the standing city council committees on which a member serves. Meetings missed by a city council member while he or she is on the official business of the city council and at the direction of the city council will not be counted towards the percentage of missed meetings for which salary ~~[compensation]~~ reduction is required under this subsection, but will be counted as though the member had attended the meetings that are missed while so engaged in city business.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 26, 2024

Approved by vote of 10-3

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Current language:

“SEC. 7. SPECIAL MEETINGS.

Special meetings shall be called by the city secretary upon the written request of the mayor, the city manager or three members of the council. Any such notice shall state the subject to be considered at the special meeting and may provide for the taking up of any other matters presented at such meeting.”

Recommendation: Require that special meetings shall be called upon the written request of five members of the city council rather than three members.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 7. SPECIAL MEETINGS.

Special meetings shall be called by the city secretary upon the written request of the mayor, the city manager or five [~~three~~] members of the council. Any such notice shall state the subject to be considered at the special meeting and may provide for the taking up of any other matters presented at such meeting.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 7-6

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Current language:

“SEC. 8. OPEN MEETINGS; SPEAKERS.

(b) The city council shall adopt rules of procedure that provide reasonable opportunity for citizens to be heard by the city council.”

Recommendation: Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 8. OPEN MEETINGS; SPEAKERS.

(b) The city council shall adopt rules of procedure that provide reasonable opportunity for people [~~citizens~~] to be heard by the city council.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Current language:

“SEC. 13. POLICY-MAKING PROCEDURES AND OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) In the performance of the powers of government, it is the duty of the mayor and the city council to make suitable provision for the assurance of adequate and appropriate prior review and consideration of official actions to be taken by the city council, and to assure that a high performance level of services to the citizens is maintained, responsiveness to the people is provided, and accountability in municipal government is assured. To this end, the city council shall:

(1) adopt rules of procedure governing the conduct of city council meetings and the introduction, consideration, and method of review of actions to be considered by the city council, consistent with the city manager’s authority to present directly to the entire city council the city manager’s operational agenda;

(2) create a standing finance committee of the city council charged with the responsibility for financial and audit oversight of the operations of city government;

(3) establish such additional standing committees and their duties as the city council determines is appropriate; and

(4) establish the process by which the committees shall conduct their business and review matters for city council consideration, consistent with the city manager’s authority to present directly to the entire city council the city manager’s operational agenda.”

Recommendation: Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 13. POLICY-MAKING PROCEDURES AND OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) In the performance of the powers of government, it is the duty of the mayor and the city council to make suitable provision for the assurance of adequate and appropriate prior review and consideration of official actions to be taken by the city council, and to assure that a high performance level of services to the residents [~~citizens~~] is maintained, responsiveness to the people is provided, and accountability in municipal government is assured. To this end, the city council shall:

(1) adopt rules of procedure governing the conduct of city council meetings and the introduction, consideration, and method of review of actions to be considered by the city

council, consistent with the city manager's authority to present directly to the entire city council the city manager's operational agenda;

(2) create a standing finance committee of the city council charged with the responsibility for financial and audit oversight of the operations of city government;

(3) establish such additional standing committees and their duties as the city council determines is appropriate; and

(4) establish the process by which the committees shall conduct their business and review matters for city council consideration, consistent with the city manager's authority to present directly to the entire city council the city manager's operational agenda.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Current language:

“SEC. 15. NO INTERFERENCE BY COUNCIL WITH APPOINTMENTS OR SUBORDINATES OF CITY MANAGER.

Neither the council nor any of its committees or members shall dictate or attempt to dictate any person’s appointment to, or removal from, office or employment by the city manager or any of the city manager’s subordinates, or in any manner interfere in the appointment of officers and employees in the departments of administrative service vested in the manager by this Charter. Except for the purpose of inquiry, the council and its members shall deal with that part of the administrative service for which the city manager is responsible solely through such manager, and neither the council nor any city council member shall give orders to any of the subordinates of the city manager in those departments, either publicly or privately. This section shall not apply to those professional and administrative assistants provided for in Section 14 of this chapter.”

Recommendation: Delete the provision prohibiting the city council from interfering with appointments and subordinates of the city manager.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 15. RESERVED. ~~[NO INTERFERENCE BY COUNCIL WITH APPOINTMENTS OR SUBORDINATES OF CITY MANAGER.~~

~~Neither the council nor any of its committees or members shall dictate or attempt to dictate any person’s appointment to, or removal from, office or employment by the city manager or any of the city manager’s subordinates, or in any manner interfere in the appointment of officers and employees in the departments of administrative service vested in the manager by this Charter. Except for the purpose of inquiry, the council and its members shall deal with that part of the administrative service for which the city manager is responsible solely through such manager, and neither the council nor any city council member shall give orders to any of the subordinates of the city manager in those departments, either publicly or privately. This section shall not apply to those professional and administrative assistants provided for in Section 14 of this chapter.]”~~

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 9-4

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Current language:

“SEC. 19. INDEPENDENT AUDIT.

The city council shall cause the annual financial statements and related records and accounts of the city to be audited annually by a firm registered with the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy as a firm practicing public accountancy. The auditor shall be selected by the city council, and shall be responsible to the council. The report of such auditor and the financial statements and related audit opinion for the fiscal year shall be printed and a copy shall be furnished to each city council member and the city manager, and a copy shall be kept available in the office of the city secretary for inspection by any citizen upon request. A summary of the annual financial statements and the audit report shall also be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the city. The original report of the auditor or auditors shall be kept among the permanent records of the city.”

Recommendation: Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 19. INDEPENDENT AUDIT.

The city council shall cause the annual financial statements and related records and accounts of the city to be audited annually by a firm registered with the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy as a firm practicing public accountancy. The auditor shall be selected by the city council, and shall be responsible to the council. The report of such auditor and the financial statements and related audit opinion for the fiscal year shall be printed and a copy shall be furnished to each city council member and the city manager, and a copy shall be kept available in the office of the city secretary for inspection by any citizen upon request. A summary of the annual financial statements and the audit report shall also be published in digital and print pursuant to the city’s communication plan and language access policies, and once in a newspaper of general circulation in the city. The original report of the auditor or auditors shall be kept among the permanent records of the city.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 4, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Current language:

“SEC. 19. INDEPENDENT AUDIT.

The city council shall cause the annual financial statements and related records and accounts of the city to be audited annually by a firm registered with the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy as a firm practicing public accountancy. The auditor shall be selected by the city council, and shall be responsible to the council. The report of such auditor and the financial statements and related audit opinion for the fiscal year shall be printed and a copy shall be furnished to each city council member and the city manager, and a copy shall be kept available in the office of the city secretary for inspection by any citizen upon request. A summary of the annual financial statements and the audit report shall also be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the city. The original report of the auditor or auditors shall be kept among the permanent records of the city.”

Recommendation: Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 19. INDEPENDENT AUDIT.

The city council shall cause the annual financial statements and related records and accounts of the city to be audited annually by a firm registered with the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy as a firm practicing public accountancy. The auditor shall be selected by the city council, and shall be responsible to the council. The report of such auditor and the financial statements and related audit opinion for the fiscal year shall be printed and a copy shall be furnished to each city council member and the city manager, and a copy shall be kept available in the office of the city secretary for inspection by any person [~~citizen~~] upon request. A summary of the annual financial statements and the audit report shall also be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the city. The original report of the auditor or auditors shall be kept among the permanent records of the city.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 9-4

CHAPTER IIIA. CITY SECRETARY.

Current language:

“SEC. 2. ASSISTANTS AND EMPLOYEES

The city council shall provide the city secretary with such assistants as it may deem necessary, and they shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the council. Any such assistant may be discharged at any time by the city secretary. All powers and duties imposed on the city secretary may be exercised and performed by any assistant under the city secretary’s direction.”

Recommendation: Provide the city secretary and city auditor with assistants and employees.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 2. ASSISTANTS AND EMPLOYEES

The city council shall provide the city secretary with such assistants and employees as it may deem necessary, and they shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the council. Any such assistant or employee may be discharged at any time by the city secretary. All powers and duties imposed on the city secretary may be exercised and performed by any assistant or employee under the city secretary’s direction.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 12-1

CHAPTER IV. ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS.

Current language:

“SEC. 5. DISTRICTS AND REDISTRICTING.

(b) Redistricting commission.

(1) Not later than 30 days after the city council is briefed on the federal decennial census taken in the prior year, each member of the city council shall appoint one member of the redistricting commission. The mayor shall designate the chair of the redistricting commission, subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council. In making such appointments, the city council and the mayor shall, as nearly as may be practicable, provide fair and balanced representation of all geographical areas of the city in the redistricting process and provide a total membership that reflects the racial and ethnic makeup of the city’s population. Members of the redistricting commission shall be appointed to serve a term that will end upon completion of the redistricting commission’s work.”

Recommendation: Require city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs in lieu of vice chairs being appointed by the full city council.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 5. DISTRICTS AND REDISTRICTING.

(b) Redistricting commission.

(1) Not later than 30 days after the city council is briefed on the federal decennial census taken in the prior year, each member of the city council shall appoint one member of the redistricting commission. The mayor shall designate the chair of the redistricting commission, subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council. In making such appointments, the city council and the mayor shall, as nearly as may be practicable, provide fair and balanced representation of all geographical areas of the city in the redistricting process and provide a total membership that reflects the racial and ethnic makeup of the city’s population. Members of the redistricting commission shall be appointed to serve a term that will end upon completion of the redistricting commission’s work. The commission shall elect one of the members to serve as vice chair.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 23, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-1

CHAPTER IV. ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS.

Current language:

“SEC. 5. DISTRICTS AND REDISTRICTING.

(b) Redistricting commission.

(2) Persons appointed to the redistricting commission must be registered to vote and meet the qualifications for service on a city commission. A member of the city council is not eligible for appointment to the redistricting commission. A member of the redistricting commission is not eligible to be a candidate for a place on the city council in the next succeeding general election of the city, and may not be appointed or elected to the city council or to any other official board or commission of the city for a period of one year after service on the redistricting commission.”

Recommendation: Allow residents to serve on the redistricting commission, the plan commission, and the park and recreation board instead of citizens or registered/qualified voters.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 5. DISTRICTS AND REDISTRICTING.

(b) Redistricting commission.

(2) Persons appointed to the redistricting commission must ~~[be registered to vote and]~~ meet the qualifications for service on a city commission. A member of the city council is not eligible for appointment to the redistricting commission. A member of the redistricting commission is not eligible to be a candidate for a place on the city council in the next succeeding general election of the city, and may not be appointed or elected to the city council or to any other official board or commission of the city for a period of one year after service on the redistricting commission.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 7-6

CHAPTER IV. ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS.

Current language:

“SEC. 5. DISTRICTS AND REDISTRICTING.

(b) Redistricting commission.

(2) Persons appointed to the redistricting commission must be registered to vote and meet the qualifications for service on a city commission. A member of the city council is not eligible for appointment to the redistricting commission. A member of the redistricting commission is not eligible to be a candidate for a place on the city council in the next succeeding general election of the city, and may not be appointed or elected to the city council or to any other official board or commission of the city for a period of one year after service on the redistricting commission.”

Recommendation: Add eligibility criteria for serving on the redistricting commission.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 5. DISTRICTS AND REDISTRICTING.

(b) Redistricting commission.

(2) Persons appointed to the redistricting commission must be registered to vote and meet the qualifications for service on a city commission. ~~[A member of the city council is not eligible for appointment to the redistricting commission.]~~ A member of the redistricting commission is not eligible to be a candidate for a place on the city council in the next succeeding general election of the city, and may not be appointed or elected to the city council or to any other official board or commission of the city for a period of one year after service on the redistricting commission. The following persons are not eligible to serve on the redistricting commission:

(A) a current member of the city council or the spouse of a current member of the city council or any family member within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity;

(B) a person or the spouse of a person who has been appointed to or elected to any elective federal, state, county, or city office during the three years before the appointment date;

(C) the campaign manager, treasurer, or staff member of any candidate for federal, state, county, or city elected office during the five years before the appointment date;

(D) a registered lobbyist or spouse of a lobbyist registered with the city, county, state, or federal government;

(E) a person or spouse of a person who works for the city or who works with or for any current member of the city council;

(F) a person or spouse of a person who has a contractual relationship with the city, has had a contractual relationship with the city within three years before the date of appointment, has a contractual relationship with any current member of the city council or the spouse of a current city council member; or has had a contractual relationship with any current member of the city council or the spouse of a current city council member within three years before the date of appointment (this paragraph does not apply to non-negotiated, form contracts for general city services or benefits if the city services or benefits are made available to the person or spouse on the same terms that they are made available to the general public); or

(G) a person who, in accordance with this charter, city ordinances, or written city policy, is ineligible for appointment to a city board or commission.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-1

CHAPTER IV. ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS.

Current language:

“SEC. 6. CANDIDATE’S RESIDENCE.

(a) No person shall be eligible as a candidate for member of council, Place 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14, unless the person is at the time a bona fide resident of District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14, respectively, and has resided within the district in which the person is a candidate for a period of at least six months prior to the date of the election. Any person elected to a place representing a district must continuously reside in the district during that person’s term of office. A candidate for member of council, Place 15, may be a resident of any portion of the city, must have resided in the city for a period of at least six months prior to the date of the election, and must continuously reside within the city during the person’s term of office.”

Recommendation: Amend city council candidate residency requirements to match the requirements in the Election Code

Proposed language:

“SEC. 6. CANDIDATE’S RESIDENCE.

(a) No person shall be eligible as a candidate for member of council, Place 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14, unless the person is at the time a bona fide resident of District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14, respectively, has resided continuously in Texas for 12 months, and has resided within the district in which the person is a candidate for a period of at least six months prior to the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate’s application for a place on the ballot [~~election~~]. Any person elected to a place representing a district must continuously reside in the district during that person’s term of office. A candidate for member of council, Place 15, may be a resident of any portion of the city, must have resided continuously in the city for a period of at least six months and continuously in Texas for 12 months prior to the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate’s application for a place on the ballot [~~election~~], and must continuously reside within the city during the person’s term of office.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER IV. ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS.

Current language:

“SEC. 6. CANDIDATE’S RESIDENCE.

(c) No person may appear on the official ballot as a candidate for a place on the city council unless:

(1) that person files with the city secretary a signed, sworn, and dated affidavit certifying compliance with the residency requirements of this section, except that a sworn application for a place on the ballot filed with the city secretary in accordance with the Texas Election Code will satisfy the requirements of this paragraph; and

(2) the city secretary is reasonably able to verify the truth of the affidavit of residence.”

Recommendation: Delete the requirement that the city secretary verify the truth in a city council candidate’s filed affidavit of residency.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 6. CANDIDATE’S RESIDENCE.

(c) No person may appear on the official ballot as a candidate for a place on the city council unless[:

(1)] that person files with the city secretary a signed, sworn, and dated affidavit certifying compliance with the residency requirements of this section, except that a sworn application for a place on the ballot filed with the city secretary in accordance with the Texas Election Code will satisfy the requirements of this paragraph[; and

(2) the city secretary is reasonably able to verify the truth of the affidavit of residency].”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER IV. ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS.

Current language:

“SEC. 13. DISCLOSURE OF CANDIDATE CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) The city secretary shall cause to be published, in a newspaper of general circulation or on the city’s website, on at least two separate dates (20 and two days, respectively) prior to each election or recall election, a notice disclosing the names and contribution amounts of individuals and political committees making contributions to the campaigns and/or election committees of the candidates for mayor and city council that have been reported to the city secretary prior to the dates of publication.

(b) The city secretary shall also cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation or on the city’s website, a notice disclosing the names and contribution amounts of individuals and political committees making contributions to the campaigns and/or election committees of the candidates for mayor and city council reported to the city secretary following any election or recall election.”

Recommendation: Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 13. DISCLOSURE OF CANDIDATE CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) The city secretary shall cause to be published, in digital and print pursuant to the city’s communication plan and language access policies reasonably calculated to effectuate notice to the applicable community and in a newspaper of general circulation or on the city’s website, on at least two separate dates (20 and two days, respectively) prior to each election or recall election, a notice disclosing the names and contribution amounts of individuals and political committees making contributions to the campaigns and/or election committees of the candidates for mayor and city council that have been reported to the city secretary prior to the dates of publication.

(b) The city secretary shall also cause to be published in digital and print pursuant to the city’s communication plan and language access policies reasonably calculated to effectuate notice to the applicable community and in a newspaper of general circulation or on the city’s website, a notice disclosing the names and contribution amounts of individuals and political committees making contributions to the campaigns and/or election committees of the candidates for mayor and city council reported to the city secretary following any election or recall election.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 4, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER IV. ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS.

Current language: N/A

Recommendation: 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.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 14. RANKED CHOICE VOTING.

(a) This section is effective only when ranked choice voting is allowed by the state constitution and state laws. If this section is effective, and there is a conflict between this section and Section 11, this section controls. If there is a conflict between this section and state law, state law controls.

(b) Elections for Places 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 shall take place using the ranked choice voting process. The ranked choice voting process shall occur in accordance with this section unless otherwise specified in state law.

(c) All candidates in a ranked choice election shall be listed on the ballot. The ballot shall permit a qualified voter to rank five candidates for each office, inclusive of any write-in candidate permitted by law, in order of preference, unless there are fewer than five candidates on the ballot for such office, in which case the ballot shall permit a voter to rank the total number of such candidates for such office inclusive of any write-in candidate permitted by law.

(d) For all ranked choice elections, the following tabulation procedures apply:

(1) If a candidate receives a majority of highest rank votes, that candidate shall be elected.

(2) If no candidate receives a majority of highest rank votes, tabulation shall proceed in rounds. In each round, the number of votes for each continuing candidate shall be counted; each continuing ballot shall count as one vote for its highest ranked continuing candidate for that round; and inactive ballots shall not be counted for any continuing candidate. A round ends with one of the following outcomes:

(i) If there are two continuing candidates, the candidate with the most votes shall be elected.

(ii) If there are more than two continuing candidates, the last place candidate shall be eliminated and a new round shall begin; provided, however, that batch elimination shall occur at the same time as such elimination of the last place candidate, unless such batch elimination would result in only one continuing candidate, in which case no such batch elimination shall occur. BATCH ELIMINATION means the simultaneous elimination of multiple candidates whose election is mathematically impossible.

(3) A tie between two or more candidates shall be resolved in accordance with the election law.

(e) No runoff election shall be held.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 26, 2024

Approved by vote of 8-6

CHAPTER IX. CITY AUDITOR.

Current language:

“SEC. 2. ASSISTANTS AND EMPLOYEES.

The council shall provide the city auditor with such assistants as it may deem necessary, and those assistants shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the council. Any such assistant may be discharged at any time by the city auditor. All powers and duties imposed on the city auditor may be exercised and performed by any assistant under the city auditor’s direction.”

Recommendation: Provide the city secretary and city auditor with assistants and employees.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 2. ASSISTANTS AND EMPLOYEES.

The council shall provide the city auditor with such assistants and employees as it may deem necessary, and those assistants and employees shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the council. Any such assistant or employee may be discharged at any time by the city auditor. All powers and duties imposed on the city auditor may be exercised and performed by any assistant and employee under the city auditor’s direction.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 12-1

**CHAPTER XI.
THE BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RELATING THERETO.**

Current language:

“SEC. 1. ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATE.

The fiscal year of the city shall begin on the first day of October of each year and shall end with the 30th day of September next following. On the 15th day of August of each year the city manager shall submit to the council a budget estimate of the revenue of the city and the expense of conducting the affairs thereof for the ensuing fiscal year. This estimate shall be compiled from information obtained from the several departments, divisions and offices of the city on uniform forms furnished by the city manager. It shall be in accordance with uniform accounting procedures with comparisons to the last two fiscal years and an estimate of the probable income for the period covered with the significant underlying assumptions.”

Recommendation: Require the city manager to submit an estimated budget BY August 15 instead of ON August 15.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 1. ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATE.

The fiscal year of the city shall begin on the first day of October of each year and shall end with the 30th day of September next following. By ~~[On]~~ the 15th day of August of each year the city manager shall submit to the council a budget estimate of the revenue of the city and the expense of conducting the affairs thereof for the ensuing fiscal year. This estimate shall be compiled from information obtained from the several departments, divisions and offices of the city on uniform forms furnished by the city manager. It shall be in accordance with uniform accounting procedures with comparisons to the last two fiscal years and an estimate of the probable income for the period covered with the significant underlying assumptions.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHATPER XI. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RELATING THERETO.

Current language:

“SEC. 3. ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

Upon receipt of the city manager’s estimate, the council shall call a public hearing upon the submitted budget to be held before a committee of the council, or before the entire council sitting as a committee of the whole. Following the public hearings, the council shall pass on first reading the appropriation ordinance and shall cause it to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the city with a separate schedule setting forth the items in the city manager’s estimate that were omitted or changed by the council, if any. The council shall not pass the appropriation ordinance upon final reading until at least 10 days after its publication. Upon passage of the appropriation ordinance by the council, it shall become immediately effective, and the funds appropriated therein become available on October 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year.”

Recommendation: Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 3. ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

Upon receipt of the city manager’s estimate, the council shall call a public hearing upon the submitted budget to be held before a committee of the council, or before the entire council sitting as a committee of the whole. Following the public hearings, the council shall pass on first reading the appropriation ordinance and shall cause it to be published in digital and print pursuant to the city’s communication plan and language access policies and in a newspaper of general circulation in the city with a separate schedule setting forth the items in the city manager’s estimate that were omitted or changed by the council, if any. The council shall not pass the appropriation ordinance upon final reading until at least 10 days after its publication. Upon passage of the appropriation ordinance by the council, it shall become immediately effective, and the funds appropriated therein become available on October 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 4, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER XII. POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Current language:

“SEC. 4. DISCIPLINE OF POLICE; HEARING.

The chief of police shall have the right to discipline any of the officers or employees who may be under the chief’s jurisdiction and control for violations of city ordinances or federal or state law, or for failure to obey orders given by the proper authority, or the orders, rules, and regulations promulgated by the chief of police. The chief of police may delegate this authority to discipline as he or she deems fit. If any officer or employee is discharged, the chief of police shall forthwith in writing certify the fact, together with the cause for the action, to the city manager. A disciplined officer or employee shall have five days from receipt of notice of a suspension, demotion, or discharge within which to demand a hearing before the city manager, as provided in this Charter, but such demand must be made in writing. If demanded, the city manager shall proceed to inquire into the cause of the discipline and render judgment thereon, which judgment, if the charge is sustained, may be suspension, reduction in rank, discharge, or such other discipline as may seem just and equitable to the city manager under all the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Such judgment is final unless a discharged or demoted officer or employee desires to exercise the right of a public hearing before a trial board or an administrative law judge as provided by this Charter.”

Recommendation: Amend personnel appeal deadline to be consistent with personnel rules (Chapter 34 of the Dallas City Code).

Proposed language:

“SEC. 4. DISCIPLINE OF POLICE; HEARING.

The chief of police shall have the right to discipline any of the officers or employees who may be under the chief’s jurisdiction and control for violations of city ordinances or federal or state law, or for failure to obey orders given by the proper authority, or the orders, rules, and regulations promulgated by the chief of police. The chief of police may delegate this authority to discipline as he or she deems fit. If any officer or employee is discharged, the chief of police shall forthwith in writing certify the fact, together with the cause for the action, to the city manager. A disciplined officer or employee shall have 10 [~~five~~] days from receipt of notice of a suspension, demotion, or discharge within which to demand a hearing before the city manager, as provided in this Charter, but such demand must be made in writing. If demanded, the city manager shall proceed to inquire into the cause of the discipline and render judgment thereon, which judgment, if the charge is sustained, may be suspension, reduction in rank, discharge, or such other discipline as may seem just and equitable to the city manager under all the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Such judgment is final unless a discharged or demoted officer or employee desires to exercise the right of a public hearing before a trial board or an administrative law judge as provided by this Charter.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XIII. COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT.

Current language: N/A

Recommendation: Require that the director of the Office of Community Police Oversight be appointed by and report directly to the city council, rather than the city manager.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 1. SELECTION OF DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT.

There is hereby created the office of community police oversight, the head of which shall be the director of community police oversight who shall be appointed by the city council and who shall be a person professionally competent by experience and training to manage such office.

SEC. 2. EMPLOYEES.

The council shall provide the director with such employees as it may deem necessary, and those employees shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the city council. Any such employee may be discharged at any time by the director. All powers and duties imposed on the director may be exercised and performed by any employee under the director’s direction.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 26, 2024

Approved by vote of 11-2

CHAPTER XIII. FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT.

Current language:

“SEC. 2. DUTIES.

The chief of the fire-rescue department shall:

(2) take all necessary measures to protect the city and the property of its citizens from destruction by fire or conflagration;”

Recommendation: Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 2. DUTIES.

The chief of the fire-rescue department shall:

(2) take all necessary measures to protect the city and the property of its residents [~~citizens~~] from destruction by fire or conflagration;”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER XIII. FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT.

Current language:

“SEC. 9. DISCIPLINE OF FIREFIGHTERS AND OTHER FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL; HEARING.

The chief of the fire-rescue department shall have the right to discipline any officers or employees who may be under the chief's control and management for violations of city ordinances or federal or state law, or for failure to obey orders given by the proper authority, or the orders, rules, and regulations promulgated by the chief for the department. The chief of the fire-rescue department may delegate this authority to discipline as he or she deems fit. If any officer or employee is discharged, the chief of the fire-rescue department shall forthwith in writing certify the fact, together with the cause for the action, to the city manager. A disciplined officer or employee shall have five days from receipt of notice of a suspension, demotion, or discharge within which to demand a hearing before the city manager, as provided in this Charter, but such demand must be made in writing. If demanded, the city manager shall proceed to inquire into the cause of the discipline and render judgment thereon, which judgment, if the charge is sustained, may be suspension, reduction in rank, discharge, or such other discipline as may seem just and equitable to the city manager under all the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Such judgment is final unless a discharged or demoted officer or employee desires to exercise the right of a public hearing before a trial board or an administrative law judge as provided by this Charter.”

Recommendation: Amend personnel appeal deadline to be consistent with personnel rules (Chapter 34 of the Dallas City Code).

Proposed language:

“SEC. 9. DISCIPLINE OF FIREFIGHTERS AND OTHER FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL; HEARING.

The chief of the fire-rescue department shall have the right to discipline any officers or employees who may be under the chief's control and management for violations of city ordinances or federal or state law, or for failure to obey orders given by the proper authority, or the orders, rules, and regulations promulgated by the chief for the department. The chief of the fire-rescue department may delegate this authority to discipline as he or she deems fit. If any officer or employee is discharged, the chief of the fire-rescue department shall forthwith in writing certify the fact, together with the cause for the action, to the city manager. A disciplined officer or employee shall have 10 [~~five~~] days from receipt of notice of a suspension, demotion, or discharge within which to demand a hearing before the city manager, as provided in this Charter, but such demand must be made in writing. If demanded, the city manager shall proceed to inquire into the cause of the discipline and render judgment thereon, which judgment, if the charge is sustained, may be suspension, reduction in rank, discharge, or such other discipline as may seem just and equitable to the city manager under all the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Such judgment is final unless a discharged or demoted officer or employee desires to exercise the right of a public hearing before a trial board or an administrative law judge as provided by this Charter.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER IXA. OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ~~[RESERVED]~~.

Current language: N/A

Recommendation: Establish the Office of Inspector General in the city charter with the Inspector General being appointed by city council.

Proposed language:

To be voted on April 11, 2024.

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 4, 2024

Approved by vote of 15-0, subject to final language approval

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 11, 2024

Approved by vote of ____

CHAPTER XIV. FRANCHISES.

Current language:

“SEC. 8. ACQUISITION BY EMINENT DOMAIN.

The city shall have the power through eminent domain proceedings to acquire any public utility operating with or without a franchise and furnishing a public service to the citizens of Dallas. The procedure to be used in the acquisition of such property shall be that as set forth in Chapter 21 of the Texas Property Code, as amended, and other applicable state law. In valuing the property, the measure of damages shall be the fair market value of the physical properties together with its franchise, if any, taken together as one system. This power shall be in addition to and cumulative of any other powers of acquisition granted to or reserved by the city in a franchise ordinance.”

Recommendation: Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 8. ACQUISITION BY EMINENT DOMAIN.

The city shall have the power through eminent domain proceedings to acquire any public utility operating with or without a franchise and furnishing a public service to the residents [~~citizens~~] of Dallas. The procedure to be used in the acquisition of such property shall be that as set forth in Chapter 21 of the Texas Property Code, as amended, and other applicable state law. In valuing the property, the measure of damages shall be the fair market value of the physical properties together with its franchise, if any, taken together as one system. This power shall be in addition to and cumulative of any other powers of acquisition granted to or reserved by the city in a franchise ordinance.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER XV. PLANNING AND ZONING.

Current language:

“SEC. 3. ZONING COMMISSION.

The city council shall appoint 15 qualified voters of the City of Dallas who shall constitute the zoning commission of the City of Dallas, and shall be the city plan commission as the same is referred to by state statute for the approval of plats and subdivisions. The members shall possess the same qualifications and be subject to the same disqualifications as provided by the Charter for members of the city council, or general laws of the State of Texas. The city council shall name one of the members to be the chair and one to be the vice chair.”

Recommendation: Require city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs in lieu of vice chairs being appointed by the full city council.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 3. ZONING COMMISSION.

The city council shall appoint 15 qualified voters of the City of Dallas who shall constitute the zoning commission of the City of Dallas[5] and shall be the city plan commission as the same is referred to by state statute for the approval of plats and subdivisions. The members shall possess the same qualifications and be subject to the same disqualifications as provided by the Charter for members of the city council, or general laws of the State of Texas. The city council shall name one of the members to be the chair [~~and one to be the vice chair~~]. The commission shall elect one of the members to serve as vice chair.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 23, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XV. PLANNING AND ZONING.

Current language:

“SEC. 3. ZONING COMMISSION.

The city council shall appoint 15 qualified voters of the City of Dallas who shall constitute the zoning commission of the City of Dallas, and shall be the city plan commission as the same is referred to by state statute for the approval of plats and subdivisions. The members shall possess the same qualifications and be subject to the same disqualifications as provided by the Charter for members of the city council, or general laws of the State of Texas. The city council shall name one of the members to be the chair and one to be the vice chair.”

Recommendation: Allow residents to serve on the redistricting commission, the plan commission, and the park and recreation board instead of citizens or registered/qualified voters.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 3. ZONING COMMISSION.

The city council shall appoint 15 residents [~~qualified voters~~] of the City of Dallas who shall constitute the zoning commission of the City of Dallas[~~5~~] and shall be the city plan commission as the same is referred to by state statute for the approval of plats and subdivisions. Except for the qualified voter requirement, t[F]he members shall possess the same qualifications and be subject to the same disqualifications as provided by the Charter for members of the city council, or general laws of the State of Texas. The city council shall name one of the members to be the chair and one to be the vice chair.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 7-6

CHAPTER XV. PLANNING AND ZONING.

Current language:

“SEC. 4. DUTIES OF ZONING COMMISSION.

The zoning commission shall:

(3) Act as an advisory body to the city council in relation to any changes in the boundaries of the various original districts and any changes in the zoning ordinances and regulations to be enforced therein. Such recommendation shall be made after advertisement of and a public hearing held thereon. Notice of such public hearing shall be published at least one time in a newspaper of general circulation in the city at least 10 days prior to the date of said hearing, or as otherwise provided by state law or this charter.”

Recommendation: Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 4. DUTIES OF ZONING COMMISSION.

The zoning commission shall:

(3) Act as an advisory body to the city council in relation to any changes in the boundaries of the various original districts and any changes in the zoning ordinances and regulations to be enforced therein. Such recommendation shall be made after advertisement of and a public hearing held thereon. Notice of such public hearing shall be published in digital and print pursuant to the city’s communication plan and language access policies reasonably calculated to effectuate notice to the applicable community, and at least one time in a newspaper of general circulation in the city at least 10 days prior to the date of said hearing, or as otherwise provided by state law or this charter.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 4, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER XVI. CIVIL SERVICE AND PERSONNEL.

Current language:

“SEC. 1. ORGANIZATION OF CIVIL SERVICE.

There is hereby created and established a civil service board to be composed of seven members who shall be qualified taxpaying citizens of the City of Dallas and a number of adjunct members equal to the number of members on the city council who shall have qualifications established by the city council. Biennially in September of each odd-numbered year, the city council shall appoint the members and adjunct members to serve for two years and until their successors have been appointed and qualified, and the mayor shall designate one member as chair subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council. The adjunct members shall not have voting privileges on matters to be determined by the civil service board but shall perform such duties as prescribed for them by this Charter. The members and adjunct members of the civil service board shall not hold any other position under the city, county, or state government. The city council may remove any member or adjunct member of the board. Any vacancies on the board must be filled by the city council for the unexpired term.”

Recommendation: Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 1. ORGANIZATION OF CIVIL SERVICE.

There is hereby created and established a civil service board to be composed of seven members who shall be citizens or authorized residents of the United States who reside in Dallas [~~qualified taxpaying citizens~~] of the City of Dallas and a number of adjunct members equal to the number of members on the city council who shall have qualifications established by the city council. Biennially in September of each odd-numbered year, the city council shall appoint the members and adjunct members to serve for two years and until their successors have been appointed and qualified, and the mayor shall designate one member as chair subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council. The adjunct members shall not have voting privileges on matters to be determined by the civil service board but shall perform such duties as prescribed for them by this Charter. The members and adjunct members of the civil service board shall not hold any other position under the city, county, or state government. The city council may remove any member or adjunct member of the board. Any vacancies on the board must be filled by the city council for the unexpired term.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER XVI. CIVIL SERVICE AND PERSONNEL.

Current language:

“SEC. 3. CIVIL SERVICE DIVIDED INTO CLASSIFIED AND UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE.

(b) The unclassified service shall include:

- (1) the directors of departments, assistant directors of departments, and other managerial personnel as designated by rules of the board;
- (2) the municipal court clerk and the secretary of the civil service board; and
- (3) the labor class, which shall include all ordinary unskilled labor.”

Recommendation: Clarify that city council, not the rules of the civil service board, designates which managerial personnel are included within the unclassified service.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 3. CIVIL SERVICE DIVIDED INTO CLASSIFIED AND UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE.

(b) The unclassified service shall include:

- (1) the directors of departments, assistant directors of departments, and other managerial personnel as designated by city council [~~rules of the board~~];
- (2) the municipal court clerk and the secretary of the civil service board; and
- (3) the labor class, which shall include all ordinary unskilled labor.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XVI. CIVIL SERVICE AND PERSONNEL.

Current language:

“SEC. 6. BOARD TO PROVIDE FOR PROMOTIONS AND REASSIGNMENT IN THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE.

(a) The board shall provide for promotion to all positions in the classified service on the basis of merit and fitness demonstrated by examination or other appropriate evidences of competition and by records of merit, efficiency, character, conduct, and seniority.

(b) The board shall also provide for incumbents of ranks or grades that have been eliminated by departmental reorganization:

(1) to be reassigned to other positions; and

(2) to receive no reduction in compensation for a period not to exceed two years.

(c) The board may, but is not required to, provide for reassignment in the case of:

(1) reduction in force; or

(2) removal or reduction for cause under standard civil service hearing and appeal procedures.

(d) Subsection (b)(2) does not apply to a reassignment made under Subsection (c).”

Recommendation: Reorganizations and reductions in force will be treated in the same manner with respect to compensation and reassignment.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 6. BOARD TO PROVIDE FOR PROMOTIONS AND REASSIGNMENT IN THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE.

(a) The board shall provide for promotion to all positions in the classified service on the basis of merit and fitness demonstrated by examination or other appropriate evidences of competition and by records of merit, efficiency, character, conduct, and seniority.

(b) ~~[The board shall also provide for incumbents of ranks or grades that have been eliminated by departmental reorganization:~~

~~(1) to be reassigned to other positions; and~~

(2) ~~to receive no reduction in compensation for a period not to exceed two years.~~

(e) The board may, but is not required to, provide for reassignment in the case of:

(1) reduction in force; ~~[or]~~

(2) removal or reduction for cause under standard civil service hearing and appeal procedures; or

(3) departmental reorganization.

~~[(d) Subsection (b)(2) does not apply to a reassignment made under Subsection (c).]~~”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XVI. CIVIL SERVICE AND PERSONNEL.

Current language:

“SEC. 7. BOARD TO ESTABLISH RULES GOVERNING CONDUCT.

It shall be the duty of the board, in the code of rules and regulations approved by the council, to establish rules governing evaluation of conduct and performance and requiring remedies for nonperformance for positions in the civil service.”

Recommendation: Clarify that it is the duty of the Human Resources Department, rather than the civil service board rules and regulations, to establish rules governing the evaluation of conduct and performance and requiring remedies for nonperformance for positions in the civil service.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 7. BOARD TO ESTABLISH RULES GOVERNING CONDUCT.

It shall be the duty of the human resources department [~~board, in the code of rules and regulations approved by the council,~~] to establish rules governing evaluation of conduct and performance and requiring remedies for nonperformance for positions in the civil service.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 12-1

CHAPTER XVI. CIVIL SERVICE AND PERSONNEL.

Current language:

“SEC. 10. PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

(a) Appointments or promotions of city officers and employees in the classified and unclassified service shall not be deemed complete until a period of six months shall have elapsed. A probationer may be discharged, suspended or reduced within said period by the city manager, or the head of the department in which said probationer is employed without right of appeal.”

Recommendation: Clarify that a civilian probationary period does not satisfy the requirement for sworn service probationary periods.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 10. PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

(a) Appointments or promotions of city officers and employees in the classified and unclassified service shall not be deemed complete until a period of six months shall have elapsed. A probationer may be discharged, suspended or reduced within said period by the city manager, or the head of the department in which said probationer is employed without right of appeal. A probationary period served as a civilian employee will not satisfy the probationary period for a position in the sworn service with the police department or the fire-rescue department.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XVI. CIVIL SERVICE AND PERSONNEL.

Current language:

“SEC. 11. EMPLOYEE ACTIONS AFTER PROBATION PERIOD.

(b) An officer or employee who has been disciplined by the head of any department under the city manager shall have five days from receipt of notice of such action within which to demand, in writing, a hearing before the city manager. At the hearing, the city manager shall inquire into the cause of the disciplinary action and render a decision either affirming the action of the department head, setting aside the action of the department head, or directing the department head to enter a new order that the city manager determines is just and equitable. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, the city manager is not limited in determining the extent of any discipline ordered. The decision of the city manager is final unless the disciplined officer or employee exercises any right to a public hearing before the trial board as provided by this Charter. This right of appeal does not apply to department directors, assistant department directors, and other managerial personnel designated by the city council, or to employees in departments exempted from the provisions applicable to the civil service.”

Recommendation: Amend personnel appeal deadline to be consistent with personnel rules (Chapter 34 of the Dallas City Code).

Proposed language:

“SEC. 11. EMPLOYEE ACTIONS AFTER PROBATION PERIOD.

(b) An officer or employee who has been disciplined by the head of any department under the city manager shall have 10 [~~five~~] days from receipt of notice of such action within which to demand, in writing, a hearing before the city manager. At the hearing, the city manager shall inquire into the cause of the disciplinary action and render a decision either affirming the action of the department head, setting aside the action of the department head, or directing the department head to enter a new order that the city manager determines is just and equitable. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, the city manager is not limited in determining the extent of any discipline ordered. The decision of the city manager is final unless the disciplined officer or employee exercises any right to a public hearing before the trial board as provided by this Charter. This right of appeal does not apply to department directors, assistant department directors, and other managerial personnel designated by the city council, or to employees in departments exempted from the provisions applicable to the civil service.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XVII. PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

Current language:

“SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF BOARD AND TERMS OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS.

(a) The city council shall appoint a number of qualified voters of the city equal to the number of members on the city council who shall constitute the park and recreation board of the city. The members shall possess the same qualifications and be subject to the same disqualifications as provided by the Charter for members of the city council, or by general laws of the State of Texas, and shall serve without compensation.”

Recommendation: Allow residents to serve on the redistricting commission, the plan commission, and the park and recreation board instead of citizens or registered voters.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF BOARD AND TERMS OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS.

(a) The city council shall appoint a number of residents ~~[qualified voters of the city]~~ equal to the number of members on the city council who shall constitute the park and recreation board of the city. The members shall possess the same qualifications and be subject to the same disqualifications as provided by the Charter for members of the city council, or by general laws of the State of Texas, except that a member is not required to be a qualified voter of the city, and shall serve without compensation.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 7-6

CHAPTER XVII. PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

Current language:

“SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF BOARD AND TERMS OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS.

(b) All members of the board shall be appointed by the city council, in accordance with Chapter XXIV, Section 13 of this Charter, as are other boards and shall serve for like terms, as provided by this Charter. The mayor shall appoint the president of the board from among the members appointed by the city council, subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council.”

Recommendation: Require city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs in lieu of vice chairs being appointed by the full city council.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF BOARD AND TERMS OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS.

(b) All members of the board shall be appointed by the city council, in accordance with Chapter XXIV, Section 13 of this Charter, as are other boards and shall serve for like terms, as provided by this Charter. The mayor shall appoint the president of the board from among the members appointed by the city council, subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council. The board shall elect one of the members to serve as vice chair.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 23, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XVIII. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

Current language:

“SEC. 7. PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES.

The descriptive caption or title of each ordinance stating in summary the purpose of the ordinance and the penalty for violation of the ordinance, shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the city, unless otherwise provided by state law or this Charter, in which event the specific provisions shall be followed.”

Recommendation: Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 7. PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES.

The descriptive caption or title of each ordinance stating in summary the purpose of the ordinance and the penalty for violation of the ordinance, shall be published in digital and print pursuant to the city’s communication plan and language access policies and at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the city, unless otherwise provided by state law or this Charter, in which event the specific provisions shall be followed.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 4, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER XVIII. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

Current language:

“SEC. 11. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM OF ORDINANCES.

Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the city council in the form in which the petitioner desires the ordinance to be passed, by a petition filed with the city secretary in the following manner:

(1) A committee of at least five registered voters of the City of Dallas must make application to the city secretary and file an intention to circulate a petition, giving the date and the proposed ordinance to be circulated. Unless the final petition, with the required number of signatures is returned within 60 days from this date, it will not be received for any purpose.”

Recommendation: Remove voter registration requirement for those who make an application to the city secretary and file an intention to circulate a petition.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 11. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM OF ORDINANCES.

Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the city council in the form in which the petitioner desires the ordinance to be passed, by a petition filed with the city secretary in the following manner:

(1) A committee of at least five residents [~~registered voters~~] of the City of Dallas must make application to the city secretary and file an intention to circulate a petition, giving the date and the proposed ordinance to be circulated. Unless the final petition, with the required number of signatures is returned within 60 days from this date, it will not be received for any purpose.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 12-1

CHAPTER XVIII. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

Current language:

“SEC. 11. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM OF ORDINANCES.

Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the city council in the form in which the petitioner desires the ordinance to be passed, by a petition filed with the city secretary in the following manner:

(1) A committee of at least five registered voters of the City of Dallas must make application to the city secretary and file an intention to circulate a petition, giving the date and the proposed ordinance to be circulated. Unless the final petition, with the required number of signatures is returned within 60 days from this date, it will not be received for any purpose.”

Recommendation: Extend the deadline petitioners must meet to collect the required signatures on a petition from 60 days to 120 days.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 11. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM OF ORDINANCES.

Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the city council in the form in which the petitioner desires the ordinance to be passed, by a petition filed with the city secretary in the following manner:

(1) A committee of at least five registered voters of the City of Dallas must make application to the city secretary and file an intention to circulate a petition, giving the date and the proposed ordinance to be circulated. Unless the final petition, with the required number of signatures is returned within 120 [60] days from this date, it will not be received for any purpose.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 11-2

CHAPTER XVIII. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

Current language:

“SEC. 11. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM OF ORDINANCES.

Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the city council in the form in which the petitioner desires the ordinance to be passed, by a petition filed with the city secretary in the following manner:

(2) The petition must contain the names of a number of qualified voters in the city equal to 10 percent of the qualified voters of the City of Dallas as appears from the latest available county voter registration list.”

Recommendation: Reduce the number of signatures required on a petition in support of holding a referendum.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 11. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM OF ORDINANCES.

Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the city council in the form in which the petitioner desires the ordinance to be passed, by a petition filed with the city secretary in the following manner:

(2) The petition must contain the names of a number of qualified voters in the city equal to five ~~[10]~~ percent of the qualified voters of the City of Dallas as appears from the latest available county voter registration list.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XVIII. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

Current language:

“SEC. 15. PROMULGATION OF ORDINANCES BEFORE ELECTION.

Whenever any ordinance or proposition is required by the Charter to be submitted to the voters of the city at any election, the city secretary shall cause the ordinance or proposition to be printed in a newspaper of general circulation in the city and published once at least 10 days prior to election.”

Recommendation: Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 15. PROMULGATION OF ORDINANCES BEFORE ELECTION.

Whenever any ordinance or proposition is required by the Charter to be submitted to the voters of the city at any election, the city secretary shall cause the ordinance or proposition to be published in digital and print pursuant to the city’s communication plan and language access policies and printed in a newspaper of general circulation in the city and published once at least 10 days prior to election.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 4, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER XIX. ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTON OF TAXES.

Current language:

“SEC. 7. TAX LIEN; LIABILITY FOR TAXES.

A lien is hereby created on all property, personal and real, in favor of the City of Dallas, for all taxes, ad valorem, occupation or otherwise. Said lien shall exist from January 1 in each year until the taxes are paid. Such lien shall be prior to all other claims, and no gift, sale, assignment or transfer of any kind, or judicial writ of any kind, can ever defeat such lien, but the tax assessor and collector may pursue such property, and whenever found may seize and sell enough thereof to satisfy such taxes.

In the event that personal property of the taxpayer is delivered into the actual or constructive possession of a receiver, trustee, or other person because of insolvency, bankruptcy, receivership or otherwise, between January 1 and the date that the taxes are actually levied, then and in that event the amount of the taxes due shall be the same as was levied for the prior year for the same property and shall be secured by a lien in that amount.

All persons or corporations owning or holding personal property or real estate in the city on the first day of January of each year shall be liable for all municipal taxes levied thereon for such year.

The personal property of all persons owing any taxes to the city is hereby made liable for all of said taxes, whether the same be due upon personal or real property, or upon both.”

Recommendation: Allow the city to accrue liens on a monthly basis.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 7. TAX LIEN; LIABILITY FOR TAXES.

A lien is hereby created on all property, personal and real, in favor of the City of Dallas, for all taxes, ad valorem, occupation or otherwise. Said lien shall exist from the earlier of 30 days after the tax is due or January 1 of [in] each year until the taxes are paid. Such lien shall be prior to all other claims, and no gift, sale, assignment or transfer of any kind, or judicial writ of any kind, can ever defeat such lien, but the tax assessor and collector may pursue such property, and whenever found may seize and sell enough thereof to satisfy such taxes.

In the event that personal property of the taxpayer is delivered into the actual or constructive possession of a receiver, trustee, or other person because of insolvency, bankruptcy, receivership or otherwise, [~~between January 1 and the date that~~] before the taxes are actually levied, then and in that event the amount of the taxes due shall be the same as was previously levied [~~for the prior year~~] for the same property and shall be secured by a lien in that amount.

All persons or corporations owning or holding personal property or real estate in the city from the date the lien exists [~~on the first day of January of each year~~] shall be liable for all municipal taxes levied thereon [~~for such year~~].

The personal property of all persons owing any taxes to the city is hereby made liable for all of said taxes, whether the same be due upon personal or real property, or upon both.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XXI. BORROWING MONEY.

Current language: N/A

Recommendation: Establish a community bond commission.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 13. COMMUNITY BOND COMMISSION.

(a) Not later than 180 days before city council’s action calling a special election for the purpose of authorizing general obligation bonds, each member of the city council shall appoint one member of the community bond commission. The mayor shall designate the chair of the community bond commission, subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council. Persons appointed to the community bond commission must be registered to vote and meet the qualifications for service on a city commission. In making the appointments, the city council and the mayor shall, as nearly as may be practicable, provide a total membership that reflects the racial and ethnic makeup of the city’s population. Members of the community bond commission shall be appointed to serve a term that will end upon completion of the community bond commission’s work.

(b) The chair may designate commission subcommittees to assist the commission and staff in identifying citywide and district-specific projects for each proposition by subject matter.

(c) The community bond commission shall promptly convene in such sessions as are necessary. The community bond commission shall:

(1) Engage the community to receive input about the long-term capital improvement needs of the city through town hall and commission meetings, public hearings, polls, and various media engagements.

(2) Evaluate and discuss potential bond program projects consistent with the Capital Bond Program General Guidelines provided by city staff.

(3) Compile a list of recommend projects, approved by a majority vote of commission members.

(d) Upon completion of its work, the community bond commission shall file its final report with the mayor and the city council. The mayor shall present the final report to the city council at its next meeting.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 26, 2024

Approved by vote of 8-6

CHAPTER XXII. PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

Current language:

“SEC. 2. CONTRACT LETTING.

(a) All city contracts calling for or requiring the expenditure or payment of an amount required by state law to be competitively bid creating or imposing an obligation or liability of any nature or character upon the city, must first be submitted for competitive bids in accordance with this chapter. Such bids shall be based upon plans and specifications prepared for that purpose. Notice of the time and place when and where such contract shall be let shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Dallas once a week for two consecutive weeks prior to the time set for letting such contract, the date of the first publication to be at least 14 days prior to the date set for letting said contract. Such contract shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder.”

Recommendation: Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 2. CONTRACT LETTING.

(a) All city contracts calling for or requiring the expenditure or payment of an amount required by state law to be competitively bid creating or imposing an obligation or liability of any nature or character upon the city, must first be submitted for competitive bids in accordance with this chapter. Such bids shall be based upon plans and specifications prepared for that purpose. Notice of the time and place when and where such contract shall be let shall be published in digital and print pursuant to the city’s communication plan and language access policies and in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Dallas once a week for two consecutive weeks prior to the time set for letting such contract, the date of the first publication to be at least 14 days prior to the date set for letting said contract. Such contract shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 4, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER XXII. PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

Current language:

“SEC. 3. PUBLIC INSPECTION OF BIDS.

All bids submitted shall be sealed and shall be opened in a public place as directed by the city council, and in the presence of persons that may be designated by the city council, and shall remain open to public inspection for at least 48 hours before any award of said work is made to any competitive bidder. The provisions of this section regarding the retaining of bids 48 hours before awarding the work shall not apply to bids for the purchase of bonds.”

Recommendation: Delete the requirement for bids to be opened in a public place and in the presence of persons and remain open to the public.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 3. RESERVED. [~~PUBLIC INSPECTION OF BIDS.~~

~~All bids submitted shall be sealed and shall be opened in a public place as directed by the city council, and in the presence of persons that may be designated by the city council, and shall remain open to public inspection for at least 48 hours before any award of said work is made to any competitive bidder. The provisions of this section regarding the retaining of bids 48 hours before awarding the work shall not apply to bids for the purchase of bonds.]”~~

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 23, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XXII. PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

Current language:

“SEC. 4. EMERGENCY SPENDING, ETC.

The provisions regarding competitive bidding shall not apply in the following instances:

- (1) In case of a public calamity where it becomes necessary to act at once to relieve the necessity of the citizens or to preserve the property of the city.
- (2) Where it is necessary to preserve or protect the public health of the citizens of the city.”

Recommendation: Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 4. EMERGENCY SPENDING, ETC.

The provisions regarding competitive bidding shall not apply in the following instances:

- (1) In case of a public calamity where it becomes necessary to act at once to relieve the necessity of the residents [~~citizens~~] or to preserve the property of the city.
- (2) Where it is necessary to preserve or protect the public health of the residents [~~citizens~~] of the city.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER XXII. PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

Current language:

“SEC. 10. CITIZENS GIVEN PREFERENCE IN LETTING OF CONTRACTS.

Qualifications, prices and quality of material being equal, citizens and business firms of Dallas shall be given preference in the awarding of all contracts over which the city has jurisdiction, direct or indirect. This section shall not be construed so as to conflict with any provision of the Charter requiring competitive bidding.”

Recommendation: Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 10. CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS GIVEN PREFERENCE IN LETTING OF CONTRACTS.

Qualifications, prices and quality of material being equal, citizens or authorized residents of the United States who reside in Dallas and business firms of Dallas shall be given preference in the awarding of all contracts over which the city has jurisdiction, direct or indirect. This section shall not be construed so as to conflict with any provision of the Charter requiring competitive bidding.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER XXIV. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Current language:

“SEC. 13. APPOINTMENT AND TENURE OF COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS.

(c) The mayor shall appoint the chair of each commission and board from among the members appointed in accordance with Subsection (b), subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council.”

Recommendation: Require city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs in lieu of vice chairs being appointed by the full city council.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 13. APPOINTMENT AND TENURE OF COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS.

(c) The mayor shall appoint the chair of each commission and board from among the members appointed in accordance with Subsection (b), subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council. Each commission and board shall elect one of its members to serve as vice chair.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 23, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XXIV. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Current language:

“SEC. 17. BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS.

(b) A member of any commission or board appointed by the city council may be removed from office for any cause deemed by the city council sufficient for removal in the interest of the public, but only after a public hearing before the city council on charges publicly made, if demanded by such member within 10 days.”

Recommendation: Allow city council’s appointments to boards and commissions to be replaced by city council prior to the completion of the member’s term.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 17. BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS.

(b) Upon initiation of the councilmember who occupies the city council place of the nominating councilmember, the city council may, by a majority vote, replace a board or commission member prior to completion of the member’s two-year term. [~~A member of any commission or board appointed by the city council may be removed from office for any cause deemed by the city council sufficient for removal in the interest of the public, but only after a public hearing before the city council on charges publicly made, if demanded by such member within 10 days.]”~~]

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 12-1

CHAPTER XXIV. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Current language: N/A

Recommendation: Add a provision to allow for an alternate deadline when the date for performance of an act falls on a weekend or holiday.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 22. PERFORMANCE DEADLINES.

If the last day for performance of an act is a Saturday, Sunday, or national, state, or local holiday, the act is timely if performed on the next regular business day.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DALLAS CITY CHARTER EXCLUDED FROM
CONSIDERATION BY THE 2024 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION**

<u>Citation</u>	<u>No/Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
II §2	1-23-24	In order to protect fundamental human rights, it is further defined that the bodies of the inhabitants (Sec 1) are not owned by the City of Dallas, and that people have the inviolate right to make their own health and body decisions so long as it does not interfere with the rights of another.
III	1-23-24	Enshrine the five-signature memo in the charter.
III §1	2-20-24	Expand the size of city council through the addition of single-member districts and/or at-large positions.
III §2	4-2-24	Authorize a limited power of veto for the mayor with a city council override of a 2/3 vote (bond elections and budget).
III §3A	2-20-24	Extend the term lengths of city council positions from two years to three or four years.
III §3A	2-20-24	Stagger city council terms.
III §3A	2-20-24	Prohibit future service on city council once four terms have been served.
III §3A	2-20-24	Extend waiting period from one term to two terms after serving the maximum number of consecutive terms.
III §4	3-26-24	Increase the annual salary of the mayor to 135 percent and councilmembers 100 percent of median household income of the Dallas/Ft. Worth/Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area.
III §4	3-26-24	Increase the annual salary of mayor and councilmembers to \$125k/year, indexed to Consumer Price Index.
III §4	3-26-24	Increase the annual salary of all council positions to \$100/year.
III §11	2-20-24	Abolish the appointment process of the mayor pro tem and deputy mayor pro tem.
III §11	2-20-24	Amend the appointment process of the mayor pro tem and deputy mayor pro tem to have the mayor select the officers instead of the city council.

III §11	2-20-24	Amend the appointment process of the mayor pro tem and deputy mayor pro tem to have the officers be elected by the voters as at-large city council positions.
III §13(b)	4-2-24	All each council committee to elect its own chair and vice chair.
III §14	3-26-24	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.
III §15	3-26-24	Grant city council the authority to confirm the hiring of all department directors and require a public hearing for each position.
IV	1-23-24	No later than the 90th day after an election for a seat on city council, a candidate or officeholder shall distribute the balance of unexpended funds received from political contributions, in excess of any remaining expenses for the election, in a manner compliant the law of the State of Texas. A candidate or officeholder who, after an election, has unpaid expenses remaining, or who has unreimbursed campaign expenditures, may solicit and accept political contributions after the election until the unpaid expenses are paid and the unreimbursed expenditures are reimbursed. An officeholder may retain up to \$30,000.00 of funds received from political contributions for the purposes of officeholder expenditures.
IV	1-23-24	Add new section establishing a “Democracy Dollars” program.
IV §3	2-20-24	Stagger city council terms.
IV §3	2-20-24	Move the election date from May of odd-numbered years to November of odd-numbered years or November of even-numbered years.
IV §5	4-2-24	Amend the vote requirement for council to modify the redistricting commission’s recommending districting plan from a 3/4 vote to a 2/3 vote.
VI §2	3-26-24	Grant city council the authority to confirm the hiring of all department directors and require a public hearing for each position.
VI §2	3-26-24	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.
VI §2	4-2-24	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 budget to reflect those priorities.

VIII §4	2-20-24	Align the terms for municipal judges with the term lengths of councilmembers, should councilmember terms be extended from two years to three or four years.
IX §3	4-2-24	Establish an Office of Ombudsman within the function of the city auditor.
X §2	3-26-24	Grant city council the authority to confirm the hiring of all department directors and require a public hearing for each position.
XI	1-23-24	“The City of Dallas shall honor its obligations.” Please fund the Police and Fire Pensions, as promised and required by law.
XI §1	3-26-24	Add a required pension contribution to the charter.
XI §1	4-2-24	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 budget to reflect those priorities.
XII	3-26-24	Require the city council, rather than the city manager, to appoint and remove the chiefs of the police department and the fire-rescue department.
XII §1	3-26-24	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.
XIII	1-23-24	<p>To provide for the safety of citizens and firefighters, and to comply with nationally recognized standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association, it shall be the policy of the Dallas Fire Rescue Department to provide constant and adequate minimum staffing as defined below. The City shall maintain staffing of all apparatus with a minimum of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Four (4) fire fighters, including at least one (1) fire-fighter/paramedic riding in a non-officer position, on all Engines. 2. Four (4) fire fighters on every Truck. 3. Two (2) fire fighter/paramedics or two (2) paramedics on every Rescue. 4. Two (2) fire fighters on all Operations Battalion Chief and Deputy Chief vehicles. 5. One (1) fire fighter/paramedic or one (1) paramedic on all EMS Shift Duty Officer vehicles. 6. One (1) fire fighter on all Operations Shift Safety Chief vehicles. 7. Not less than three (3) ARFF trained fire fighters per vehicle assigned to an aircraft or airfield. <p>These apparatuses may be temporarily reduced to three (3) persons, yet remain in active service, if a fire fighter assigned to</p>

work on an apparatus is: (a) off duty using departmental eligible leave for up to four (4) hours; or (b) is involved in any assigned departmental business, for up to (4) hours, including travel time all while maintaining the policies defined in the Daily Staffing procedure.

XIII	3-26-24	Require the city council, rather than the city manager, to appoint and remove the chiefs of the police department and the fire-rescue department.
XIII §1	3-26-24	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.
XV §2	2-6-24	Delete the section allowing the city council to provide urban conservation, rehabilitation, and redevelopment programs.
XV §3	1-23-24	Rename the Zoning Commission to the City Plan and Zoning Commission and allow that commission's membership to contain a minimum of 15 residents.
XV §3	1-23-24	Amend the process for appointing the chair and members of the plan commission to reflect current practice.
XV §3	3-26-24	Provide members of the city plan commission with an annual salary of \$25,000.
XV §4	1-23-24	Materials discussed or presented in Planning commissions hearing should match what is published for public view 10 days prior to the meeting. If an item is held for a later hearing, all registered speakers should be notified. Registered speakers should be give at least 24 hours notice that their item will not be presented at the hearing. Planning commission hearing notices and materials should be made available in at least 2 languages.
XV §4(4)	2-6-24	Authorize administrative approval of plat applications.
XV §8	1-23-24	Remove the requirement to have a Thoroughfare Plan.
XVI §9	4-2-24	Prohibit the creation of jobs exempt from the civil service.
XVII §§1, 5	3-4-24	Require the Park and Recreation Department to report to the city manager instead of the Park Board.
XVII §5	3-26-24	Allow city council, rather than the park board, to appoint the director of the park and recreation department.
XI §2	3-26-24	Allow the park and recreation department's budget be approved directly by city council.
XIX §2	1-23-24	Provide tax exemption for small commercial property owners.

XX §12	2-6-24	Exclude property owners 50 percent or below the AMI from charges associated with subterranean improvements.
XXIV §7	2-6-24	Allow for third-party consultants to perform Building Inspections and Permit Reviews on any new construction or renovation projects.
XXIV §13	2-6-24	Preclude board and commission members from endorsing any Dallas City Councilmember and prohibit any board or commission member from working on any Dallas City Council member's political campaign and prohibit any board or commission member from donating to any Dallas City Council Members political campaign.
XXIV §13	2-20-24	Align the terms for members of boards and commissions with the term lengths of councilmembers, should councilmember terms be extended from two years to three or four years.
XXIV §13	4-2-24	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.
XXIV §13(c)	4-2-24	Require that the mayor receive two councilmember co-sponsors for board and commission chair appointments.
Multiple	2-20-24	Change the city's council-manager form of government to a mayor-council form of government.
Multiple	2-20-24	City auditor, city attorney, and city secretary to report to the city manager instead of the city council.
None	1-23-24	Allow for streets to be honorarily named after someone without actually changing the street name. (city code)
None	1-23-24	Remove Article 2, Sections 9-7 through 9-10 (regulations requiring the wearing of bicycle helmets) from Volume 1, Chapter 4 (city code).
None	1-23-24	Remove the specific cost to transport a resident via ambulance from the charter and let it be determined from time to time by council. Additionally, raise the cost to transport non-residents to \$2,500 and increase it annually linked to CPI.
None	1-23-24	Revise the zoning code to: (1) Allow up to three housing units on all single-family properties, raising the one- and two-unit caps in place today. (2) Reduce the land needed to build a residence from 5,750 square feet to around 2,500 square feet. (city code)

None	1-23-24	Adjust “SEC. 36-6. LOCATION OF POLES AND OTHER FIXTURES” to specifically state that utility poles are NOT to be erected within a sidewalk, nor should they in anyway infringe on ADA compliance. Improperly placed poles must be brought into compliance within 60 days or face a fine of \$1,500 per month of noncompliance. (city code)
None	1-23-24	Chapter 36 needs to be amended to provide a sunset date for all utilities (power, telephony, etc.) to be buried throughout the city. It should also provide for a date in which no new utility poles can be placed and poles cannot be replaced. (city code)
None	1-23-24	The city shall annually report on progress in improving pedestrian, bicycle and electric vehicles under twenty miles per hour infrastructure and safety and establish specific goals for the expansion and enhancement of these transportation modes.
None	1-23-24	The Charter should reflect that city employees should be considered vital/essential workers who are required to work - in some capacity - when the city experiences crises like the February 2021 SnowMaggedon; other weather events; demonstrations; destructive protests; explosions, etc. The 13,000 employees should be considered like Army Reserves, ready and able to be deployed where staffing is most needed, and no matter what job you were hired to do.
None	1-23-24	The charter should reflect that the municipality is reachable 24 hours a day, in person, or by phone, internet, messaging, etc.
None	1-23-24	The Charter should require that the city manager, council, and mayor develop, oversee, and update frequently short-and long-term VISIONS for our city - always looking at least 5 years ahead. This rolling, ever-evolving Vision should be the result of input from citizens, the business community, and city officials. They must contain simple, yet measurable metrics; and citizens, should have the most “say so”.
None	1-23-24	The Charter should boldly state that the primary responsibility of city government is to provide quality, measurable, affordable, innovative BASIC city services (e.g Water, Sanitation, Code, 311, Libraries, Communications, DPD, Fire, Park & Rec, and other "outward-facing" services. Departments that do not provide direct benefit to citizens should be evaluated as 2nd and 3 tier priorities.
None	1-23-24	The charter should be amended to require that the annual Performance Evaluations of all department heads, the mayor, the city manager, ACMs and other direct reports to the mayor, city manager and council include a formal process that includes input from citizens, and that citizen feedback determine at least 50 percent of the evaluation.

None	1-23-24	The city should not have the municipal immunity.
None	1-23-24	Provide metrics for evaluating certain city officials.
None	1-23-24	Residents should retain the right to initiate amortization proceedings.
None	1-23-24	Adopt a Most Favorable Pricing policy for city contracts.
None	2-6-24	Add a requirement that the city adopt by ordinance a citywide bike plan.
None	3-26-24	Prohibit city council candidates from soliciting campaign contributions except during the 180 days prior to the election date.