

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE – SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Overall

- Updated numbering of sections for clarity and consistency.
- Modernized language, corrected minor spelling/grammatical errors, and ensured stylistic consistency across sections.

Chapter I: Name, Boundaries, Powers, and General Provisions

- Adds a section to make clear when this version of the Charter was adopted.

Chapter II: Form of Government

- Provides a process to fill a Councilor's seat if they are elected to the Mayoral seat mid-term.
- Updates "Treasurer" to "Treasurer/Finance Director."
- Removes language regarding bonding any employees except the City Manager (addressed in Chapter VI).

Chapter III: Elections

- Clarifies language regarding the required residency timeline (one year before the election or appointment to office).
- Disqualifies a member of City Council from running in the next election if they have 10 or more unexcused absences from regular City Council meetings within a 365-day period.
- Updates the commencement of terms of office to January 1st.

Chapter IV: Vacancies

- Offers vacant positions to the next two highest runners-up if vacancies occur within the first half of the seat's term (runners-up must still be eligible to qualify).
- Sets a 60-day timeline to fill vacant seats when an appointment by Council is required.

Chapter V: The Council

- Clarifies the definition of a quorum in cases of three or more vacant seats.

- Updates title of President Pro Tem to Council President.
- Establishes types of votes that shall require no less than four affirmative votes (hiring/firing of Council-appointed positions, filling of Council vacancies, land use decisions, utility rate changes, modifications to Municipal Code, approval of Ordinances with emergency clauses, or disciplinary action against a Councilor or Mayor).
- Creates a new Section 5.6 to guarantee speakers no less than five minutes if recognized during a regular City Council meeting.
- Creates a new Section 5.7 to outline ethical expectations and clarify enforcement.

Chapter VI: Powers and Duties of the City Officers

- Clarifies check-signing authority.
- Allows City Council to set the amount of the bond required for the City Manager (currently \$10,000).
- Modifies the potential term of a City Manager Pro Tem to as much as 18 months, with reappointment required every six months.
- Clarifies through new, separated sections the expectations for City Council/City Manager/staff relations and staff behavior regarding elections.

Chapter VII: Ordinances

- Allows Ordinances to be read by title only.
- Removes physical posting requirements for passed Ordinances due to the availability of electronic copies and hard copies upon request.

Chapter VIII: Public Improvements

- No significant changes.