

# Charter Review Committee Discussion Items

## Mayor Terry Lynne

1. City Council Executive Session Attendance and Use of Electronic Devices - Councilmembers must be able to attend meetings in person.
  - a. Currently, Councilmembers may attend an unlimited number of meetings via Zoom. A reasonable limit to attending without being present should be established.
  - b. City Council members should only be allowed to participate in Executive Session discussion in person. The reason for this is to guarantee the security of items discussed at meetings and to make sure members are not recording proceedings on their cell phones or any other electronic device. Currently, a member is allowed to Zoom in to a meeting if not present. That member has the ability to record proceedings as they are not wholly visible to the Council.
2. Holdover Provision – Needs to be revised
  - a. As soon as they resign, they should vacate office.
  - b. Currently, they are able to serve, with full voting rights, until a Special Election is held.
  - c. The Councilmember who has resigned is no longer bound by residency requirements.
    - i. All Councilmembers should reside in the city and be able to provide proof of residency at any time requested.
3. Requesting Agenda items
  - a. Currently, any 3 voting members of the Council may meet in private and add or delete items from meeting agendas without the Mayor's approval. Thus, voting blocs are being formed, and decisions on items are being made in advance outside of public meetings. Lack of transparency.
    - i. The Mayor is supposed to control the agenda of the meeting
  - b. If Councilmembers want to add or delete items from the meeting agenda, they should do so at a Council meeting in full view of the public.
4. Quorum
  - a. For reasons described above, a quorum should be reduced to 3; therefore, no three members should be able to meet to discuss items of action outside of Council meetings.
    - i. Two members could discuss an item, but 3 would constitute a “walking quorum” as that would be a voting majority of Council members.
5. Abstentions
  - a. Need to clarify language.
    - i. Members are elected to vote. Must vote yes or no unless a conflict of interest has been established prior to discussion. If a conflict of interest arises, then the member shall not participate in any discussion on that item.
6. Use of City Attorney
  - a. Each member of Council should consult with the City Manager and receive approval before contacting the City Attorney.
  - b. Councilmembers may be able to contact the City Attorney but incur no more than \$1,000 in legal fees without approval of the City Manager.

- c. If the matter of discussion involves the City Manager, then the Council representative should consult with the Mayor (or other designated official) for approval.
- 7. **Decorum**
  - a. A provision should be added to guard against frivolous alleged ethics violations being filed against any member of Council by another member of Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Tina Bennett-Burton

- 1. Reevaluate Executive Session usage.
- 2. Discuss Council decorum.
- 3. Discuss Council accountability.
- 4. Compare the surrounding cities' Charters and consider updating.
- 5. Discuss allowing Director-level employees and above to speak to Council without fear of termination.
- 6. Discuss requiring the setup of a specific page on the website that all (not just the accepted) bids/purchase orders must be posted on for transparency.
- 7. Discuss adding language related to having any future in-house attorneys report to Council.
- 8. Review of the "definitions" in the Charter.
- 9. Mandatory annual attendance of Councilmember orientation for Public Information Act, Open Meetings Act, and Ethics training.
- 10. Consider creating an independent Ethics Commission with enforcement oversight.
- 11. Discuss language specific to the hiring of a City Attorney.
- 12. Provide the Charter Review Committee with Charters from the cities of Haltom City, Hurst, University Park, Coppell, Houston, and San Juan for comparison purposes.

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Roger Neal

- 1. Consider clarifying the language regarding reestablishing a Charter Review Committee and the appointment of members.

Councilmember David Reid

- 1. Consider reducing the requirement for a quorum of Council from four members to three.
- 2. Mandatory annual attendance of Councilmember orientation for Public Information Act, Open Meetings Act, and Ethics training.

Councilmember Elizabeth Villafranca

- 1. Consider moving elections from May to November.
- 2. Mandatory annual attendance of Councilmember orientation for Public Information Act, Open Meetings Act, and Ethics training.