

Charter Review Committee October 22, 2013

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TARRANT §

CITY OF BEDFORD §

The Charter Review Committee of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in regular session at 5:00 pm at the Bedford Public Library, 2424 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford, TX on the 22nd day of October 2013 with the following members present:

Roy Savage Chairperson
Tom Bresnahan
Jeff Corbet
Matt Eiserloh
Steven Farco
Bucky Geer
Steve Grubbs
Holley Hendrickson
Hank Henning
Debbie McDaniels
Dorothy McWhorter
Beth Mullens
Mary Peters
Jim Story
Hank Swanson

In addition, the following city staff members were present:
Beverly Griffith City Manager
Michael Wells City Secretary
Stan Lowry City Attorney

REGULAR SESSION

The Regular Session began at 5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/GENERAL COMMENTS

Chairman Roy Savage called the meeting to order.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introductions

Chairman Savage asked each member to introduce themselves.

2. Election of Committee Secretary and Vice Chairperson

Chairman Savage asked for nominations for Vice Chair and Secretary for the CRC. Jeff Corbet nominated Jim Story as Vice Chair; the nomination was seconded and approved by voice vote

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with no nays being recorded. Jim Story nominated Hank Henning to act as Secretary and was seconded by Jeff Corbet. The Commission unanimously approved that nomination.

3. Review the City Council's Resolution for the Committee and Section 11.17 of the Charter regarding Mandatory Charter Review

Chairman Savage read the enabling Resolution Number 13-61 and read section 11.17 of the Charter regarding the mandatory charter review.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding procedures for recommending changes to the Charter

Chairman Savage passed out a guideline for setting future agendas for the Committee and mentioned that this was the format used by the previous committee. Discussion ensued regarding some changes that had been made by the previous committee and a discussion was also held regarding the fact that his Article Assignments and meeting format were meant as suggestions, not as set items. A motion was made by Mr. Geer, seconded by Mrs. Peters, to approve the use of the assignments and format as the working guidelines going forward and approved unanimously by voice vote.

City Attorney Stan Lowry discussed his role to the Committee and explained that he will bring forward any and all legal issues regarding the existing charter for consideration to alter any discrepancies. A question was asked if resolutions passed by City Council since the last review could have been passed that conflicted with the Charter. Mr. Lowry described the process used by the City for approving resolutions and that his firm would have reviewed them prior to him signing the resolution.

Commissioner Corbet asked the City Attorney if he could review all of the Charter and bring forward any non-compliant sections in regards to State law changes by the third meeting so the Committee could have them ready for action as soon as possible. Mr. Lowry felt he could accommodate that since his cursory look did not indicate any major issues as opposed to the last Charter Review. He discussed that the last review not only cleaned up vocabulary issues, but brought many articles into compliance with State law changes and embedded language in most areas that included language that would conform the article without a major re-write in cases of future State law changes.

A discussion was held explaining the importance of being aware of possible ethic and open records issues if Commissioners started email conversations regarding the Charter Review and recommended that if any member had a question or opinion to direct the email or phone call to City Secretary Michael Wells for him to direct the discussion properly.

Commissioner Corbet presented "Procedure for voting on recommendations to the City Council to change the charter" from the previous commission in 2007/08. This was discussed and explained to members that had not previously served on the Committee. A motion was made by Commissioner Henning, seconded by Commissioner Bresnahan, to use these procedures this time as well and approved unanimously by voice vote.

5. Discussion on internal Committee contact list

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A sheet was handed out to the Committee members to enter in contact information for Committee use only.

6. Set dates and times for additional meetings

A future meeting calendar was presented by Chairman Savage and a discussion was held regarding the meetings. It was agreed that the Commission will meet on the second and fourth Tuesday in November and on the second Tuesday of December, cancelling the meeting on the fourth Tuesday of December. Further meetings would be scheduled at the December meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Henning, seconded by Commissioner Corbet, to accept the calendar with those changes and approved unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Savage adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m.

Roy Savage, Chairman