

**Charter Review Committee November 12, 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 12th day of November, 2013 with the following members present:**

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

Constituting a quorum.

Steve Farco was absent from the meeting.

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 Savage called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- 1. Consider approval of the following Charter Review Committee minutes:  
a) October 22, 2013 regular meeting**

Chairman Savage asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Commissioner Henning noted that Commissioner Peters requested to be identified as Mrs. Peters. Motioned by

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Commissioner Corbet, seconded by Commissioner Geer, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **2. Public hearing to receive input from citizens regarding recommendations for changes in the Charter.**

Chairman Savage asked if there was anyone present to provide public input to the meeting. There being none, he closed the public hearing.

#### **3. Discuss and recommend changes to Articles of the City of Bedford Charter.**

The following articles were to be reviewed at the meeting: Article I, Article IV, Article VI, Article VII and Article XIII.

Commissioner Corbet asked to present changes to Article 2.05. He then presented a rough draft of his proposed changes to cover the method to be used to fill a vacancy of a member of the City Council or mayor with less than one year of service left. There was a good deal of discussion regarding the proposal, with the City Attorney offering an opinion as to the issue of "super majority" as opposed to simple majority of the standing Council. The proposal was placed on hold until the next meeting at which time any amendments or changes will be offered and then voted on by the CRC.

Chairman Savage then went around the table asking for any discussion for changes to the Articles on the agenda for the evening. Commissioner Eiserloh discussed Article VIII, Municipal Court and how Keller and Colleyville had appointed a mutually agreed upon Municipal Judge to serve both cities. The ensuing discussion covered how the existing Charter could be revised to accommodate this happening in Bedford. City Attorney Lowry took the issue under advisement and will report at the next meeting on how state law could affect changing from Bedford's current election of the Municipal Judge and what state law would prevail if, at the end of the current judge's term, there were no election of a judge. Additionally, Commissioner McWhorter put forward a proposal to amend Article VIII, Section 8.02 to read: "To fill the unexpired term of the Municipal Judge, the following shall apply, 1. If the unexpired term is for one year or less, the City Council, by an affirmative vote of six (6) members or greater shall fill the vacancy in the following manner: a. During a city council meeting or earlier, held in accordance with Section 2.13, a council member shall request that the announcement of the vacancy be placed on the next city council agenda.; b. The city shall advertise the vacancy and take applications for the vacancy.; c. The vacancy shall be filled in accordance with Section 8.02 of the City of Bedford Charter.; d. The City Council, by affirmative vote of 6, shall set the salary of the appointed Municipal Judge.; e. The appointed Municipal Judge shall report directly to the City Council for the duration of this unexpired term.; 2. If the unexpired term is for more than one year, the city shall call an election." City Attorney Lowry took this proposal under advisement, along with the above mentioned discussion.

Commissioner McWhorter presented a recommendation to change Section 4.02, Paragraph 5, which reads, "Such other budgetary information as may be requested in writing by any member of the City Council." The recommended change is: "Shall have five (5) working days to provide such other budgetary information as may be requested in writing by any member of the City Council." This will be discussed and voted upon at the next meeting.

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Commissioner Story would like to discuss Article II regarding the number of council meetings at the next meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Savage adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

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Roy Savage, Chairman