



# City of Pflugerville

## Minutes - Final

### Charter Review Commission

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Thursday, February 4, 2021

6:00 PM

100 E Main Street, Suite 500

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#### Meeting (Telephone/Video Conference)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with order of the Office of the Governor issued

March 16, 2020, the Charter Review Commission will conduct this Meeting by telephone/video conference in order to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings to slow the spread of the COVID-19. There will be no public access to the location described above.

This Meeting Agenda, and the Agenda Packet, are posted online at <https://pflugerville.legistar.com>

This telephonic/video meeting will be hosted through WebEx.

Meeting Public URL: [https://pflugervilletx.webex.com/pflugervilletx/onstage/g.php?](https://pflugervilletx.webex.com/pflugervilletx/onstage/g.php?MTID=e91097502fea63be564e703bec8e06532)

MTID=e91097502fea63be564e703bec8e06532

Meeting Number / Code: 146 739 7159

Dial-in Number: +1-408-418-9388 (US toll)

Public Comment will only be allowed via telephone/video conference. All speakers must register to speak at least 2 hours in advance of the meeting. All comments will occur at the beginning of the meeting under the Public Comment item. Speakers must call in at least 15 minutes prior to the meeting start in order to speak. Written comments may also be submitted 2 hours in advance of the meeting. Name and address must be included. Written comments are limited to 250 words.

To register to speak or to submit written comments, please email [citysecretary@pflugervilletx.gov](mailto:citysecretary@pflugervilletx.gov) at least 2 hours in advance of the meeting. A recording of the telephone/video meeting will be made, and will be available to the public upon written request.

#### 1. Call to Order

Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. Charter Review Commission members in attendance: Jim McDonald, Kensing Marquez, Amanda Maedgen, Darelle White, Dorothy Lee, Elizabeth Montoya, Gayle Heath, Copie Hotman, Nicole Cortez, Terry Newsom, April Griffin, Sheldon Lamey. Mark Gladney joined the meeting at 6:02p.m., Charlie Torres joined at 6:16p.m., Carol Teitelman joined at 6:38p.m. Charter Review Commission members Adeline Bui, Jeff Reeb, Marilyn Klassen and Brianna Bardhi were absent. City employees attending: Charlie Zech, City Attorney; Trista Evans, Deputy City Secretary; Gwen Holford, Application and Web Developer; Wade Maness, Videography Multimedia Specialist; Trey Fletcher, Deputy City Manager.

## **2. Public Comment**

There were no written comments or requests to speak under the item.

In accordance with the Texas Attorney General's Opinion, any public comment that is made on an item that is not on the published final agenda will only be heard. No formal action, discussion, deliberation, or comment will be made. Each person providing public comment will be limited to 3 minutes.

## **3. Approval of Minutes**

- 3A. [2021-0094](#) Discuss and consider action to approve the minutes of December 17, 2020 and January 7, 2021 Charter Review Commission Meetings.
- Commissioner Lee moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Commissioner Montoya seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## **4. Discuss and Consider Action**

- 4A. [2021-0093](#) Discuss and consider action to approve recommended amendment to City Charter Article I, Section 1.05.

Chair McDonald read the proposed amendment. Commissioner Newsom and Commissioner Hotman asked for clarification. Attorney Zech provided information on the process. Commission White moved to accept the proposed amendment. Commission Lee seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 4B. [2021-0106](#) Discuss and consider action regarding recommendations for possible amendment to the City Charter, Article III, Section 3.01 regarding districting.

Chair McDonald provided a recap of what was discussed at last meeting. Discussion followed regarding intent of bringing the item back. Chair McDonald stated to discuss the item to determine whether or not to move forward. Commissioner Newsom provided comments related to City of Austin districting and the current set up of Pflugerville council.

Commissioner Lee asked about what a move to single district would require for where council members have to live and asked about where people who run for council typically live. Commissioner Heath provided some information about other communities that have districting. Commissioner Newsom provided comment about who votes during city council elections stating that everyone needs to be able to vote on every council member and there is greater representation from voting on every council member. Commission Maedgen spoke in favor of a hybrid council set up. Commissioner Heath spoke of concern about the direction of growth in the city. Commissioner Teitelman stating viewing the hybrid approach as a way to balance the growth that is going to happen. Commission Lamey asked if there is an example of cities that use the hybrid approach, Chair McDonald mentioned City of Buda.

Commissioner Cortez stated from an outside perspective the hybrid approach looks good, some concern of nepotism issues. Discussion followed regarding representation on council and impact on voter turnout with districting.

Chair McDonald stated to be open to a vote as to whether to continue discussion. Commissioner Griffin made a motion to continue the conversation for further research on options for voting member districts. Commissioner Lamey seconded. The vote was as follows: Mark Gladney - yes, Amanda Maedgen - yes, April Griffin - yes, Carol Teitelman - yes, Charlie Torres - yes, Copie Hotman - yes, Darelle White - no, Dorothy Lee - no, Elizabeth Montoya - no, Gayle Heath - no, Kensing Marquez - yes, Nicole Cortez - yes, Sheldon Lamey - yes, Terry Newsom - no, Jim McDonald - yes. The motion carried and discussion will continue at the next meeting. Staff was requested to research if there is an impact on voter turnout between city districts and at large, and to look at comparable cities to Pflugerville that have a hybrid model.

Chair McDonald called the meeting to recess at 7:30p.m. Meeting was reconvened at 7:40p.m.

**4C.**     [2021-0095](#)

Discuss and consider action regarding recommendations for possible amendment to the City Charter, Article III, The City Council starting at Section 3.04.

Speaking on section 3.04 Chair McDonald discussed if offering a stipend or salary to council members would encourage more people to run and this is a more pertinent discussion if there are single member districts. Commissioner Newsom stated that council has an item in the budget of \$30,000. Chair McDonald stated that is for reimbursements of expenses incurred and not compensation. Commissioner White stated that no amount of money can effectively compensate for the time it takes to be a council member, keeping it as it is keeps everyone on the same footing and he found it to be a wise move to have city council as volunteers. Commissioner Torres stated he had always seen City Council work very hard and always hoped they got a little compensation. Commissioner Heath stated serving on council should be something that you want to do to make a difference in the community. Commissioner Maedgen stated not to have a strong opinion but it may be a barrier for some because they can't cut down on work hours. Commission Griffin stated as a volunteer position it is based on commitment and compassion for the community and the people who have the passion for it will step up to the plate regardless of if there is compensation or not. Commissioner Cortez stated compensating someone for what they wanted to

do will not replace any jobs and does not think adding compensation will change who will run. Commissioner Lee stated support of some sort of payment for council members. Commissioner Montoya stated compensation gives an air of professionalism and while not big enough for high pay something like a per diem may be an appropriate step. Commissioner Teitelman discussed if this something to put on the ballot now or wait until next time and wants to stay where elected people are directing the staff.

Commissioner Marquez had to leave the meeting at 8:15p.m.

Commissioner Maedgen stated does not think the city can afford to pay council members yet. Chair McDonald provided information on council compensation of surrounding cities. Commissioner Teitelman made a motion to end discussion and make no changes. Commissioner Newsom seconded. The vote was as follows: Terry Newsom - yes, Sheldon Lamey - yes, Nicole Cortez - yes, Gayle Heath - yes, Elizabeth Montoya - no, Dorothy Lee - no, Darelle White - yes, Copie Hotman - yes, Charlie Torres - no, Carol Teitelman - no, April Griffin - yes, Amanda Maedgen - yes, Mark Gladney - yes, Jim McDonald - no. The motion carried and discussion on section 3.04 ended.

There was no discussion on section 3.05

Section 3.06 - Chair McDonald opened discussion on section that states mayor votes stating he does not think the mayor should vote. Vice Chair Gladney stated he tends to agree and is used to the idea of the mayor being the tie breaker. Commissioner White asked if the mayor does not vote what does that mean, thought the main reason was to add a councilmember to have an odd number. Commissioner Montoya asked what is broken with how it is now. Chair McDonald stated as it is now the mayor has the chance to be in the minority vote and likes the mayor to be able to champion whatever vote is made and should be above the fray. Commissioner Heath stated she likes to know how the mayor votes, without the vote the position is just a de facto sitting there. Commissioner Newsom stated he votes based on voting record and wants to see the substance behind the position. Discussion followed stating intent of changing whether or not the mayor votes. Commissioner Lamey stated liking to know where the mayor stands and that is done by voting. Vice Chair Gladney and Commissioner White spoke about the dynamics of past council when mayor voted only in case of tie. Commissioner Maedgen moved not to edit section 3.06. Commissioner Teitelman seconded. Commissioner Griffin opposed the motion, all others approved. the motion carried.

There was brief discussion of following sections in Article III including notes on non-substantial changes, Chair McDonald stated to suspend discussion on item to discuss in next meeting and postponed the next two items.

**4D.**     [2021-0096](#)

Discuss and consider action regarding recommendations for possible amendment to the City Charter, Article IV, The City Council.

There was no discussion on the item.

**4E.**     [2021-0103](#)

Discuss and consider action regarding recommendations for possible amendment to the City Charter, Article V, The City Council.

There was no discussion on the item.

**4F. [2021-0104](#)**

Discuss and consider action regarding future agenda items.

Chair McDonald discussed items to be brought to the next meeting. Continue review of Article III started at section 3.07. Review Articles IV and V. Commission Heath requested the Commission move forward in the review before going back to items staff has been asked to review.

**5. Adjourn**

Chair McDonald adjourned the meeting at 9:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trista Evans, Deputy City Secretary

Approved as submitted on March 4, 2021