

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SACHSE
MARCH 31, 2022, MEETING MINUTES**

The Charter Review Commission of the City of Sachse held a regular meeting on Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 6 p.m. at the Michael J. Felix Community Center, 3815-E Sachse Road. Members present were Chairperson Scott McMurdie; Vice-Chairperson Cedric Alford; Commission members Ed Brown, Eric Dominguez, Charles Elk, Billy George, Marcia Harris-Daniel, Matthew Holboke, Butch Kemper, Jeanie Marten, Jim Mathis, Karlos McGhee, Paul Watkins, and Kirk Wood; Assistant City Manager, Lauren Rose; City Attorney, Pete Smith; City Secretary, Leah Granger, and Assistant to the City Manager, Amanda Chi.

Members absent: Brad Ford.

Ms. Rose called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Invocation and Pledges of Allegiance to the US and Texas Flags.

Mr. Wood led the invocation and pledges.

Introduce board members.

The Commission members went around the room introducing themselves, how long they have been in Sachse and what brought them to the community.

All Board members take the Oath of Office.

Ms. Granger led the members present in the Oath of Office.

Consider and elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Charter Review Commission.

Mr. Dominguez noted that he had worked with Mr. McMurdie on other occasions and thought he would lead the group efficiently and well.

Mr. Dominguez made a motion to elect Scott McMurdie as Chairperson of the Charter Review Commission. Mr. Mathis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Dr. Alford said he would like to serve as the Vice-Chairperson of the group.

Dr. Alford made a motion to be the Vice-Chairperson of the Charter Review Commission. Mr. Wood seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Citizen Input: The public is invited at this time to address the Charter Review Commission. Please state your name and address for the record. The time limit is 3 minutes per speaker.

Issues raised may be referred to City Staff for research and possible future action and comments will be reflected in the final report to the City Council.

There was no citizen input.

Review, discuss, and make any recommended changes to articles I-IV of the City of Sachse's home rule Charter.

Ms. Rose and Mr. Smith answered several questions about the review process. Mr. Holboke asked if all gender specific language could be included in one motion at the end so the group would not need to focus on it as they review the text for content, to which staff agreed. Ms. Marten asked for clarification regarding when the approved changes would be put to voters. Ms. Rose noted that the timeline was structured to have revision propositions on the November ballot. Mr. McMurdie reminded everyone that the Commission is a recommending body to the Council. The elected Council will have the final say what is placed on the ballot. Mr. Smith explained that as changes are suggested and approved by the majority of the commission, redlines will be brought to the next meeting for final approval.

Mr. Kemper asked if staff and Mr. Smith would bring items to the attention of the group that may be needed to comply with new laws or that may be conflicting with a process or another aspect of the Charter. He was concerned that without that direction, an important revision may be missed. Mr. Smith and Ms. Rose both assured the group that they would provide any necessary changes in relation to the law, consistency, and grammar at the time that item is discussed.

Mr. Dominguez asked if Section 11.05 should be reviewed first as it has to do with wording interpretation and gender specific language. Ms. Rose noted that since it was not posted on the agenda, we will need to keep it in the order specified. Mr. Smith responded that there will be a recap of all changes at the end of the process and reconciliations with previous sections can be discussed then.

No comments were made on the Preamble. After reading Article I and brief discussion, Mr. Wood made a motion to keep Article I of the City of Sachse's home rule Charter in its current state with no changes. Mr. George seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Commissioners read Article II aloud. Dr. Alford would like consistency in the reference to citizen vs inhabitants vs residents. Mr. Smith articulated that state law prevails over conflicts with the Charter. Mr. Dominguez made a motion to accept Article II with the correction of "foreclosures" to "foreclosure" in Section 3.02 and other consistency/grammar corrections. Mr. McGhee seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

During discussion of Article III, the group discussed whether or not term limits would be discussed at the end of reviewing the article or in the midst. Mr. Kemper made a motion that term limits be included in the discussion of Article III. Mr. Holboke seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Harris-Daniel asked for clarification about council places, specifically, being elected at large as opposed to precinct or district. Mr. Smith noted that Section 3.02 is historic in nature explaining how the original council places were handled when moving into a Home-Rule city. It could be removed and a brief reference could be added to 3.01, if the Commission chooses. Discussion continued about the idea of moving to districts. Several commissioners prefer the at-large model so every councilmember is responsible and accountable for every resident rather than a single person. Mr. McMurdie made a motion to remove Section 3.02 entirely. There was some concern about erasing the history from the document. After continued dialogue and questions, Mr. McMurdie rescinded his motion. Mr. Wood made a motion to request staff to remove section 3.02 entirely and incorporate necessary historical information in 3.01. Mr. McMurdie seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

In relation to compensation for council, Dr. Alford said he would prefer compensation changes to go to the residents for a vote any time it is requested to be changed. Mr. George noted that compensation in most smaller cities is generally low and may cover dry cleaning or gas money. He wants his councilmembers to look professional and does not have a problem with small compensation, such as \$50 per meeting. Discussion continued. Mr. Kemper made a motion to leave Section 3.04 as is with grammatical corrections. Mr. Holboke seconded the motion, and it carried 9-5 with Dr. Alford, Mr. Elk, Ms. Harris-Daniel, Ms. Marten, and Mr. Wood voting no.

Mr. George made a motion to leave Section 3.05 as is. Mr. Watkins seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

After some conversation regarding filling a council vacancy, Mr. Wood made a motion to remove the word "uniform" from Section 3.06 paragraph four. Mr. Holboke seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Dr. Alford expressed some concern regarding paragraph a – removing the City Manager. Since the current City Manager is also the Director of the EDC there may be an unintended consequence and detrimental to the EDC. It was established that the City Manager or designee serves as the Director of the EDC. Paragraph g is no longer necessary related to state law. Ms. Marten made a motion to remove paragraph i from Section 3.07. Mr. Mathis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The Commission discussed whether the council should deal with City officers and employees as they desire. That discussion was postponed until Section 3.17. Ms. Marten made a motion to leave Section 3.08 as is save gender specific language. Ms. Harris-Daniel seconded the motion, and it carried 13-1 with Mr. Wood voting no.

Mr. Smith suggested that "majority" be changed to "three members" of City Council. Mr. Wood made a motion to change Section 3.09 as discussed. Ms. Marten seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Marten made a motion to leave Section 3.10 as is. Ms. Harris-Daniel seconded the motion, and it carried 13-0-1. Mr. McGhee was absent for the vote.

Mr. Holboke had concerned about conflict of interest. Mr. Smith explained that the section is related to state law and conflict of interest is related specifically to financial interest or legal conflict with a decision to be made. The suggestion was made to include state law references somewhere for residents to access easily. Ms. Rose agreed that laws could be referenced on the City website fairly easily. Dr. Alford made a motion to leave Section 3.11 as is. Mr. Kemper seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The Commission debated whether an abstention vote of a councilmember should be a negative or positive vote. There was concern that the rule could currently be used as an obstruction method. Mr. McGhee made a motion to leave Section 3.12 as is. Mr. George seconded the motion, and it carried 13-1 with Mr. McMurdie voting no.

Mr. Wood stated that state law has been updated to include citizen discussion on any and all items. Commissioners discussed a general unfamiliarity with Robert's Rules of Order. Mr. Smith corrected the understanding, stating that state law was updated to include citizen input on items that included action. The law does not apply to work sessions that only include discussion and no action. After some discussion, Mr. Dominguez made a motion to strike the first sentence of Section 3.13. Mr. Wood seconded the motion and it carried 12-2 with Mr. Kemper and McGhee voting no.

Adjournment.

Mr. McMurdie adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

ATTEST:



Cedric Alford, Vice-Chairperson

William K. George

APPROVE:



Scott McMurdie, Chairperson