

State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Charter Review Commission met on Thursday, October 6th, 2022, at the Freeport City Hall, 3rd floor Conference Room, 200 W. 2nd Street, Freeport, TX for the purpose of considering the following agenda items:

Charter Review Members: Sandra Barbree (Absent)
Ana Silbas
Melanie Oldham
Shonda Marshall
Sam Reyna

City Council Liaison: Brooks Bass, Mayor
City Manager: Tim Kelty
City Attorney: David Olson, Interim
City Secretary: Betty Wells

Visitors: Pamela Dancy
Ruby Marshall
Ruben Renobato
Nicole Mireles
George Matamoros

Call to Order.

Melanie Oldham opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Consideration and possible action on the approval of Charter Review meeting minutes from September 26, 2022.

On a motion by Sam Reyna, seconded by Melanie Oldham, with all present voting "Aye", the Charter Review Commission unanimously approved the Charter Review Commission meeting minutes from September 26th, 2022.

Consideration and possible action to approve suggested revisions to Articles 1-3, and Articles 4-6.

This agenda item was tabled for a to be determined meeting to take possible action on suggested revisions for Articles 1-11.

Discuss and review Charter Articles 7-9.

Charter Review Commission reviewed Articles 4-6 individually to present comments and questions. In Article 7- Section 7.03, Sam Reyna presented questions in regards to sprinkler systems and the act of grandfathering business owners in, although outside the scope of this section, Interim City Attorney David Olson explained that this section gives the citizens a right to put a referendum proposition on the ballot to repeal such ordinances.

Ruben Renobato posed the question regarding the differences between a referendum and initiative. Interim City Attorney David Olson clarified that an initiative is having an item placed on the ballot and a referendum is an item which citizens would like removed as a rule. Furthermore, Ruben Renobato and Shonda Marshall posed questions surrounding referendums, initiatives and elections. In Section 7.07 & 7.11-Sam Reyna posed a question pertaining to waste services and George Matamoros asked for clarification regarding franchise ordancies to apply to Sam Reyna's question. Interim City Attorney David Olson stated that Section 7.11 pertains to preserving the city's right to enter into franchise agreements with public utilities or health and safety issues.

In Article 8, Section 8.1(a) should read Chapter 212 dealing with subdivision regulations according to Interim City Attorney David Olson. In section 8.03 (5)-should be deleted-not within the authority of government and in section 8.03 (8)- delete "meet not less than once each month". Also, in section 8.04- Change to read "City Council shall appoint a Zoning Board of Adjustments by ordinance" --in order to adhere to current state law.

In Article 9, George Matamoros posed a question pertaining to the adoption of the EDC budget within the timeframe of the final adoption of the city's budget. Interim City Attorney David Olson stated that the city's charter and the statutory laws governing an Economic Development Corporation are separate. In section 9.24, there needs to be revisions to when property taxes are due and payable that will reflect current state law.

The next charter meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2022 to review Articles 10-11. There were questions around the meeting location: Council Chambers vs. City Hall and having a Facebook live for citizens-not a requirement, more of a courtesy.

Adjourn

On a motion by Sam Reyna, seconded by Shonda Marshall with all present voting "Aye", the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Melanie Oldham

Chairperson Melanie Oldham
Charter Review Committee

Ana Silbas

Secretary Ana Silbas
Charter Review Committee