



GARLAND

NOTICE OF MEETING CITY OF GARLAND, TEXAS

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mayor's Conference Room of City Hall
200 N. Fifth Street
Garland, Texas
October 24, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

A meeting of the Charter Review Committee of the City of Garland, Texas will be held at the aforementioned location, date, and time to discuss and consider the following agenda items.

AGENDA:

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. Approval of minutes of the October 17, 2023 meeting.
2. **ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**
 - a. **Consider changes for Council Item 8, Article IV, Section 1(J), related to the Powers of Council to align streets, thoroughfares, and alleys**
 - b. **Consider changes for Council Item 9, Article IV, Section 2, related to Council removal of appointive officials.**
 - c. **Consider changes for Council Item 10, Article IV, Section 3, related to Councilmember communications and interactions with City staff appointees.**

- d. **Consider changes for Council Item 11, Article V, Section 2, related to the term limitations of the City Manager’s contract.**

- e. **Consider changes for Council Item 13, Article XI, Section 3, related to a vote necessary to override a Plan Commission recommendation.**

- f. **Consider changes for Council Item 14, Article XI, Section 4, related to revising the powers granted to Council related to Planning and Zoning matters.**

- g. **Consider changes for Article III, Section 1(F), related to gerrymandering.**

- h. **Consider changes to the Charter Review Committee’s meeting schedule.**

3. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

4. ADJOURN

NOTE: A quorum of the City Council may be in attendance and may or may not participate in the discussions of the Committee or board.



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1. a.

Meeting Date: 10/24/2023

Item Title: Approval of minutes of the October 17, 2023 meeting.

Summary:

Approval of minutes of the October 17, 2023 meeting.



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Charter Review Committee Agenda

2. a.

Meeting Date: 10/24/2023

Item Title: Consider changes for Council Item 8, Article IV, Section 1(J), related to the Powers of Council to align streets, thoroughfares, and alleys.

Summary:

Consider changes for Council Item 8, Article IV, Section 1(J), related to the Powers of Council to align streets, thoroughfares, and alleys

Background/Additional Information:

§ 1 Powers of the Council.

All powers of the City and the determination of all matters of policy shall be vested in the Council. Without limitation of the special and general powers granted or delegated to the City by the Constitution, statutes or this Charter, the Council shall have power to:

(J)

Open, widen, extend or straighten public streets, thoroughfares and alleys;



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2. b.

Meeting Date: 10/24/2023

Item Title: Consider changes for Council Item 9, Article IV, Section 2, related to Council removal of appointive officials.

Summary:

Consider changes for Council Item 9, Article IV, Section 2, related to Council removal of appointive officials.

Background/Additional Information:

§ 2 Removal of appointive officials.

Except as otherwise provided by law, the Council may, upon the affirmative vote of five (5) members, remove its appointed officers without notice or cause.



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2. c.

Meeting Date: 10/24/2023

Item Title: Consider changes for Council Item 10, Article IV, Section 3, related to Councilmember communications and interactions with City staff appointees.

Summary:

Consider changes for Council Item 10, Article IV, Section 3, related to Councilmember communications and interactions with City staff appointees.

Background/Additional Information:

§ 3 Council not to interfere with appointments.

Neither the City Council nor any of its members shall direct or request the hiring or removal of any person from an office directed by the City Manager, the City Attorney, the City Auditor, or a Municipal Judge, or by any subordinate of one of the aforementioned Council appointees. However, the Council may consult and advise with a Council appointee, make inquiry regarding the appointments or removals, and may express their opinion in regard thereto. In regard to administrative and executive duties under a Council appointee, the Council and its members shall deal solely through the Council appointee and neither the Council nor any member thereof shall give orders to any subordinates of a Council appointee, either publicly or privately. Willful violation of the foregoing provisions of this Charter by any member of the Council shall constitute official misconduct and shall authorize the Council, by a vote of a majority of its membership, to sanction such offending member by ordering a forfeiture of pay for a period of not to exceed six months if found responsible after a public hearing.



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Charter Review Committee Agenda

2. d.

Meeting Date: 10/24/2023

Item Title: Consider changes for Council Item 11, Article V, Section 2, related to the term limitations of the City Manager's contract.

Summary:

Consider changes for Council Item 11, Article V, Section 2, related to the term limitations of the City Manager's contract.

Background/Additional Information:

§ 2 The Council shall appoint a City Manager who shall be the chief administrative officer of the City. The Council may appoint the City Manager for day-to-day without a definite fixed term or may enter into an employment agreement with the City Manager for a term not to exceed of three (3) years. In any event, the Council may remove the City Manager at its will and pleasure by a vote of five (5) members of the Council. The action of the Council in removing the City Manager shall be final, it being the intention of this Charter to vest all authority and fix all responsibility for such removal in the Council. Nothing in the employment agreement entered into with the City Manager shall conflict with or supercede this Charter and, in the event of a conflict, the provisions of the Charter shall control.



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Charter Review Committee Agenda

2. e.

Meeting Date: 10/24/2023

Item Title: Consider changes for Council Item 13, Article XI, Section 3, related to a vote necessary to override a Plan Commission recommendation.

Summary:

Consider changes for Council Item 13, Article XI, Section 3, related to a vote necessary to override a Plan Commission recommendation.

Background/Additional Information:

§ 3 Recommendations of Plan Commission.

Except to the extent it is precluded by statutes of the State of Texas from doing so, the Council may thereafter adopt any plans, projects or methods recommended by the City Plan Commission or any other plans, projects or methods the Council may deem most advisable; provided, however, that any public improvement undertaken hereunder, or otherwise, by the Council shall not be deemed invalid because the City Plan Commission has not been consulted or has not furnished any advice thereon, or because the Council has failed to submit its plans thereon for consideration by said City Plan Commission.



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Charter Review Committee Agenda

2. f.

Meeting Date: 10/24/2023

Item Title: Consider changes for Council Item 14, Article XI, Section 4, related to revising the powers granted to Council related to planning and Zoning matters.

Summary:

Consider changes for Council Item 14, Article XI, Section 4, related to revising the powers granted to Council related to Planning and Zoning matters.

Background/Additional Information:

§ 4 Zoning.

For the purpose of promoting health, safety, morals or the general welfare of the community, the Council is hereby empowered to regulate and restrict the height, number of stories and size of buildings and other structures, the percentage of lot that may be occupied, the size of yards, courts and other open spaces, the density of population, and the location and use of buildings, structures and land for trade, industry, residence or other purposes.

Such regulations shall be made in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan and be designed to lessen congestion in the streets; to secure safety from fire, panic and other dangers; to promote health or the general welfare.

The City shall have all authority in matters of zoning which are conferred by the statutes of the State of Texas and various legislative acts supplementary to or amendatory thereof.



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2. g.

Meeting Date: 10/24/2023

Item Title: Consider changes for Article III, Section 1(F), related to gerrymandering.

Summary:

Consider changes for Article III, Section 1(F), related to gerrymandering.

Background/Additional Information:

Original language:

(F) Within one year after a decennial federal census as mandated by Article I § 2 of the United States Constitution has been performed and finalized, and each five years thereafter, prior to the calling of the regular City election, the Council shall redivide and readjust by ordinance the boundaries of the eight Council districts of the City for the purpose of keeping such districts as nearly equal in population as is practical.

Language approved at the October 17, 2023 meeting:

(F) Within one year after a decennial federal census as mandated by Article I § 2 of the United States Constitution has been performed and finalized, ~~and each five years thereafter,~~ prior to the calling of the regular City election, the Council shall redivide and readjust by ordinance the boundaries of the eight Council districts of the City for the purpose of keeping such districts as nearly equal in population as is practical.

Attachments

A3 S1 F - Gerrymandering

Article 3 – Section 1 - Gerrymandering

Consider adding Gerrymandering prevention into the Charter, Article 3, Section 1

- i. Equal Population: All districts shall be reasonably equal in population, allowing for minor deviations as needed to achieve other redistricting goals outlined in this Article.
- ii. Contiguity: Each district shall be contiguous, meaning all parts of a district are connected to each other without jumping over another district.
- iii. Compactness: Districts shall be drawn to encourage compactness. To the extent practicable, districts shall not have irregularly shaped boundaries or elongated configurations which are indicative of gerrymandering.
- iv. Respect for Political Subdivisions and Communities: Redistricting shall, to the extent possible, preserve existing neighborhoods, and communities of interest.
- v. Non-partisanship: District boundaries shall not be drawn to favor or discriminate against an incumbent, candidate, or political party.



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2. h.

Meeting Date: 10/24/2023

Item Title: Consider changes to the Charter Review Committee's meeting schedule

Summary:

Consider changes to the Charter Review Committee's meeting schedule.
