

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF ANDERSON §
CITY OF PALESTINE §

The Charter Review Committee of the City of Palestine, Texas convened in a Regular Meeting on Monday, July 27, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room at City Hall, 504 N. Queen Street, Palestine, Texas, with the following people present:

John Ballard McDonald, Chairperson
Sam Aryanpur
Allan R. Smith
Preston A. Brown
Thelma Holland
James Smith
Mike Kelly
Alex Nemer II
Isaac Wynn
Kenneth Davidson
Ron Stutes, City Attorney
Teresa Herrera, City Secretary
Jeffrey Lyons, Dev. Services Director

Call to Order

Chairperson McDonald called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Committee Member Nemer made a motion, seconded by Committee Member Kelly, to approve the minutes as presented. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson McDonald informed Committee that he was going to provide City Council with an update on the Committee's work and invited Committee Members to attend the City Council meeting.

Section-By-Section Review of Existing Charter

The following sections were discussed:

Article III. Legislative Procedure

Section 3.5 – Conflict of interest was discussed Committee is not ready to vote on any changes to this section.

Section 3.6 – Receipt of gratuities prohibited there were no additional comments and Committee is not ready to vote on any changes to this section.

Section 3.7 – Determination of violation. City Attorney Stutes informed that he has reviewed other City Charters and was not able to find another city with similar provision. Committee Nemer added that this provision does not need to be in the Charter. Committee Member Kelly said that the provision should not be removed instead it needs to be update. Committee Members directed City Attorney to rewrite sections 3.5, 3.6, and 3.7; and Committee would consider changes at a later meeting.

Article V. Elections

Section 5.1 – Elections generally. Needs to be changed so that this section does not conflict with State Law or needs to be worded in a way that complies with changes of State Law. Also, Committee would like to add additional language for additional circulation via social media, website, or newspaper.

Section 5.2 – Regulation of elections were discussed. City Secretary Herrera informed that Elections must be held in compliance to State Law and when conducting an Election the Election Code procedures are followed.

Section 5.5 – Election by majority was discussed. The Committee may want to add an alternative method in case of a tie vote. Committee will discuss at a future meeting.

Section 5.6 – Laws governing city elections. Committee agrees that “except as otherwise provided by this charter” needs to be removed. Committee did not vote on the changes.

Section 5.7 – Conducting and canvassing elections. Committee agrees that “within five (5) days, or as soon as practical after an election” needs to be removed. Committee did not vote on the changes.

Section 5.8 – Oath of office. Committee agrees that no change is necessary.

Section 5.9 – Taking office. Committee agrees that no change is necessary.

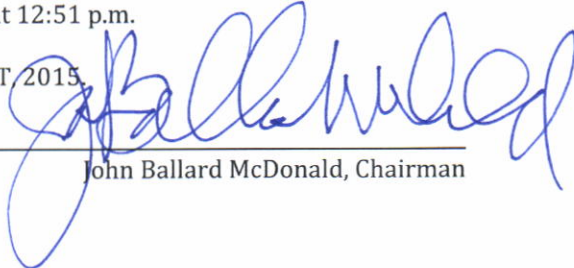
Items for Placement on Future Agendas

Chair McDonald announced that at the next meeting they would continue pointing out areas of interest from the City Charter for future discussion starting with Article VI. Council-Manager Form of Government and Article VII. Budget. The next meeting will be on August 24th at 12:00 p.m.

Adjournment

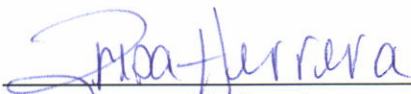
With no other business come before the Committee, Committee Member Nemer made a motion, seconded by Committee Member Wynn, to adjourn the meeting at 12:51 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 24TH DAY OF AUGUST 2015.



John Ballard McDonald, Chairman

ATTEST:



Teresa Herrera, City Secretary