

**CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS
CHARTER REVIEW TASK FORCE
SEPTEMBER 3, 2015**

Present:

Dionne Bagsby, Chair
Pete Geren
Henry Borbolla
Julie Miers
Bert Williams
Lu Moskowitz
Mike Holt
Danny Scarth
Carlos Flores

Absent:

Mike Coffey
Keith Shankland

Staff Present:

Fernando Costa, Assistant City Manager
Maleshia Farmer, Sr. Assistant City Attorney
Mary Kayser, City Secretary

1. Call to Order - Dionne Bagsby, Chair

With a quorum present, Chair Bagsby called the Charter Review Task Force to order at 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, September 3, 2015, in the Pre-Council Chamber of the Fort Worth City Hall, 1000 Throckmorton Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. Chairman Bagsby welcomed the members and audience. The Charter Review Task Force members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes from August 19, 2015

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2015 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Benchmark Data from Comparable Cities - Mary Kayser, City Secretary

City Secretary Mary Kayser reviewed the updated benchmark data from Austin, San Antonio, El Paso, Dallas, Oklahoma City, Charlotte and Kansas City.

4. Discussion of Public Hearing Proces – Fernando Costa, Assistant City Manager

Assistant City Manager, Fernando Costa reviewed the potential public hearing dates:

- Monday, October 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. for Districts 2 and 9
- Thursday, October 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. for Districts 3 and 6
- Monday, November 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. for Districts 4 and 7
- Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. for Districts 5 and 8.

Mr. Costa informed the Task Force that at their next meeting Michelle Gutt, the City's Director of Communications and Public Engagement will discuss the public hearings and outreach efforts.

5. Formulation of Questions for the Public Hearings

The Task Force reviewed and discussed the potential questions for the public related to their charges.

Increasing the Number of Council members

- Would increasing the number of single-member districts perhaps from eight to ten, provide all Fort Worth residents with better representation?
- Would increasing the number of districts provide **minority groups**, such as Hispanics and African-Americans, with better representation?

The task force suggested adding a question about better representation from all geographic areas.

Terms of office

- Could longer terms increase the effectiveness of the mayor and council members?
- Would longer terms in any way reduce their accountability?
- Should the cost of holding elections, i.e. up to approximately \$550,000 per municipal election, be a significant factor in this decision?

The task force suggested changing the last question to reflect cost savings of holding less frequent election.

Staggered Terms

- Would staggered terms provide the city council with greater continuity and stability?
- It is important to limit the amount of turnover that could occur in any city council election?
- Is it important to elect the mayor and all council members at the same time?
- Do the terms of office, i.e. two years versus three or four years, affect the importance of staggering those terms?
- Should the cost of holding elections be a significant factor in this decision?
- How would we transition to a system of staggered terms?

The task force suggested deleting the last question regarding the transition.

Compensation

- Should serving as Fort Worth's mayor be a full-time job?
- Should serving as a council member be a full-time job?
- Is it important to consider the time demands of the position when setting compensation?
- Is it important to consider the city's budget?
- Would increasing the compensation allow more citizens an opportunity to serve in public office?

The task force suggested eliminating the questions related to full time job.

Conflicts of interest

- Is it important to **retain** this provision in the city charter?
- Is this provision sufficiently **clear and understandable**?
- Could this provision from time to time **prevent** the city from entering into beneficial contracts?

No changes were suggested. The Task force did ask that the public be made aware of the additional ethics provisions in the City Code.

Henry Borbolla and Carlos Flores left the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

6. Requests for Future Agenda Items

Costs related to expanding the council from eight to ten members.
The Law Department will walk through the technical amendments.
Public engagement process for the public hearings.

7. Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be Thursday, September 17, 2015, at 4:30 p.m.

8. Citizen Presentations

Pablo Calderon addressed the Task Force about redistricting and making the mapping tool that was available during the 2010 redistricting available again.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Bagsby adjourned the Regular meeting at 2:53 p.m.