

**RICHLAND HILLS CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022  
MINUTES**

Roll Call:

Committee Members Present

Theresa Bledsoe (arrived at 5:38 p.m.)  
Bill Garretson  
Athena Campbell  
Stacey Morse  
Roland Goveas  
Sheleen Jaymes, Chair

Committee Members Absent

Staff Present

Candice Edmondson, City Manager  
Lindsay Wells, City Secretary  
Alicia Kreh, City Attorney

Citizens Present

Joyce Fiaccone

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Sheleen Jaymes called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**3. Approve the minutes of the December 1, 2022 Charter Review Committee Meeting.**

Discussion ensued regarding amending the minutes to include the City Attorney's comments regarding the Chairperson not being a voting member of the committee except in the case of a tie.

**Motion:** Motion was made by Member Morse and seconded by Member Garretson to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2022 Charter Review Committee meeting with changes as discussed.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

**4. Discuss and take possible action on amendments to the City Charter**

City Attorney Alicia Kreh reviewed the discussion items from the December 1, 2022 meeting and clarified a few recommendations the Committee had made including the desire to add qualifications to a candidate wishing to run for Mayor. She advised that the Election Code preempts the City’s Charter and most qualifications exceeding what is listed in the Election Code would not be allowed.

Discussion ensued regarding Council terms, expanding the number of councilmembers, filling vacancies, and requiring a majority vote for councilmembers. The Committee directed the City Attorney to move forward with removing Sections 5.04, 5.05, and 5.06 and additional language clarifications.

The committee reviewed Section 5.11 related to absence of mayor and councilmembers

**Motion:** Motion was made by Member Bledsoe and seconded by Member Morse to keep the language of Section 5.11 stating a councilmember or the mayor may be removed following four unexcused absences.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0

The committee next reviewed Section 5.12 related to limitations on successive terms and agreed that if a longer term of three years was approved, at most, a person could serve for 18 years (3 terms as a councilmember and 3 terms as mayor) and then must sit out for one election cycle. Additional discussion ensued regarding staggered terms to add a sixth councilmember position and allowing the City Council to appoint a new Place 6 member versus a candidate running conditionally concurrent with the Charter Amendment election.

**Motion:** Motion was made by Member Garretson and seconded by Member Campbell to approve the chart below as presented by the City Attorney to allow staggered terms for a new Place 6 and to allow the City Council to appoint a new Place 6.

Year	Mayor	Place 1	Place 2	Place 3	Place 4	Place 5	Place 6
2023		2 years		2 years		2 years	2 years
2024	3 years		3 years		3 years		
2025		3 years		1 yr extension		1 yr extension	3 years
2026				3 years		3 years	
2027	3 years		3 years		3 years		
2028		3 years					3 years
2029				3 years		3 years	
2010	3 years		3 years		3 years		

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0

The committee discussed changes to Council compensation.

**Motion:** Motion was made by Member Bledsoe and seconded by Member Morse to change Council compensation from \$10 per month per councilmember to \$10 per meeting per councilmember.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

The committee discussed Article VI: Powers and Duties of Officers, Article VII: Administration, Article VIII: Public Utilities, Article IX: Contracts and general language clarifications within these articles.

Discussion ensued regarding the timeline moving forward for the committee and when a Charter Election would be called by the City Council.

## 5. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:** Motion was made by Member Morse and seconded by Member Bledsoe to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Jaymes declared the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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Lindsay Wells, City Secretary

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Sheleen Jaymes, Chair