



**Charter Review Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall 6ES
Tuesday, March 11, 2014**

Commission Members Present:

Jan Hart Black
Liz Cedillo- Pereira
Levi Davis, First Vice Chair
Eva Elvove
Lois Finkelman, Second Vice Chair
Michael Northrup
Jeanne Phillips
Diane Ragsdale
Paul Rich
Mary Suhm
Max Wells

Staff Members Present:

Anna Holmes
Tricia Horatio
Billierae Johnson
Parris Long
Barbara McAninch
John Rogers
Elizabeth Zornes

Commission Members Absent:

Rafael Anchia, Robert Chereck, Tom Perkins, Bob Stimson

5:43 PM Meeting called to order by First Vice- Chair Levi Davis.
A quorum was present.

Chair's Welcome

Presenter(s): Levi Davis

Discussion Item: Vice Chair Davis gave recap of meeting held March 4, 2014 where the Commission reviewed, approved, and rejected suggested technical charter amendments.

Discussion Item: Vice Chair Davis gave an overview of the meeting agenda including approval of the minutes of March 4, 2014 and a discussion on Mayor & City Council pay and terms.

Approval of minutes of March 4, 2014 meeting

Action Taken/Item for Consideration: Commissioner Wells made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on March 4, 2014. Motion Seconded by Commissioner Finkelman.

Motion passed unanimously

Briefing on Dallas County ballot procedures

Presenter(s): John Rogers

Discussion Item: Commission was briefed on the procedures and limitations of putting information on the ballot.

Discussion on Mayor and City Council Pay and Terms

Presenter(s): Anna Holmes

Discussion Item: Top ten city manager governed cities across the country were surveyed regarding mayor and city council pay as well as the length of terms and any term limits. Median household income for each city was also included.



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The city of Las Vegas Mayor's salary corrected from \$53,422 to \$136,489 and Council salary from \$40,664 to \$75,827.

- San Antonio, Dallas, Ft. Worth, and Oklahoma City have the dollar amounts for compensation set in the actual Charter
- The Cities of Phoenix and San Jose appoint a council salary setting commission that meet every two years to recommend salaries
- Austin, El Paso & Las Vegas have annual mechanisms for determining salaries

Presenter(s): John Rogers

Discussion Item: Assistant City Attorney Rogers explained the limitations that the state constitution places on term lengths. A provision in the Texas Constitution states that "a home rule city may provide by charter or charter amendment for a longer term of office than two years for its officers either elected or appointed, but not to exceed four years." This provision sets a maximum term of four years for mayor or a council person.

Discussion Item: The Commission discussed suggested amendments regarding the compensation of the mayor and city council.

- Make no change in the charter to mayor and council compensation
- Use the CPI calculator as a compensation valuation tool
- Increase compensation comparable to market value
- Increase compensation for mayor and city council (no recommended figure)
- Increase council compensation to at least 120% of Dallas area median income for a family of four (\$81,500)

Discussion Item: The Commission discussed the merits of amending term limits. Comments included:

- Continue two four year terms for mayor and two year terms for council
- Two three year terms for mayor and two three year terms for council
- Mayor serves one four year term and upon reelection one two year term
- Maintain the same election cycle in respect to mayor/ council and terms so as to keep the balance of power

Action Taken/Item for Consideration: A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Rich. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cedillo-Pereira.

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:05



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Chair

Commission Administrator