

MINUTES
HOME RULE CHARTER COMMISSION (HRCC) MEETING
October 22, 2019

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

The Home Rule Charter Commission (HRCC) met on the above date. Chair Macduff called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and noted there was a quorum. Alternate Terry Lynch stepped in to replace Commissioner Fecht due to his absence.

HOME RULE CHARTER COMMISSION MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

HRCC Members

- ✓ 1. Z Marshall
- ✓ 2. James A. “Andy” Redmond
- ✓ 3. Billy Barron (Secretary)
- ✓ 4. David Gilmore
- ✓ 5. Tom Macduff (Chair)
- ✓ 6. Randy Kercho
- ✓ 7. Homer Adams II
- X 8. Todd Fecht

HRCC Alternates

- ✓ 1. Terry M. Lynch (Replacing Commissioner Fecht for this meeting)

Staff/Others Present:

- X City Attorney Brandon S. Shelby
- X City Administrator Luke B. Olson
- X ACA/CS Patti Scott Grey
- ✓ Police Chief Richard Brooks

- ✓ Mayor Lee Pettle
- ✓ Fire Chief Sheff
- ✓ Councilmember Cindy Meyer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMERICAN PLEDGE: Scott Livesay led the pledge.

TEXAS PLEDGE: David Gilmore led the pledge.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Comments

INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION ITEMS

1. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 23, 2019. [BARRON]

MOTION: Vice Chair Kercho moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Livesay seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. DISCUSS FUTURE MEETING DATES [MACDUFF/SHELBY]

Chair Macduff pointed out that when Murphy was writing their charter, they meet weekly. He indicated that he thought we should have meetings both in November and December.

MOTION: Secretary Barron made a motion to have the next meeting on November 12th at 7PM. Commissioner Lynch seconded. Vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Commissioner Livesay made a motion that there should be a meeting on December 10th at 7PM. Vice Chair Kercho seconds. Vote was 7-1 (Commissioner Marshall opposed due to a scheduling conflict).

3. WORK SESSION. [MACDUFF/SHELBY]

Chair Macduff passed out index cards and asked the commissioners to write down whether they preferred Home Rule or General Law and Mayor-Council or Council-Manager form of government. He stated his concerns. The first was that an elected Mayor may not be a capable manager. All the surrounding cities are Council-Manager. A cost benefit may be in favor of an unpaid Mayor/Council with a paid manager. A manager may not have to take a lot of political heat if he forces ordinances. The Commission could tailor our charter for our needs instead of the generality of a General Law city. The final concern was if in the future Parker would continue to be able to be funded purely as a residential only city.

Chair Macduff took up the cards. Home Rule was specified by all but one. The form of government was evenly split among the Commissioners. Chair Macduff is in favor of Council-Manager as it would take responsibility off the elected officials.

Commissioner Gilmore said that that Referendum, Recall and Initiative are a big plus for the voters. He also said that the Katy Texas charter had a lot of added controls like term limits and spending limits. He likes the idea of more than one person being involved in decisions. His experience is that whenever one person who has too much power there is a high chance of it going awry.

Commissioner Adams does not want a situation like California where there is too much Recall and Initiative. He wants the process to be slow instead of the voters snapping their fingers and instantly making major changes.

Commissioner Lynch asked whether General Law can put controls into place like Term Limits, Spending Controls, etc. Since City Attorney Shelby was not present, this was not answered.

Commissioner Redmond said that annexation is little different between General Law and Home Rule so that shouldn't be a deciding factor.

Commissioner Livesay brought up the issue of whether voting should be at large or by district for Council. It is not necessarily an either-or situation. Some could be at large and others by district. Secretary Barron said that he is concerned that the process of dividing the city into districts could tear the city apart and do more harm than good. Commissioner Gilmore said that maybe we could have a rule that only allows a maximum of 2 Council members from the same area.

Commissioner Gilmore stated that he would like to see firing of staff to involve the city administrator, mayor, council and city attorney.

Commissioner Adams stated that it thought the Council could get rid of a bad manager quicker than you could recall a bad Mayor. Chair Macduff said that you would have more checks and balances with a broad Council than a Strong Mayor controlling the administrator.

Commissioner Marshall said if the city is depending on unpaid elected officials then it will be filled largely by retired and older citizens who have time.

Commissioner Livesay said the commission is having a hard time defining the problem it is solving. The issue may not be here today. The commission is trying to solve what hasn't happened yet and it is hard to frame a solution for that. He generally favors running things like a business over like a government so is in favor of the Council-Manager form. A small company does not work that way though. He is trying to decide when it is the time for Parker to make that switch.

Chair Macduff said the preference seems to be for Home Rule and internal controls like General Law. Vice Chair Kercho said that if he is hearing people right nobody hates either form of government if the appropriate controls are in place.

ROUTINE ITEMS

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS


Not discussed

5. ADJOURN

Chair Macduff adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Minutes Approved on 12th day of November, 2019.




Chairperson Tom Macduff


Commission Secretary Billy Barron

Attest:


City Secretary Patti Scott Grey

Exhibit(s):
None