

CITY OF ROCKPORT

MINUTES

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 14, 2022 Rockport Service Center, 2751 State Highway 35 Bypass

Members of the public could view the meeting via live stream. Public participation is valued and citizens wishing to express their views on any topic or agenda item could electronically submit a Citizen Participation Form in order to register to speak by going to <https://rockport.seamlessdocs.com/f/CouncilCitizenParticipation> or scanning the QR code provided on the Agenda, or if attending the meeting in person register before the meeting begins. Using the same form, citizens could also provide written comments to the City Secretary by Noon on the day of the meeting. The comments will be distributed to the Commission before the meeting and will be attached to the minutes of the meeting.

On the 14th day of December 2022, the Charter Review Commission of the City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, convened in a Meeting at 5:30 p.m., at the Training Room of the Rockport Service Center and notice of meeting giving time, place, date, and subject was posted as described in V.T.C.A., Government Code § 551.041.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

George “Doug” Webb
Diedra Amaya
J. Mark Wagnon
Donna Townsend
Thomas “Tom” J. Blazek

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Katy Jackson, Council Member Ward 1

CITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Vanessa Shrauner, City Manager
Kimberly Henry, Assistant to City Manager
Legal Counsel Art Rodriguez, Jr., Messer Fort & McDonald, PLLC
Tommy Saucedo, Desktop Support Technician/Acting Network Administrator
Dennis Paine, Jr., Police Lieutenant Administration
Carey Dietrich, Community Planner/Building & Development Services Assistant Director

Opening Agenda

1. Call meeting to order.

Chair Blazek called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call.

Chair Blazek conducted roll call.

3. Citizens to be heard.

At this time, oral comments limited to three (3) minutes per agenda item, with a maximum of nine (9) minutes per meeting per person, will be taken from the audience from persons who have signed the speaker's card located on the table in the back of the Training Room of the Service Center and delivered to the City Secretary before the meeting begins, on any Agenda item or subject matter, and will be summarized in the minutes of the meeting. Written comments received by Noon on the day of the meeting, on any Agenda item or any subject matter, will be distributed to the Commission before the meeting and will be attached to the minutes of the meeting. Persons wishing to address the Commission and who have registered using the Citizen Participation Form will have up to three minutes to speak per agenda item with a maximum of nine (9) minutes per meeting per person. The total time allotted for all citizens to be heard during the meeting shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the Commission may not discuss or take action on any item that has not been posted on the agenda. While civil public criticism is not prohibited; disorderly conduct or disturbance of the peace as prohibited by law shall be cause for the chair to terminate the offender's time to speak.

Kristie Rutledge, 1411 Dana Drive expressed her concern with the removal of the financial section from the Charter and her issues with the finances of the city.

4. Discussion and possible action on approval of Charter Review Commission Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2022.

MOTION: Commission Member Wagnon moved to approve the Charter Review Commission Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2022. Commission Member Amaya seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion and possible action on previous items voted for recommended changes in Articles I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, and XII of the City of Rockport Charter.

Kristie Rutledge expressed her concern with how the city handles petitions and requested there be more protection within the Charter to protect the citizens. She read several financial sections of the City of Portland, Texas Charter. Ms. Rutledge then commented that other than Commissioner Wagnon being an attorney and Chairman Blazek being a previous city manager, the rest of the Commission doesn't understand the ramifications of what they are doing.

Commissioner Webb provided a list of items he wanted to re-address:

Section 1.03 – **MOTION:** Commission Member Webb moved to add wording to require approval by the citizen to be annexed. With a lack of a second Commission Member Webb withdrew his motion.

Section 1.04 - **MOTION:** Commission Member Wagnon moved to approve the recommended addition of Subsections (4) and (5) along with the wording for a majority vote of the council persons, and the stated purpose is for clarity. Motion was seconded by Commission Member Townsend. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rodriguez and Commission Members reviewed and discussed the following items previously discussed and not voted upon and brought back for reconsideration:

Section 7.03 – **MOTION:** Commission Member Amaya moved to approve the recommended changes, and the stated purpose is as recommended by the Director of Finance and for transparency. Commission Member Webb seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Section 7.08 – **MOTION:** Commission Member Webb moved to approve the recommended changes, and the stated purpose is as recommended by Bond Counsel. Commission Member Townsend seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Section 7.13 – **MOTION:** Commission Member Webb moved to include verbiage that “however the city council will have the authority to take action at any time.” Chair Blazek seconded the motion. Motion denied: 1:4.

FOR MOTION: Commission Member Webb.

AGAINST MOTION: Commission Members Amaya, Townsend, and Wagnon, and Chair Blazek.

6. Discussion and possible action on additional amendments to the City of Rockport Charter.

Throughout Charter – **MOTION:** Commission Member Wagnon moved to approve the recommended changes throughout the Charter for gender neutral terms as presented by Attorney Art Rodriguez. Commission Member Webb seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Section 3.01 – **MOTION:** Commission Member Amaya moved to keep 3.01 (d) and include wording that requires a two-year gap before an individual can run for office again. Commission Member Webb seconded the motion. Motion denied: 2:3.

FOR MOTION: Commission Members Amaya and Webb.

AGAINST MOTION: Commission Members Townsend, and Wagnon, and Chair Blazek.

7. Discussion on draft final report to City Council.

Art Rodriguez, Jr., Messer Fort & McDonald, PLLC, explained he would prepare the final report for the next meeting, Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at which time the public hearing will be held.

8. Discussion and recommendation for future Agenda items.

Commissioner Wagnon requested a future agenda item to consider amending the public comment rules. Attorney Rodriguez stated he would include on the next agenda.

It was further noted that following the public hearing the commissioners can still make changes to the final report that is forwarded to Council.

9. Adjournment.

At 7:06 p.m., Commission Member Townsend moved to adjourn the meeting. Commission Member Wagnon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED:


Thomas J. Blazek, Chair

ATTEST:


Teresa Valdez, City Secretary