



ELGIN CITY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES
April 11, 2025
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Jessica Jaimes called the Charter Review Committee Meeting to order at 7:09 PM. Ms. Jaimes called roll.

Present:

Jessica Jaimes, Co-Chair, Ward 1
Debbie Wahrumund, Ward 4
Noble Smith, At-Large
Roger Adams, Ward 2 (present virtually)
Daniel Lopez, Ward 3

Absent:

Anna Rau, Ward 1
Brian Lundgren, Ward 4
Darren Mogonye, Ward 2
Glynda Schroeder, Ward 3

Staff:

Charlie Zech, Attorney and Charter Expert
Peyton Standifer, City Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes - March 24, 2025

Ms. Wahrumund requested the following changes to the minutes:

- Ward numbers be added for each Charter Committee member
- Numbers be added for the majority and super majority

The committee agreed with the changes to the minutes, and approved the minutes with the discussed changes.

Ms. Wahrumund asked if the members could discuss the Charter outside the meetings. Mrs. Standifer and Mr. Zech recommended that the committee not discuss the Charter outside the properly posted meetings. Mr. Adams requested the committee adopt Robert's Rules of Order. Mr. Zech recommended that the committee not adopt Robert's Rules of Order.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Overview of previous action on process and timeline

Mr. Zech recommended to the Committee that the recommendations be delivered to the City Council by the second City Council meeting in July, July 15th, and further explained the process. Mr. Zech will take the approved changes from the committee and make the appropriate changes to the Charter. Mr. Zech will then return the language to the committee for their approval.

Mrs. Standifer requested the Committee come to a consensus on the voting numbers needed to make recommendations to City Council. Mr. Zech explained the Committee's options for voting. Discussion followed. Ms. Jaimes motioned that the Committee could make recommendations with a majority vote of those present at the meeting. Mr. Lopez seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Ms. Wahrmund requested the Committee decide on the length of the meetings. Discussion followed. The Committee agreed to a maximum length of two hours.

2. Discussion and possible action on amendments to Charter

The Committee began with Article I of the Charter. Mr. Zech explained that this article is very basic, and he has no recommendations for changes. The committee agreed to start with Article II.

Mr. Zech gave an overview of Article II and his recommendations. Mr. Smith motioned to delete what is inconsistent with State Law in Article II. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Mr. Zech brought the recommendation from the Council for Article II to delete "*except that no taxpayer money may be spent on or contractually pledged to any passenger train project unless a public bus line shall have first demonstrated a need for train service by having 500 intercity boardings in Elgin per weekday, averaged over three months, connecting to the City of Austin.*" Discussion followed. Mr. Smith motioned to put a period after the word facilities in the last paragraph of Article II and delete the language after facilities. Mr. Lopez seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Ms. Wahrmund motioned to remove unnecessary language from Article II. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Mr. Zech reviewed Article III, Section 1, and gave no recommendations for change. Ms. Wahrmund requested printed Ward maps for each Committee member. The Committee agreed. Mrs. Standifer will bring copies of the current Ward maps to the next meeting. Mr. Smith motioned to have no change to Article III, Section 1. Mr. Lopez seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Mr. Zech reviewed Article III, Section 2. Ms. Wahrmund brought up the recommendation from Council regarding the line referencing that an incumbent Council Member must resign before running for Mayor. Mr. Adams brought up the second recommendation from Council that someone running for office must be "in good standing with the city regarding bills and taxes". Mr. Zech explained that the recommendation would violate the 14th amendment. Mr. Zech brought up that the Charter does not specify that someone running for office must live in the Ward they are running for office in. Discussion followed. Mr. Adams motioned to add the language that a representative must live in the Ward to represent. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried. Mr. Zech questioned whether the committee would like the elected Council Member to be required to remain in the Ward. Discussion followed.

Mr. Zech reviewed Article III, Section 3, and recommended it be revised to be consistent with State Law. Discussion followed. Ms. Wahrmund motioned to make Article III, Section 3, consistent with State Law. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Mr. Zech reviewed Article III, Section 4, and recommended it be revised to be consistent with State Law. Discussion followed. Mr. Smith motioned to make Article III, Section 4, consistent with State Law. Mr. Lopez seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Mr. Zech reviewed Article III, Section 5 and 6, and made no recommendations. Discussion followed. Ms. Jaimes motioned to make no changes to Article III, Section 5 and 6. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Mr. Zech reviewed Article IV, Sections 1 and 2, and made no recommendations. Discussion followed. Ms. Jaimes motioned to make no changes to Article III, Sections 1 and 2. Ms. Wahrmund seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Mr. Zech reviewed Article IV, Section 3, and made no recommendations. Ms. Wahrmund brought up for discussion the Council's recommendation to extend the terms from two years to three years. Discussion followed. Ms. Jaimes motioned to table Article IV, Section 3, until the next meeting. Ms. Wahrmund seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Jaimes adjourned the meeting at 8:37 PM.

ATTEST:


Peyton Standifer, City Secretary


Brian Lundgren, Chair

