



Amarillo Charter Review

May 30 Citizen Committee Meeting

Introductions

Baker Tilly Team

Dennis Hawkins, project lead

Mary Locey

Al Zelinka

Shauna Clark

City Council Representatives and Committee Members

Councilmember Scherlen

Councilmember Simpson

Kim Benson

Toby Hudson

Audrey Castillo

Sandra McCartt

Dean Crump

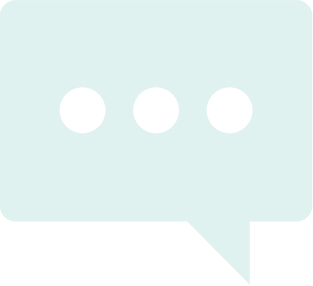
Gary Pitner

Michael Haning

Freda Powell

Rodney Hill

Donna Ward



Elect Chair and Vice Chair

Committee Members	
Kim Benson	Toby Hudson
Audrey Castillo	Sandra McCartt
Dean Crump	Gary Pitner
Michael Haning	Freda Powell
Rodney Hill	Donna Ward



May 30 Agenda Review

- Ground rules
- Elect committee chair and vice chair
- Review scope of work
- Explanation of Texas election codes
- Committee goals and objectives
- Meeting and project schedule



Ground Rules



**Listen to
understand
each other's
point of view**



**Seek
consensus**



**Assume
good intent**



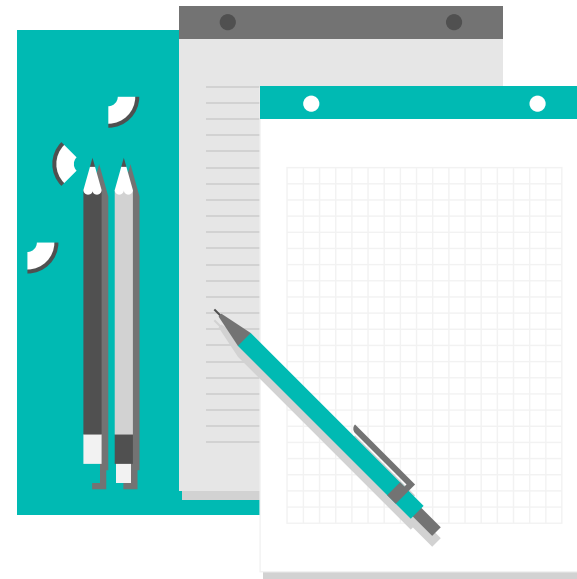
**Speak up if
we need a
course
correction**



**Stay
focused**

Scope of Work

- Items proposed by City Council:
 - Staggered terms
 - Three-year terms
 - Four-year terms
 - Mayor, two-year terms
 - Expand to seven-member council
 - Council appointed City Attorney
 - Staff List of Minor changes



City of Amarillo Charter Committee Session 1

By
Mick McKamie
Outside Counsel

Amarillo: A Home-Rule City

- 1913 – Amarillo becomes one of the first Texas cities to adopt a Home Rule Charter
- The Amarillo City Charter has been amended 9 times
- The most recent amendment in 2020
 - Section 12 of Article V was amended to grant more flexibility for Council meetings mandating a minimum of 24 meetings per year.

The Home Rule Charter Amendment Process

- Authorized by Article XI, Section 5 of the Texas Constitution; Chapter 9 of the Local Gov't Code.
- *How?* –Qualified Voters must approve the charter and any amendments by majority vote.
- *Frequency?* -Charter may not amended more frequently than once every two (2) years.

Home Rule Charter Amendment Process

- *When?* -Can be a regular city election or a special election but said election must occur on a state approved uniform election date. (Nov. or May)
- *Committee?* -The City Council may act unilaterally to propose amendments and/or it can create a committee to make recommendations. City Council is not legally bound to accept recommendations.

The Home Rule Charter Amendment Process

- *Number?* -The law sets no limit on the number of charter amendments. (Should weigh complexity and number)
- *Separate?* -Generally, each proposed amendment must be set forth in a separate proposition. “An amendment may not contain more than one subject” (However, courts recognize that one subject may have multiple elements).

City of Amarillo Charter Committee

- Bryan McWilliams
- City Attorney
- City of Amarillo
- Charter Committee

Texas Code on Charter Amendments

- Overview of Texas code limiting frequency of charter amendments
 - Article 5, Section 5(a)



Goals and Objectives

- Consider all items recommended by the Mayor and Council
- Select amendments to recommend to the Mayor and Council
- List proposed amendments in priority order
- Consider possibility of voter fatigue
- Consider Article 5, Section 5 (a) of state constitution limiting charter amendments
- Complete committee work by July 27
- Return with committee recommendations to the City Council for its July 9 meeting

Meeting and Project Schedule

- **Charter Review Committee**

- Every Thursday
- 5:30 p.m.
- In person or via Teams
- Dates:
 - June 6
 - June 13
 - June 20
 - June 27



- **City Council Action**

- July 9: Review committee recommendations
- July 23: First reading of ordinance
- August 13: Second reading of ordinance

- **Ballot Initiative**

- August 19: Deadline per Texas Election Code
- November 5: Election

Questions?



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Next meeting, June 6



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Thank you