

**MINUTES**  
**HALTOM CITY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**City Hall – Pre-Council Room - 5024 Broadway Avenue**  
**October 18, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.**

A Regular Meeting was held by the Haltom City Charter Review Committee (CRC) on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Pre-Council Room with the following members present: Chair - Suzanne Norris; Vice Chair - Brit Ford; CRC Members - Penny Clowers, Don Lemaster, Aaron Betts, Troy Dunn, Debi Geltmeier, and Walter Grow. CRC Member absent: Virginia Shelton. City Staff included City Secretary Art Camacho, Police Chief Cody Phillips, Human Resources Director Toni Beckett, Fire Chief Brian Jacobs, Finance Director Stormy Johnson, Assistant City Secretary Yung Mach, City Manager Rex Phelps, Assistant City Manager Sidonna Foust, and City Attorney Alicia Kreh. Also present was Mayor Pro Tem Linda Thompson.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Norris called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. **Minutes** – Consideration and/or action to approve the Minutes for the Charter Review Committee meeting held on October 11, 2023. CRC Member Clowers moved, seconded by CRC Member Geltmeier, to approve the minutes for the CRC meeting on October 11, 2023. ***The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.***
2. **City Staff Presentation** – City Staff personnel will present their request for revisions to the CRC for consideration. Finance Director Johnson addressed the CRC in regard to numerous GASB policies that are as secure than what is provided and asked for a revision to Section 5.10 concerning signatures required for depositories. Police Chief Phillips addressed several sections of the Civil Service where definition changes are requested for better hiring procedures. A discussion was held regarding Sect. 11.36 and whether the use of this section constitutes a valid Charter or policy revision. City Attorney Kreh stated this section is to allow for more of a procedural change that does not conflict with the Charter. HR Director Beckett addressed several reasons regarding the needful change in the Charter prior to 2008 between the sworn employees and regular employees, which affected benefits and employment. City Secretary Camacho requested that the residential requirements of Tarrant County for the position of the City Secretary not be placed on the ballot in conjunction with the possible residential requirements of the City Manager and a possible extension change from six months to one year. Other staff members commented on their commute situation from an outside city on working in Haltom City. City Manager Phelps stated he felt that most citizens would be more open to a Charter change with the residency of the City Secretary than with the City Manager, so he requested that no proposition be made concerning the City Manager be put on a ballot.
3. **Charter Revisions** – Consideration and/or action regarding the revisions to the City Charter. City Secretary Camacho requested a preliminary vote for Section 9.09 to state that the residential requirement be limited to Tarrant County and not Haltom City. CRC Member Grow moved, seconded by CRC Member Geltmeier, that Sect. 9.09 be changed to state that the City Manager establish residence in Haltom City and the City Secretary establish residence in Tarrant County. ***The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.*** A discussion was held regarding the position of the Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, and the Council's process of facilitating the meeting in absence of both the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem, and it was determined a vote will be forthcoming at the next meeting.

In regard to Sect. 11.36, Vice Chair Ford moved, seconded by CRC Member LeMaster, to leave Sect. 11.36 as written. ***The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.*** A lengthy discussion was held on Sect. 3.01 regarding term limits. On its preliminary vote, CRC Member LeMaster moved, seconded by CRC Member Grow, to keep the term limits at three two-year terms for Council members. ***CRC Vice Chair Ford and CRC Members LeMaster, Grow, Betts, Clowers and Dunn voted aye. Chair Norris and CRC Member Geltmeier voted nay. Motion carried.***

CRC Member Clowers moved to eliminate term limits – Sec. 301.a. – for both the Mayor and Council. There was not a second. CRC Member Betts moved, seconded by CRC Member Geltmeier, to set the term limits to five – 2-year terms, for a total of 10 years, which combined with the Mayoral terms, will equal 20 years maximum. ***Chair Norris and CRC Members Betts, Clowers, Geltmeier, Grow, and Dunn voted aye. Vice Chair Ford and CRC Member LeMaster voted nay. Motion carried.***

4. **Future Meeting Dates** – Consideration and/or action for scheduling future meetings. City Secretary Camacho notified the CRC that he would be out of town on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. The Committee agreed to have the next meetings on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 and Wednesday, November 1, 2023 – with both meetings starting at 6:00 p.m.
5. **Committee Member Absence** – Consideration and/or action regarding excused absences of committee members. CRC Member Clowers moved, seconded CRC Member Geltmeier, to excuse the absence of CRC Member Shelton. ***The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.***

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Committee Chair Norris adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m. on October 18, 2023.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:



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Art Camacho, City Secretary

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Suzanne Norris, Chairman