



CITY OF SUGAR LAND

2018 Charter Commission

- Appointed on Nov. 6, 2018
- Held 8 meetings, including 2 public hearings
- Received input from council members, key staff, & the Independent Ethics Review Board
- Presented recommendations to City Council on April 2, 2019

Purpose of Workshop:

- Review Charter
- Discuss Charter Commission's recommended revisions
- Discuss any City Council initiated revisions
- Provide direction to staff on future Timeline

Options Available:

- **Accept some, all, or none of the Charter Commission's recommended revisions**
- **Modify the recommended revisions**
- **Add revisions**
- **Determine no revisions need to be made to the Charter**

Article I

General Provisions

This Article addresses:

- City's incorporation and form of Government
- General powers
- Prohibition of the garnishment & execution of City property
- Charter Commission
- Full purpose and Limited purpose annexation

The Commission recommends no changes to this article.

Review and Discuss Article I

Article II

The Council

This Article addresses:

- Council qualifications and Term limits
- Compensation
- Vacancies
- Powers and Duties of Council
- Council meetings and adoption of Legislation
- Communication through City Manager
- Includes Definitions

Article II

The Council

Commission recommendations:

- **Extend Length of terms from 2 years to 3 years**
- **Decrease term limits from 9 years to 6 years**
- **Clarify “maintain a residence” – list documents used to verify & that it also applies to Mayor & At-large**
- **Make appointment process for vacancies of less than 12 months permissive instead of mandatory**
- **Remove designated day for council meetings and adopt 12 month calendar instead**

Article II

The Council

Commission recommendations:

- Address State requirement for super majority vote
- Require “aye” or “nay” vote unless prohibited by law
- Update “death or disability” to “death, incapacitation, disqualification, resignation or recall”
- Clarify that a council member cannot request another individual make a request of an employee on their behalf and that a council member should not interfere with the daily operations of the City

Article II

The Council

Commission recommended Additions:

Disqualifications of Members of Council.

(from recommendation of the Independent Ethics Review Board)

Automatic resignation upon (1) conviction of a felony or crime of moral turpitude or (2) unexcused absences at 25% of regular council meetings in any 12-month period or 4 consecutive meetings

Article II

The Council

Commission recommended Additions:

Judge of Qualifications.

The council be the judge of its members' qualifications rather than deferring to court of law

Resign to Run.

For two year terms: Require a council member resign if running for outside public office

For three year terms: State law provides automatic resignation if 13 months remain on term

Review and Discuss Article II

Article III

Initiative, Referendum, and Recall

This Article addresses:

- **Initiative – Petition to enact new ordinance**
- **Referendum – Petition to repeal all or part of existing ordinance**
- **Recall – Petition to remove council member**

Commission recommendation:

Change the basis for determining the number of signatures required from a number equal to those voting in the last election to the number of qualified voters in the City as of the petition date.

Review and Discuss Article III

Article IV

Administration Offices and Departments

This Article addresses/establishes:

- **The duties of the City Manager**
- **The appointment of the City Secretary and City Attorney**
- **The Appointment of Municipal Court Judge and Municipal Clerk**
- **The Police and Fire Departments**
- **The Municipal Court**

Commission recommendation:

Change Municipal Court from a General Court to a Court of Record.

Review and Discuss Article IV

Article V

Municipal Planning and Zoning

This Article establishes:

- **The Planning and Zoning Commission**
- **The Zoning Board of Adjustment**

The Commission recommends no changes to this article.

Review and Discuss Article V

Article VI

Municipal Finance

This Article addresses:

- **The Fiscal Year**
- **Fiscal Plan**
- **Annual Budget filing deadlines**
- **Monthly Financial Statement**
- **Appointment of City Tax Assessor and Collector**

The Commission recommends no changes to this article.

Review and Discuss Article VI

COUNCIL DISCUSSION & CONCURRENCE