

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA

CITY OF LAKE JACKSON

BE IT KNOWN that the Charter Review Commission of the City of Lake Jackson met on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 6:31 p.m. at 25 Oak Drive, Lake Jackson City Hall, with the following in attendance.

Will Brooks
Lisa Pauls
Amy Tasto
Mark Swirsky

Council Liaison Rhonda Seth
City Attorney Sherri Russell

ABSENT: Bill Yenne

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 25, 2023, and AUGUST 8, 2023, MEETINGS

On motion by Mr. Swirsky, seconded by Ms. Tasto with all present members voting “aye,” the July 25, 2023, minutes were approved as presented.

Also, on motion by Mr. Swirsky, seconded by Ms. Tasto with all present members voting “aye,” the August 8, 2023, minutes were approved as presented.

DISCUSSION AND COMMENT WITH COUNCIL LIAISON RHONDA SETH

Council Liaison Seth’s comments are incorporated in the discussion of the Articles below.

DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS WITH CITY ATTORNEY SHERRI RUSSELL

City Attorney Sherri Russell raised a concern with Article 3.06 and whether there are any special rules for replacing the Mayor’s position. This was recommended by the last review commission but not included in the list of changes. This concern and other comments are reflected in the discussion of the Articles below.

DISCUSSION AND AGREEMENT ON ARTICLES 3 and 4 -

ARTICLE 3:

Sec. 3.04 (b)-(d) – No change

Sec. 3.05 – No change

Sec. 3.06 (a)-(c) – No change

Mr. Swirsky asked what would happen if 3.06c occurred (more than two appointed council members). Ms. Russell said a special election would be held as provided by state law and that decisions may be made without the whole council due to circumstances.

Recommend adding 3.06(d) to read as follows:

If a vacancy occurs in the mayor’s position, the city council will select a city council member to serve out the mayor’s term.

Sec. 3.07 (a)-(g) – No change

Sec. 3.07 (h) – Clarification (from the City Manager or City Engineer) requested about the official map of the city – No action was taken. **Follow-up:** Discuss after clarification.

Sec. 3.07 (i)-(q) – No change

Discussion was held on Sec. 3.07 (p) around payment for sidewalk repair; the reference to the Texas Transportation Code covers the possibility of homeowners or the city providing for improvement. There was no change in this section, as reflected above.

Sec. 3.08 – No change

Sec. 3.09 – No change

Sec. 3.10 – No action taken. Mr. Swirsky asked whether the rules of procedure for the city council should be written down. Mr. Brooks mentioned that it could make it difficult for future councils if rules were specified in the charter, and it might be best to leave some wording vague to allow each council to work out their rules.

Council Liaison Seth said three (3) council members wanted to discuss the rules of procedure. She said she would review her council orientation binder and see what rules may be referenced there. She also said her personal experience bringing issues to the City Manager or Mayor Roznovsky was very positive.

Follow-up: Sec. 3.10 will be discussed again at our next meeting.

Sec. 3.11 – No substantive change. Editing note: End quote mark is needed at the paragraph end.

Sec. 3.12 – No change made. There were questions about the cost of the fidelity bonds and why they are required. City Attorney Russell stated that the city's insurance does not cover malfeasance.

Follow-up: Question the City Manager or HR about the cost of the bonds.

Sec. 3.13 – No change made. The commission would like clarification on this section. Council Liaison Seth asked why the city council would investigate an employee's conduct. It appears as if this section conflicts with the power of the City Manager (Sec. 3.07).

Follow-up: Request for the City Manager to clarify.

Sec. 3.14 – 3.15 – No change

ARTICLE 4:

Sec. 4.01(a)-(c) – No change

Sec. 4.02 – No change

Sec. 4.03 – No change

Sec. 4.04 (a)-(f) – No change

Sec. 4.05 – No change

We will pick up the discussion at Sec. 4.06 next time.

AFFIRM THE NEXT MEETING DATE AND DRAFT THE AGENDA

- September 12th, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.
- Follow up on Action Items from the August 22, 2023, meeting (see 3.07(h), 3.10, 3.12, and 3.13)
- Review the remainder of Article 4 and Articles 5 & 6

COMMISSION ITEMS

No additional discussion

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

These minutes were read and approved on _____ day of September 2023.

Lisa Pauls, Secretary

Will Brooks, Chair