

CITY OF LEON VALLEY



Home Rule Charter Commission Meeting Leon Valley City Council Chambers 6400 El Verde Road, Leon Valley, Texas 78238 Wednesday, September 3, 2014

MINUTES

The Home Rule Charter Commission of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 3rd day of September, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Leon Valley City Council Chambers located at 6400 El Verde Road, Leon Valley, Texas for the purpose of the following business:

Call to order and announcement of a quorum.

Chair Arthur "Art" Reyna called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. and determined that a quorum was present.

The minutes reflect that all Members of Home Rule Charter Commission were present: Chairman Arthur "Art" Reyna, Vice Chairman Jack Dean, Rudy Garcia, Kathy Hill, David Jordan, Liz Maloy, Mike McCarley, Darby Riley, Victor Rodriguez, Manuel Rubio, and Al Uvietta.

City Attorney Charles Zech, City Manager Manuel Longoria, Jr., Human Resources Director & Commission Staff Liaison Crystal Caldera, and Economic Development Director Claudia Mora were also present.

Adopting a set of parliamentary procedures for the Home Rule Charter Commission.

Chairman Arthur "Art" Reyna opened the discussion. He explained that the Commission could opt for extensive rules of parliamentary procedure, as the one that was included in the packet or something much simpler. Commission Member Liz Maloy stated that in her years of experience on various committees she has never encountered a problem and people tend to be respectful of one another.

Chairman Reyna suggested each Commission Member who has spoken should refrain from speaking again until each Commission Member has had an opportunity to speak. He continued by stating that he is in favor of having all Commission Members present for voting and would postpone an item for vote until the next meeting; however, the vote should take place at that time to keep on schedule. Further, Chairman Reyna suggested that there be a supermajority (7 Members) vote on each major article/section (i.e. table of contents chapters). He then asked the commission if they were all in agreement with these simplified rules. There was consensus among the Commission Members for following these simplified rules.

Adopting the minutes of the August 13, 2014 Home Rule Charter Commission Meeting.

Chairman Reyna asked the Commission if they had any changes to the minutes. Vice Chair Jack Dean made a motion to adopt the minutes as written for August 13, 2014. Commission Member Kathy Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion, consider and possible action on Charter Table Contents.

Chair Arthur "Art" Reyna turned the meeting over to City Attorney Charlie Zech. City Attorney Zech stated that he drafted a typical table of contents, which could serve as the Commission's guideline on how to proceed through the charter. Chairman Reyna asked Mr. Zech if there was anything that would prohibit the Commission from coming back and amending the table of contents, if they needed to. City Attorney Zech assured the Commission that they could come back and amend the table of contents if they needed to.

Commission Member Darby Riley moved to accept the Table of Contents as it was presented in the packet. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Mike McCarley. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion, consider and possible action on Boundaries.

City Attorney Zech reviewed with the Commission drafted language that was included in their packet. He explained that it is required to have "Section 2.3 Contraction of Boundaries – Disannexation", included in the charter. Some discussion ensued on how specific the section had to be. Attorney Zech stated the section could include specific language if the Commission wished. A motion was made by Commission Member Darby Riley to add "Two/Thirds of City Council" to the language. The statement will read as follows: "Any area of the City may be disannexed pursuant to any procedure allowed under state law and whenever, in the opinion of the City Council, there exists within the corporate limits of the City a territory not suitable or necessary for City purposes, two-thirds of City Council may discontinue said territory as part of the City by Ordinance after conducting a public hearing on the matter." Vice Chair Dean seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Discussion, consider and possible action on Form of Government and Powers.

City Attorney Zech reviewed the various forms of government: City Council-City Manager, Mayor-City Council (Strong/Weak Mayor- Council), or a hybrid. Commission Member Darby Riley asked City Attorney Zech to explain the City Council-Mayor form of government. City Attorney Zech stated that in a City Council-Mayor form of government the Mayor acts as the City Manager of the city. He continued by highlighting the pros and cons of having a Mayor-City Council form of government. One of the major ideas against Mayor-City Council form of government is the Mayor is an elected official who may not have the expertise in their background to manage the day-to-day operations of the city. Commission Member Manuel Rubio made a motion to have a Manager-City Council form of Government. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Victor Rodriguez. Chairman Reyna asked for further discussion, seeing none, the commission voted all in favor of Manager-City Council form of government.

Discussion, consider and possible action on Mayor and Council terms, size selection and qualifications.

City Attorney Zech opened up the discussion by asking some questions. How many City Council people do you want? Do you want the Mayor to have the ability to vote? If the Mayor votes then do you want to reduce the number of City Council people to four or increase it to six in order to keep the number of people available to vote at an odd number?

Commission Member Liz Maloy raised the question about whether or not the City Council will be voted in by district or at large. Commission Member Victor Rodriguez proposed a hybrid of the City Council, where some are voted in at large and others by district. A lengthy discussion ensued about the pros and cons of districts, a hybrid Council and the Mayor having the ability to vote.

A motion was made by Commission Member Al Uvietta to continue to have a City Council that is voted on at-large by place. Commission Member Manuel Rubio seconded the motion. In favor were Chairman Arthur "Art" Reyna, Vice Chairman Jack Dean, Rudy Garcia, Kathy Hill, David Jordan, Mike McCarley, Darby Riley, Victor Rodriguez, Manuel Rubio, Al Uvietta. One opposed was Liz Maloy. The motion passed.

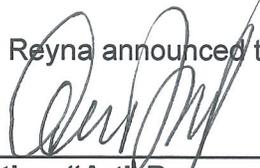
Chairman Reyna reiterated what was remaining for determination: the number of City Council Members to be voted into place, the length of their term, and if the Mayor would have the ability to vote. The discussion consisted of term limits, specifically three year terms.

Furthermore, after an extended discussion the Commission had consensus on Section 3.03 Qualifications: the Mayor and each of Council Members must be at least 21 years of age and a resident of Leon Valley for 12 months. Further, the Commission agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting on the following: the number of City Council Members to be voted into place, the length of their term whether the City Council would receive compensation, and if the Mayor would have the ability to vote.

Adjournment

Chair Arthur "Art" Reyna announced the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

APPROVED: _____


**Arthur "Art" Reyna
Chairperson**

ATTESTED: _____


**Crystal Caldera
Staff Liaison**