

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, HELD ON OCTOBER 6, 2008 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CIVIC CENTER, 16327 LAKEVIEW, JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS.

The Jersey Village City Council met with the Charter Review Commission for the purpose of discussing with the Commission how well the City is operating under the existing Charter and offering recommendations for amendments to the existing Charter.

Council Members attending were as follows:

Mayor Russell Hamley
Council Member Joyce Berube
Council Member Greg Holden
Council Member Frances Wubbenhorst
Council Member Ernie English
Council Member Jill Klein

The 2008 Charter Review Commission of the City of Jersey Village, Texas, convened on October 6, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. in the Civic Center Meeting Room, 16327 Lakeview, Jersey Village, Texas.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, David Paul at 6:00 p.m. The following Commissioners were present for the meeting:

Barbara Freeman	Rick Faircloth
Charles Daniels	Joyce Berube – Alternate
David Paul	Patti Melancon - Alternate
John Hanley	Jill Klein - Alternate

Chairman Messac and Commissioner Lozano were not present. City Staff attending the meeting were as follows:

City Manager, Mike Castro - City Attorney, Ken Wall - City Secretary, Lorri Coody

Receive input from the Mayor and Members of the City Council on how well the City is operating under the existing Charter and consider any recommendations the Mayor and the Council Members may have for amendments to the existing Charter.

Vice Chairman, David Paul explained that at the last meeting, the Commission had reviewed the Current Charter section by section in order to determine areas that might need to be amended. As part of the strategy for moving forward, this meeting was scheduled to meet with the City Council in order to receive input from Members of the Council about how well they feel the City is operating under the current Charter and if any changes are needed.

Discussion ensued concerning the issue of changing the terms by which the Members of the City Council are elected. Currently it is limited to three (3) two (2) year terms. Vice Chairman Paul explained that discussions were had by the last Commission and again by this Commission to

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change the terms to two (2) three (3) year terms and the Commission would like input from the Mayor and Council on this topic. City Attorney Wall explained the requirement of having to resign in order to run for another office with a three (3) year term of office as opposed to a two (2) year term of office. The consensus of Council was that the three (3) two (2) year terms are working well and that it should not be changed.

A lengthy discussion was had concerning the reporting guidelines of the City Secretary position. Currently, this position is an appointment of Council with duties and responsibilities to both Council and the City Manager. The discussion centered on changing the Charter to make this position a direct report of the City Manager.

There was discussion on why the City Secretary is an appointment of Council. City Manager Castro explained that most City Charters in Texas are drawn this way primarily because of tradition, but also as a check and balance mechanism. City Attorney Wall added that General Law Municipalities are set up this way as well.

Commissioner Daniels stated that the current Charter has what is needed; however, if more clarification is desired by way of a responsibility statement for reporting to the City Manager, the last sentence of Sec. 5.06 could be expanded to achieve this purpose.

This prompted discussion about addressing reporting issues through policies and/or job descriptions as opposed to an amendment to the Charter. Council asked for input from City Secretary Coody who agreed that the reporting mechanism to Council provided a checks and balance system. City Manager Castro was in favor of addressing the reporting issues through the job description rather than Council policy. He did not favor any changes to the Charter and supports the current system as he believes in a system of checks and balances.

The idea of dividing the City into districts was briefly discussed. The consensus was that neither Council nor the Commission was in favor of this concept. However, there was discussion about having “open elections” instead of filing for positions on the ballot. Mayor Hamley explained the concept. For example, there would be three places up for election, everyone interested in serving the City would run for election, and the three getting the highest votes are elected to serve. There was discussion about the pros and cons of this type of an election. The advantage in this type of an election is better participation. The disadvantage is the lack of commitment brought on by the ease of entry for those choosing to participate in the election.

At 6:58 p.m. the Mayor and Council Members left the meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business on the Agenda the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Lorri Coody, City Secretary