

Charter Review Ideas Log – Committee Members, Mayor and City Council Members, and City Employees

1	2/6/19	Councilmember Gardner	Modify the language in the 2 nd paragraph of Section 701 be modified to state exceptions to Council’s general ability to “abolish, consolidate, modify, or separate . . .” for Charter commissions and boards (which can only be modified via election).	§ 701
2		Kristi Smith	Change references to “Director of Public Utilities” to “General Manager”.	§ 1202
3		Malissa McKeith	Can Charter override State validation laws for approval of contracts?	§§ 418 & 419
4	3/11/19	Chani Beeman	Can we add a reference to transparency? Recommendation: “. . . as well as just, <i>transparent</i> and equitable tax and financial policies . . .”	Preamble
5			Can we replace “citizen” with “community member”? Recommendation: Sec. 411. Same— citizen <i>community member</i> participation “Each citizen <i>community member</i> shall have the right . . .”	§ 411
6			As newspaper circulation has changed dramatically in the past 10 years, can we add local newspaper resource such as “The Voice” and add online and social media platforms? Recommendation: “The City Clerk shall cause to be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation <i>as well as in local newspaper resources, the City web site, and other appropriate social media platforms on which the City regularly posts information. . .</i> ”	§ 414
7			The phrase “crime of moral turpitude” caused confusion in a recent commissioner appointment.	§ 805

			<p>Preventing a commission appointment should be based on a relevant conviction.</p> <p>Recommendation: “If a member of a board or commission . . . is convicted of a crime of moral turpitude <i>determined to unreasonably interfere with the duties within the scope of the board or commission, . . .</i>”</p>	
8			Can we add a Housing Commission? E.g., an advisory body on affordable housing development and programs.	Art. VIII
9			Can we add a Civil Rights Commission? E.g., an advisory body on civil rights issues of unlawful discrimination, advises on relevant policies and the administration of justice in respect to denial of equal protection under the law due to discrimination.	Art. VIII
10			Can we add Neighborhood Councils? E.g., a system of recognized neighborhood bodies to advise City Council and City departments on matters such as land use and planning, budget as applicable to neighborhoods, delivery of city services, and any other items of importance having impact on neighborhoods.	Art. VIII
11			Can we create new Charter sections on anti-corruption and conflict of interests related to political donors and city business and contracts?	§ 202
12	3/12/19	Councilmember Chuck Conder	<p>Mayor should have a right to vote.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the Mayor is the only one elected at-large, the Mayor should have a vote. • Maybe we can change the scope of his voting power. • Maybe we can add a Ward. • Mayor should have more input than simply running meetings. • Mayor should not be allowed to make appointments. 	§ 405
13			The Charter should reflect whether being a Councilmember is a part-time or full-time position.	Art. IV

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should still be term limits (i.e., Council membership should not be permanent). 	
14			<p>Higher salaries for Councilmembers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current salary precludes potential qualified persons from leaving their jobs to serve the City. We should see what comparable cities nationwide pay their elected officials. 	§ 403
15			There should be a super-majority Council vote (5 votes) for entering a contract or lease for water resources.	Arts. IV, XII; § 419
16		Ben Clymer	Should Mayor have authority to appoint members of boards and commissions (in lieu of having a formal vote, as suggested by Councilmember Conder).	§ 405
17		David Barnhart	Should the Charter indicate the Mayor's authority on approving contracts of Charter Officers such as the City Attorney, City Clerk, etc.?	§ 405
18		David Bristow	Should we tie Council salary to County Board of Supervisor salary (or, some percentage thereof)?	§ 403
19			Should there be a mechanism for adjusting City employee salary down?	
20			Rather than using the phrase "crime of moral turpitude" should we consider levels of offense (e.g. misdemeanor or felony) to determine disqualification from a board or commission?	§ 805
21		Ben Clymer	Should the phrase "shall act" in § 1403 as pertains to Council's obligation to "act" on Charter Review Committee recommendations be further clarified to specify the actions a Council must take on such recommendations?	§ 1403
22		Kristina Zaragoza	Elected City Auditor.	Art. VII
23		Ben Clymer	Revise Council/ City Manager form of government.	§ 300

24	4/8/19	Councilmember Andy Melendrez	When a vacancy in the City Council is filled by City Council appointment, the term of the appointed Councilmember should be limited to 6-12 months.	§ 404
25			The Charter should promote diversity (e.g., people of color, women, individuals with disabilities, etc.) Historically, diversity on the City Council has been lacking.	
26			Should the Mayor have a vote? In deciding this, we should be mindful of creating a balanced government. For example the Mayor should not be allowed to vote and veto.	§ 405
27			The Charter should inform the community that our government is as transparent as possible and expand on provisions related to government ethics.	§ 202
28			Councilmember pay should not be increased.	§ 403
29			The Charter should not impose City Council term limits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long terms have benefits such as stability, and building relationships and trust with the community. 	§ 400
30			We should require a super-majority vote of City Council when City (transfers) sells water outside of the RPU service area.	§ 1202
31		Councilmember Chris MacArthur	No need to change the Charter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Charter has worked well for 112 years, therefore no need to change something that is working. 	
32			The Charter's prohibition on City Council interference with administrative service is fine (i.e. does not need to be changed).	§ 407
33			City Council term limits should be determined by the voters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 terms (i.e. 12 years) is probably a long enough time. 	§ 400

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The challenge is that there are certain projects, such as the “Quiet Zone” that take 9 years. • If voters like somebody and want to keep him/her there, that’s up to the voters. 	
34			<p>Against pay raise for City Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes it is dangerous when people begin running for public office to support themselves. 	§ 403
35			City Council members should be part-time employees of the City.	§ 403
36			<p>Does not believe the Mayor has veto authority over the appointment of City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We should be mindful of making a change on this controversial issue right now, lest we bind the City to a rule that is not necessarily beneficial. • The way the Charter is currently written on this point is correct. 	§ 405
37			<p>Does not support a Strong-Mayor form of government (i.e, supports the Council-Manager form of government already imposed by the Charter).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes changing this would be a mistake. 	§ 300
38			No, a super-majority vote should not be required before transferring (selling) water outside of the RPU service area.	§ 1202
39		Tom Evans	All recommended changes shall be reviewed by a Charter Review Commission before being considered by the City Council for placement on a ballot for voter consideration.	§ 1404
40	5/13/19	Melissa McKeith	Should the Charter be amended to require items of significant financial impact (i.e. exceeding certain dollar threshold) should be considered by the Budget Engagement Commission prior to being considered by the City Council?	Arts. VIII, XI;

			(Editor's Note: such a requirement would necessarily require a Charter amendment creating a Budget Engagement Commission).	
41			Should there be an elected City Attorney?	§ 700
42		David Bristow	The Charter should specify whether the Mayor has the right to veto the contracts or appointments of the three charter officers: City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk.	§§ 405, 413
43		Tom Miller	Should the Charter include an elected or appointed City Auditor?	Art. VII
44	6/6/19	Board of Ethics	Each Chair (i.e. presiding officer) of all City boards and commissions should have the authority to cancel a monthly meeting based on a lack of agenda items.	Art. VIII; § 804
45			<p>The Board of Ethics shall meet every other month but may meet more frequently as the need arises (e.g., to fulfill ethics complaint deadlines).</p> <p>(Editor's Note: The Board of Ethics is currently not included in the City Charter (i.e., the Board of Ethics is not a Charter body; it was created by Ordinance). Any Ordinance pertaining to board and/or commission meeting frequency could not override Charter requirements).</p>	Art. VIII; § 804
46	6/10/19	Councilmember Gardner	The Charter should clearly define the Mayor's veto authority.	§ 405
47			The Mayor should not have authority to veto the contracts of the City Manager, Clerk, and Attorney.	§§ 405, 600, 700
48			The Charter should accurately describe the appropriate City department or body that oversees street trees.	§ 809
49			<p>Councilmember salaries should be increased.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A young head-of-household cannot support his/her household on the current Councilmember salary. 	§ 403

50			<p>Councilmember terms should not be limited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The voters should decide how long a Councilmember serves. 	§ 400(a)
51		Councilmember Adams	The Councilmember position should be considered full-time.	§§ 400, 403
52			<p>Councilmember terms should not be limited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The voters should decide how long a Councilmember serves. 	§ 400(a)
53			Councilmembers should be paid the same salary as the Mayor.	§ 403
54			<p>If there is over 2 years left on a Council vacancy, then the voters should elect a person to fill the vacancy; if there is less than 2 years, then the Council should appoint a person to fill the vacancy.</p> <p>(Editor's Note: any Charter amendment should also establish the rule if there is exactly 2 years left in the term).</p>	§ 404
55		Councilmember Soubirous	The Charter should clearly define the Mayor's veto authority.	§ 405
56			The Mayor should not have authority to veto the contracts of the City Manager, Clerk, and Attorney.	§§ 405, 600, 700
57			The Councilmember position is full-time; however, the Charter does not have to specify that the position is full-time (i.e., the Charter can be left as-is).	§§ 400, 403
58			The Board of Public Utilities' authority to "let public work contracts" should be clarified (i.e., does that authority apply specifically to "public work contracts" only or also to other actions, transactions, and contracts such as land purchases, etc.?)	§ 1202(b)