

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, HELD ON JANUARY 16, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CIVIC CENTER MEETING ROOM, 16327 LAKEVIEW, JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS.

The Jersey Village City Council met with the 2016 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 this meeting were as follows:

Mayor, Justin Ray
Council Member, Andrew Mitcham
Council Member, Greg Holden
Council Member, C. J. Harper
Council Member, Sheri Sheppard
Council Member, Gary Wubbenhorst

The 2016 Charter Review Commission of the City of Jersey Village, Texas, convened on January 16, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the Civic Center Meeting Room, 16327 Lakeview, Jersey Village, Texas.

Rick Faircloth, Chairman	Barbara Freeman, Commissioner
Debra Mergel, Commissioner	C. J. Harper – Alternate Commissioner
Karie Lawrence, Commissioner	Andrew Mitcham – Alternate Commissioner
Susan Edwards, Commissioner	Fannie Messec – Alternate Commissioner
Joyce Berube, Commissioner	

Commissioner J. Ron Dupre was not present at this meeting. Chairman Faircloth appointed Alternate Commissioner, Andrew Mitcham to serve in place of absent Commissioner Dupre.

Alternate Commissioner, Fannie Messec was not present when the meeting was called to order but joined the meeting in progress at 6:08 p.m.

City Staff attending the meeting were City Attorney, Leah Hayes; City Secretary, Lorri Coody; and Eric Foerster, Chief of Police. City Manager, Jim Gray was not present at this meeting.

After attending to Item B pertaining to approval of the minutes from the December 12, 2016 meeting, Chairman Faircloth called the following item requiring participation from the Council Members:

C. 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.

Chairman Faircloth introduced the item. He first recognized that a quorum of the City Council was present. He then gave a short overview of the activities thus far conducted by the Commission. In completing the overview, he called upon each City Council Member for any recommendations for amendments to the Charter as follows:

Council Member Harper believes the Charter works well and has no recommendation for change.

Council Member Holden believes we have a good Charter document and has no recommendations for change.

Alternate Commissioner, Fannie Messec joined the meeting in progress at 6:08 p.m.

Council Member Sheppard did not have any recommendations for change, but asked the City Attorney about Section 9.03 – Official Newspaper. City Attorney Leah Hayes explained that this refers to the publication of official notices. While the City's practice is to post notices on the city website, bulletin board, and in the newspaper when required, all official notices are required by law to be published in the City's official newspaper.

Discussion was had regarding the use of social media for these purposes. City Attorney Hayes explained that aside from the Charter, the City Council can pass an Ordinance that outlines what notices shall also be posted on social media and the parameters for same. She explained that State law currently requires that some notices be posted to the City's website. She also told the Commission that City Council has the authority to call for a Charter amendment.

Mayor Ray does not have any recommendations to change the Charter. He told the Commission that the Charter document has been reviewed many times. We have a good Charter document. He did ask if the Commission had discussed the recent changes to the Charter that resulted from the Charter Amendment Election held in May of 2016. Chairman Faircloth explained that the Commission did look at the changes in Section 1.08 and 1.09. Initially in the discussions, Chairman Faircloth explained that there were some concerns that Section 1.08 was missing because it did not pass during the election. However, it was the consensus of the Commission that the editor's note did a good job of explaining the omission. City Attorney Hayes also reminded the Council and the Commission that the City cannot hold another Charter Amendment Election until May of 2018.

Andrew Mitcham did not have any recommendations for changing the Charter. He did ask for discussion concerning citizen participation in City government. He encouraged all present to actively recruit support for volunteer positions in the City. City Attorney Hayes called attention to Section 2.04 of the Charter. She explained that this Section permits City Council to set budgets for meals at City Council and Board Meetings. She told the Council and the Commissioners that it is not uncommon for Cities to provide this service to volunteers as a way of recognizing their service. Further discussion was had on various ways for the City to recognize volunteers and their service.

In completing the receipt of input from Council, a discussion was had concerning the terms of office for City Council Members. It was mentioned that at the 2012 Charter Review Commission discussion was had about changing the terms from two to three years, but was not recommended at that time. Accordingly, the Council was asked if this would be a needed change. It was the consensus of Council that there is no need to change the term of office for City Council.

Minutes of the City Council Meeting – January 16, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Item C involving input from the Council Members concluded at approximately 6:30 p.m. There were no other items on the 2016 Charter Review Commission Agenda that involved input from the Council Members; however, the Council Members remained in attendance until the meeting adjourned.

The 2016 Charter Review Commission meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Lorri Coody, City Secretary