



CITY OF
CORPUS CHRISTI

AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting April 14, 2026

DATE: March 26, 2026
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary
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Preliminary & procedural matters for removal proceedings of the mayor

CAPTION:

Discussion and/or possible actions on preliminary and procedural matters for removal proceedings of the mayor, including but not limited to potential certification of Articles of Impeachment, potential suspension, potential reprimand, potential denial of removal action, potential scheduling of pretrial hearing(s) and/or removal hearing, and/or potential adoption of rules and procedures for pretrial hearing(s) and/or subsequent hearings as well as rules of evidence, standard of proof, order of proceedings, and potential deadlines for motions, summons, and/or witness lists.

SUMMARY:

This agenda item is to discuss and act on Preliminary & Procedural Matters for the Removal Action of the Mayor.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

On August 29, 2025, six registered voters filed a petition for removal action against Mayor Paulette Guajardo, pursuant to Article II, Section 11 of the City Charter. Article II, Section 11(b) states that “any final decision to remove a member shall be by the majority vote of all council members holding office, with the exception of the challenged member.”

On March 11, 2026, three council members submitted a memo requesting that an agenda item be added to the March 24 agenda to discuss the removal petition and determine if any formal proceedings should be taken.

On March 13, the petitioners submitted proposed Articles of Impeachment for the Council’s review.

At the March 24 meeting, a majority of the Council approved a motion to set an agenda item and date on preliminary and procedural matters for removal hearing on April 14, 2026.

Article II, Section 11 of the City Charter states the following:

Sec. 11. Removal.

(a) A council member shall be subject to removal by the council or by any other means authorized by law for:

- (1) Willful violation of any code of ethics or conflicts of interest provision under state or federal law or city ordinance.
- (2) Willful violation of any express prohibition of this Charter.
- (3) Misconduct, malfeasance, incompetence, inability, or willful neglect in the performance of official duties.
- (4) Conviction of any felony, or any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.
- (5) Failing to maintain any residency requirement provided by law.
- (6) Absence from three consecutive regular council meetings without leave of absence first had, except due to circumstances over which the council member had no control.

(b) A removal action by the council may be instituted on its own initiative, or shall be instituted upon petition by five or more registered voters, and

- any final decision to remove a member shall be by the majority vote of all council members holding office, with the exception of the challenged member.
- The council may provide by ordinance for the referral of any disciplinary matter involving a council member to the ethics commission for recommendation.
- The challenged member shall have the right to written articles of impeachment, an opportunity to be heard, to be represented by counsel, to summon witnesses who shall be required to give testimony, and to reasonable advance notice of the hearing.
- The burden of proof shall be on those bringing the charges.
- The hearing shall be open to the public, and the conclusions and findings of the council shall be final. If the member is removed, a complete statement of the reasons therefor shall be filed with the city secretary.
- The council shall additionally have the authority to reprimand or suspend a member for a period of not more than thirty days if removal is not warranted.

(c) Pending charges for removal, the council may suspend the challenged member from office for a period not exceeding thirty days by the majority vote of all council members holding office, with the exception of the challenged member.

(d) Commission of any of the violations specified in subparagraphs (1) through (5) above shall additionally be grounds for forfeiture of office in proceedings pursuant to state law.

(e) A member who is removed from office, whether pursuant to this section, by recall or other legal proceeding, or who resigns after any such proceedings have been initiated, shall not be eligible to be appointed to or run as a candidate for city office for two years from the date of removal, recall, or resignation.

Possible preliminary and procedural matters the Council could adopt include the following:

1. Certify Articles of Impeachment (Provides notice to defendant of charges as required by the Charter --- otherwise it could be requested at any time)
2. Schedule Pretrial and Removal Hearing (Could schedule by three-person memos, but would need to provide notice to satisfy Due Process)

3. Adopt Rules and Procedures for Hearing and Pretrial Hearing
 - deadlines for motions, summons, and witness list
 - rules of evidence
 - standard of proof
 - order of proceedings

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Request staff to prepare an ordinance to refer to the Ethics Commission
2. Deny Removal Action
3. No Action
4. If the Articles of Impeachment are certified (charges are pending), suspension of the mayor up to 30 days.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Petitioners' Articles of Impeachment of Mayor Paulette Guajardo
Potential Removal Action Framework