



AGENDA MEMORANDUM
City Council Meeting of March 28, 2017

DATE: March 23, 2017

TO: Mayor Pro Tem and Council

FROM: Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary
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Process for City Charter Review

STAFF PRESENTER(S):

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Title/Position</u>	<u>Department</u>
1.	Rebecca Huerta	City Secretary	
2.	Miles Risley	City Attorney	

BACKGROUND :

On November 1, 2016, the City Council passed Resolution No. 031000, which stated that “the City of Corpus Christi will conduct a comprehensive review of the Corpus Christi City Charter to ensure that terms and term limits are clear and satisfy the intent of the voters. The review will be provided to the next Charter Commission in order to hold an election of said issues at the next available election date authorized under state law.” Today’s presentation is a preliminary discussion to seek Council input on the process moving forward.

The City Charter was last amended on November 8, 2016 (see attached brochure). The scope of the review was focused on Article II of the City Charter, with an emphasis on the possibility of extending Council terms from two to four years. The City Council created a charter review committee in September 2015. The Council reviewed the committee’s recommendations and submitted nine proposed amendments to the voters, which were all approved. Per state law, the Charter may not be amended more often than every two years (730 days). Thus, the next available uniform election date would be on November 5, 2019.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

November 2016 Ballot Brochure
Discussion Questions

PROCESS FOR CITY CHARTER REVIEW

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- I. Who would lead the comprehensive review of charter?
 - A. By outside counsel – “charter specialist”?
 - B. By city staff and/or charter commission?
- II. Proposal process
 - A. Council action – Council can, by majority vote, order a charter amendment election and propose amendments.
 - B. Citizen petition – Council submits a proposed amendment to the voters if the amendment is supported by a petition signed by 5% of qualified voters in the city.
 - C. Review Committee – The committee can only make recommendations to the Council. The Council must forward the recommendation to the voters.
- III. What appointment process would the Council prefer for the Charter Review Committee?
 - A. “All members to City Council ad hoc committees will be appointed by the Mayor or a majority of the Council.”
- IV. Areas to be considered – What is the scope of the review?
 - A. City Council
 1. Structure – 5 Single-Member Districts/ 3 At-Large/ 1 Mayor
 2. Term of office
 3. Term limits – Policy question that has no legal requirements.
 - i. Consecutive
 - ii. Cumulative
 4. Qualifications
 - i. Age
 - ii. Residency
 5. Disqualifications
 - i. Debt
 - ii. Convictions
 - iii. Misconduct
 - iv. Absences
 - B. Vacancies
 - C. Initiative, Referendum and Recall
 - D. Other areas?