



# City of Denton

City Hall  
215 E. McKinney St.  
Denton, Texas 76201  
www.cityofdenton.com

## Meeting Agenda

### Charter Review Committee

Thursday, November 14, 2024

5:30 PM

Development Services Center

#### **REGISTRATION GUIDELINES FOR ADDRESSING THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Individuals may speak during a Charter Review Committee meeting under one of the following categories:

Public comments can be given for any item considered by the Charter Review Committee, EXCEPT work session reports or closed meetings. Individuals are only able to comment one time and cannot use more than one method to comment on a single agenda item. Public comments are limited to two (2) minutes per citizen.

#### **In Person for Regular or Consent Agenda Items:**

To provide in-person comments regular or consent agenda items (excluding public hearing items), Individuals must be present at the meeting and submit a speaker card (available at the meeting location) to the Secretary prior to the item being called.

#### **eComment:**

The agenda is posted online at <https://tx-denton.civicplus.com/242/Public-Meetings-Agendas>. Once the agenda is posted, a link to make virtual comments using the eComment module will be made available next to the meeting listing on the Upcoming Events Calendar. Using eComment, Individuals may indicate support or opposition and submit a brief comment about a specific agenda item. eComments may be submitted up until the start of the meeting at which time the ability to make an eComment will be closed. eComments will be sent directly to members of the Charter Review Committee immediately upon submission and recorded by the Secretary into the Minutes of the Meeting.

After determining that a quorum is present, the Charter Review Committee of the City of Denton, Texas, will convene in a meeting on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Development Services Center Training Rooms 3, 4 and 5 at 401 Elm Street, Denton, Texas at which the following items will be considered:

#### **1. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- A. [CRC24-038](#) Receive comments from members of the public.  
[Estimated time: 10 minutes]
- B. [CRC24-037](#) Consider approval of the minutes of the October 17, 2024 Charter Review Committee Meeting.  
[Estimated time: 5 minutes]  
*Attachments:*     [Exhibit 1. Meeting Minutes](#)
- C. [CRC24-032](#) Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction on resolving conflicts with state law and vague/unclear language in the Charter, and replacing all instances of gendered language with non-gendered language, where applicable.

[Estimated time: 15 minutes]

**Attachments:**      [Exhibit 1. Agenda Information Sheet](#)

- D. [CRC24-036](#) Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction on the summary of committee recommendations that will be submitted to Council for placement on the ballot.

[Estimated time: 45 minutes]

**Attachments:**      [Exhibit 1. Agenda Information Sheet](#)

[Exhibit 2. Presentation](#)

## **2. CONCLUDING ITEMS**

A. Under Section 551.042 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, respond to inquiries from the Charter Review Committee or the public with specific factual information or recitation of policy, or accept a proposal to place the matter on the agenda for an upcoming meeting and under Section 551.0415 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, provide reports about items of community interest regarding which no action will be taken, to include: expressions of thanks, congratulations, or condolence; information regarding holiday schedules; an honorary or salutory recognition of a public official, public employee, or other citizen; a reminder about an upcoming event organized or sponsored by the governing body; information regarding a social, ceremonial, or community event organized or sponsored by an entity other than the governing body that was attended or is scheduled to be attended by a member of the governing body or an official or employee of the municipality; or an announcement involving an imminent threat to the public health and safety of people in the municipality that has arisen after the posting of the agenda.

### C E R T I F I C A T E

I certify that the above notice of meeting was posted on the official website (<https://tx-denton.civicplus.com/242/Public-Meetings-Agendas>) and bulletin board at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas, on November 8, 2024, in advance of the 72-hour posting deadline, as applicable, and in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

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OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

NOTE: THE CITY OF DENTON'S DESIGNATED PUBLIC MEETING FACILITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. THE CITY WILL PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION, SUCH AS SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED, IF REQUESTED AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE SCHEDULED MEETING. PLEASE CALL THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE AT 940-349-8309 OR USE TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICES FOR THE DEAF (TDD) BY CALLING 1-800-RELAY-TX SO THAT REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION CAN BE ARRANGED.



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## Legislation Text

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**File #: CRC24-038, Version: 1**

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### **AGENDA CAPTION**

Receive comments from members of the public.

[Estimated time: 10 minutes]



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## Legislation Text

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**File #: CRC24-037, Version: 1**

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### **AGENDA CAPTION**

Consider approval of the minutes of the October 17, 2024 Charter Review Committee Meeting.

[Estimated time: 5 minutes]

## City of Denton Charter Review Committee

After determining that a quorum was present, the Charter Review Committee of the City of Denton, Texas convened in a meeting on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 5:32 p.m. in Training Rooms 3-5 at the Development Service Center, 401 N. Elm Street, Denton, Texas.

**PRESENT:** Kristine Bray, Angela Brewer-Isma, Brian Danhof, Jesse Davis, Jeremy Fykes, Nate Johnson, Gabriel Kirkpatrick, Lesly Molina Poer, Peter Mungiguerra, Julie Remski, Esperanza Trevino, Jane Zygiel.

**ABSENT:** Michelle Jones, Weaver McClure

The posted agenda noted the registration process for in-person, call-in, and public participation at this meeting. While citizen commentary received via the online registration process was not read, each member for the Charter Review Committee received each online commentary. In-person, and online comments received are reflected on the exhibit to the minutes of this meeting.

### 1. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

#### A. CRC24-030 Receive comments from members of the public.

There were no presentations from the public.

#### B. CRC24-031 Consider approval of the minutes of the October 3, 2024 Charter Review Committee Meeting.

Lesly Molina Poer made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, motion seconded by Esperanza Trevino. Motion carried.

AYES (12): Bray, Brewer-Isma, Danhof, Davis, Fykes, Johnson, Jones, Kirkpatrick, Molina Poer, Mungiguerra, Remski, Trevino, Zygiel

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (2): Jones, McClure

#### C. CRC24-033 Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction adding language to the Charter regarding the increase in rates or fees on citizens or businesses.

The item was presented, and discussion followed.

Jesse Davis made a motion to recommend not adding language to the Charter regarding the increase in rates or fees on citizens or businesses. Peter Mungiguerra seconded. Motion carried.

AYES (12): Bray, Brewer-Isma, Danhof, Davis, Fykes, Johnson, Kirkpatrick, Molina Poer, Mungiguerra, Remski, Trevino, Zygiel

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (2): Jones, McClure

**D. CRC24-034 Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction on adding language to the Charter that requires posting the amount, if any, of inadequate contributions to fund pension or retirement plans for fire and police employees.**

The item was presented, and discussion followed.

Angela Brewer-Isma made a motion to recommend not adding language to the Charter that requires posting the amount, if any, of inadequate contributions to fund pension or retirement plans for fire and police employees. Gabriel Kirkpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

AYES (12): Bray, Brewer-Isma, Danhof, Davis, Fykes, Johnson, Kirkpatrick, Molina Poer, Mungiguerra, Remski, Trevino, Zygiel

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (2): Jones, McClure

**E. CRC24-035 Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction on adding language to the Charter that requires reporting the amount of any unfunded mandate incurred by the City with information regarding the name of the mandate and cost to the City to comply.**

The item was presented, and discussion followed.

Peter Mungiguerra made a motion to recommend not adding language to the Charter that requires reporting the amount of any unfunded mandate incurred by the City with information regarding the name of the mandate and cost to the City to comply. Angela Brewer-Isma seconded. Motion carried.

AYES (12): Bray, Brewer-Isma, Danhof, Davis, Fykes, Johnson, Kirkpatrick, Molina Poer, Mungiguerra, Remski, Trevino, Zygiel

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (2): Jones, McClure

**F. CRC24-008 Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction on modifying the mix of single and at-large districts.**

**G. CRC24-009 Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction on the need for additional Council seats based on population size and projected growth.**

Chair Kristine Bray called items F and G together for reconsideration.

Jesse Davis called a point of order citing City Council Rules and Procedures Section 2-29(g)11 that reconsideration of these items was out of order.

Chair Bray denied the point of order, citing that it is the charge of the committee to produce recommendations on each item. Because these items failed to receive a majority vote in either direction at a previous meeting, the committee is unable to provide a recommendation, and should therefore reconsider the items until a majority is reached.

Jesse Davis made a motion to appeal the ruling of the chair. Jeremy Fykes seconded. Discussion followed. Motion failed.

AYES (4): Danhof, Davis, Fykes, Remski

NAYS (8): Bray, Brewer-Isma, Johnson, Kirkpatrick, Molina Poer, Mungiguerra, Trevino, Zygiel

ABSENT (2): Jones, McClure

Jesse Davis made a motion to postpone items F and G to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the committee. Jeremy Fykes seconded. Motion failed.

AYES (5): Bray, Danhof, Davis, Fykes, Remski

NAYS (7): Brewer-Isma, Johnson, Kirkpatrick, Molina Poer, Mungiguerra, Trevino, Zygiel

ABSENT (2): Jones, McClure

The items were presented, and discussion followed.

Peter Mungiguerra made a motion to recommend modifying the Council makeup to 8 single member districts and an at-large mayor. Esperanza Trevino seconded. Discussion followed.

Lesly Molina Poer made a motion to call the previous question. Angela Brewer-Isma seconded. Discussion followed and the motion and second were withdrawn.

Discussion continued on the underlying motion by Peter Mungiguerra. Motion carried.

AYES (8): Bray, Brewer-Isma, Johnson, Kirkpatrick, Molina Poer, Mungiguerra, Trevino, Zygiel

NAYS (4): Danhof, Davis, Fykes, Remski

ABSENT (2): Jones, McClure

### 3. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Members provided concluding items.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

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Kristine Bray  
Chair

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Kristi Fogle  
Recording Secretary

MINUTES APPROVED ON: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Legislation Text

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**File #: CRC24-032, Version: 1**

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### **AGENDA CAPTION**

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction on resolving conflicts with state law and vague/unclear language in the Charter, and replacing all instances of gendered language with non-gendered language, where applicable.

[Estimated time: 15 minutes]





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## AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

**DEPARTMENT:** City Manager's Office

**CM/DCM/ACM:** Sara Hensley

**DATE:** November 14, 2024

### **SUBJECT**

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction on resolving conflicts with state law and vague/unclear language in the Charter, and replacing all instances of gendered language with non-gendered language, where applicable.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Denton City Charter was originally adopted in February 1959. Section 14-13 of the Charter states that amendments to the charter may be framed and submitted to the voters subject to requirements of the Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 9, and all other applicable laws. Since its original adoption, the charter was further amended in 1976, 1980, 1999, 2006, 2009, and 2017.

On June 4, 2024, the City Council approved Resolution 24-1158 to create the Charter Review Committee and issue the charges put forward by the Council. Charge A put forward by Council directs the Committee to, "consider and advise the City Council of Denton whether and in what manner to revise the current City Charter provisions as to resolve conflicts with state law." Charge B directs the Committee to, "consider and advise the City Council of Denton whether and in what manner to revise the current City Charter provisions as to resolve vague/unclear language, where applicable." Charge C directs the Committee to, "consider and advise the City Council of Denton whether and in what manner to revise the current City Charter provisions as to replace all gendered language with non-gendered language."

Legal will present recommended modifications to the Charter related to Charges A, B, and C.

### **EXHIBITS**

1. Agenda Information Sheet

Respectfully submitted:  
Kristi Fogle  
Chief of Staff



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## Legislation Text

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**File #:** CRC24-036, **Version:** 1

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### **AGENDA CAPTION**

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction on the summary of committee recommendations that will be submitted to Council for placement on the ballot.

[Estimated time: 45 minutes]



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**AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET**

**DEPARTMENT:** City Manager’s Office

**CM/DCM/ACM:** Sara Hensley

**DATE:** November 14, 2024

**SUBJECT**

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction on the summary of committee recommendations that will be submitted to Council for placement on the ballot.

**BACKGROUND**

The Denton City Charter was originally adopted in February 1959. Section 14-13 of the Charter states that amendments to the charter may be framed and submitted to the voters subject to requirements of the Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 9, and all other applicable laws. Since its original adoption, the charter was further amended in 1976, 1980, 1999, 2006, 2009, and 2017.

On June 4, 2024, the City Council approved Resolution 24-1158 to create the Charter Review Committee and issue the charges put forward by the Council. The Charter Review Committee held eight regular meetings between July and November to review and consider the charges. Each charge included consideration of a staff presentation, Committee discussion, and ultimately an official vote of the Committee to create the recommendations of the Committee to return to Council for consideration.

Staff will present the Committee’s final recommendations and drafted ballot language that will be submitted to Council for placement on the ballot.

**EXHIBITS**

1. Agenda Information Sheet
2. Presentation

Respectfully submitted:  
Kristi Fogle  
Chief of Staff



# Charter Review Committee



## Public Comment





# Perfecting Charges

Amanda Brown, Deputy City Attorney



## Summary of Committee Recommendations

## **D. Modify the mix of single and at-large districts**

### **F. Additional Council seats based on population size and estimated growth**

The Committee recommends amending the Charter to transition Council places 5 and 6 to single-member districts, and creating two additional single-member places, resulting in an 8-person single-member district Council with an at-large Mayor. (8-4)

#### **Ballot Language:**

Shall the City Charter be amended to provide for the election of council members from 8 geographical single-member districts, with the mayor to be elected from the city at large?



## E. Increase the Council term to 3 or 4 years

- The Committee does not recommend an increase to the two-year Council term to either a three or four-year term. (10-1)
- No ballot language

# G. Modify the Mayor and Council stipend

The Committee recommends modifying the Mayor and Council stipend to provide for an annual increase to the Mayor and Council stipend based on the annual cost of living increase given to city employees with a cap of no more than the previous year's consumer price index (CPI). (10-3)

## **Ballot language:**

Shall the City Charter be amended to provide for an annual increase to the Mayor and Council member stipend equal to the annual cost of living increase given to city employees?

## H. Require a statement less than 200 words on the grounds for removal for recall petitions

- The Committee does not recommend requiring a statement less than 200 words on the grounds for removal for recall petitions. (11-2)
- No ballot language

# I. Increase the Municipal Judge term to 4 years

The Committee recommends increasing the term of the Municipal Judge from two years to four years. (8-4)

## **Ballot language:**

Shall the City Charter be amended by adding a four-year appointment term for the Municipal Judge?

# J. Modify the Ethics Ordinance requirements

- The Committee does not recommend any modifications to the Ethics Ordinance requirements. (14-0)
- No ballot language

## K. Review additional sections not listed

The Committee recommends implementing a one-year residency requirement for individuals serving on all judicial and quasi-judicial citizen boards, committees, or commissions appointed by Council. (13-1)

### **Ballot language:**

Shall the City Charter be amended to require members of judicial or quasi-judicial boards and commissions be domiciled in the City one year prior to appointment?

# Next Steps

- Staff will present the recommendations to Council on December 3 and 17.
- Council will consider and approve the final ballot measures and call the election in January.
- Election on May 3, 2025
- Staff will continue to communicate with the committee via email.

