



Charter Review Work Session

Article XIV. General Provisions

Sections 14.03, 14.04, 14.16

April 2, 2024



Objectives

- A review of the current provisions in Sections 14.03, 14.04, and 14.16
- Staff will provide current practices and other considerations
- Council will discuss and provide direction to the forthcoming Charter Review Committee
- Questions will be notated and answered through the committee process

Section 14.03. Official Newspaper

The city council shall annually select and designate by resolution the official newspaper of the city in which all ordinances and official notices that are required to be published shall be published.

Section 14.03. Current Publication Practices

- State law requires certain notices be published in a newspaper of general circulation
- Denton Record Chronicle is a newspaper of general circulation
- In 2023, a total of \$7,704.30 was spent on Denton Record Chronicle publications
- Fee per publication is dependent on publication length



Section 14.03. Council Direction

Option 1: Council can consider changing the current official newspaper through the resolution process.

Option 2: Council can provide direction to the Charter Review Committee to make changes to Section 14.03 through the Charter review process.

Section 14.04. Ethics Ordinance Requirement

The City Council shall adopt an ethics ordinance. The ethics ordinance shall prohibit the use of public office for private gain and shall incorporate the conflict of interest standards that appear in V.T.C.A., Local Government Code, Ch. 171 and all state law as presently exist or may be hereafter amended or adopted. The Council may adopt more stringent standards than those that appear in state law, but the ethics ordinance shall at a minimum include the following components:

- (1) Definition of a prohibited improper economic interest and personal gain;
- (2) Definition of recusal and improper participation when a potential conflict of interest is present;
- (3) Avoidance of appearance of conflict of interest; and
- (4) Administration and enforcement of ethics ordinance, including the power to subpoena witnesses and documents, coupled with strong and meaningful remedies for infraction.

Section 14.04. Current Ethics Ordinance

- Duty to report
- Financial disclosures
- Business disclosures
- Conflicts of interest
- Gifts
- Representation of others
- Improper influence
- Misuse of information
- Abuse of resources
- Abuse of position
- Subsequent work on prior projects

Section 14.04. Council Direction

Option 1: Council can modify the existing Ethics Ordinance through the Board of Ethics process.

Option 2: Council can provide direction to the Charter Review Committee to modify Section 14.04 through the Charter review process.

Section 14.16. Boards and Commissions

Members of boards and commissions of the City of Denton shall serve at the pleasure of the council. Members of such boards and commissions may be removed by the council only for cause and only after being given notice by the council.



Section 14.16.

Current Boards & Commissions Practices

Requirements for service on boards and commissions (ordinance):

- Current resident of the City of Denton
- 18 years old

Some boards and commissions have special qualifications



Section 14.16. Council Direction

Option 1: Council can modify the existing Boards & Commissions practices through resolution or ordinance.

Option 2: Council can provide direction to add additional requirements for service or otherwise modify Section 14.16 through the Charter review process.

Reminder: Charter Review Timeline

Work Session Date	Charter Area to Review
March 19, 2024	The Council: 2.01, 2.02
April 2, 2024	General Provisions: 14.03, 14.04, 14.16
April 16, 2024	Initiative, Referendum and Recall: 4.12
May 21, 2024	2-Minute Pitch