

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF FORT BEND

CITY OF RICHMOND



The Charter Review Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met on January 28, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Michael Scherer called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. A quorum was present, with the following members in attendance:

C. Michael Scherer – Chairman	Wayne Wright – Co-Chairman
Kathy Graeber-Kubelka	Bobby Greenwood
Bobby L. Reyes	Tom Crayton
Karen Bleil	Robert Hodge
Josh Lockhart - Absent	John Bunk
Carole Edwards	Alice Bijara - Absent
Rita Cobbin	Jim Klentzman - Absent
Verge Greenwood -Absent	

Alternates:	Robert Dawson	Ronnie Landry
	Frank Pena – Absent	

Attorney: Frank Garza  
City Manager: Terri Vela  
City Secretary: Laura Scarlato  
City Attorney: Gary Smith

Chairman Scherer declared the meeting open.

Agenda item A2 to review, discuss and possible action on January 21, 2016 minutes.

**Minutes 01.21.16:** Chairman Scherer reviewed the highlights of the meeting and what was discussed. It was a public hearing; Chairman Scherer named the speakers and stated their comments. There was no further discussion regarding these minutes. Ms. Carole Edwards made the motion to approve the January 21, 2016 minutes and Mr. Bobby Greenwood seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A3, Review and discuss public input and any other possible amendments to the Richmond Home Rule Charter. Chairman Scherer stated that 10 out of 11 speakers at the Public Hearing were against term limits and perhaps the Commission should readdress the proposed amendment regarding term limits. The following questions or statements were addressed followed by the response:

- How many of the 16 cities with similar populations that were researched have term limits? There are 4 cities including Rosenberg. (It was later confirmed that Rosenberg recently passed or approved term limits)
- Weren't the speakers that spoke last week from the same street? 6 out of 11 were from Victoria Drive
- 90% of the speakers were against term limits. Yes
- Was the public notified of the Public Hearing? Yes, in the Fort Bend Herald, the City Hall Notice Board, and the City of Richmond Website and announced at the meeting. It was stated, if there are citizens against term limits, where were they at the Public Hearing?
- Why did we discuss this or propose this amendment? A citizen came to the Commission and threatened a petition if the term limits weren't addressed. The citizen felt he could negotiate with the Commission.

Kathy Graeber-Kubelka made the motion to withdraw the recommendation to propose term limits and Karen Bleil seconded the motion.

The citizen, Tres Davis shouted, "We negotiated this! We negotiated this! I'm gonna shove it down your throats, I am not gonna take it anymore." And walked out.

The vote was taken and verified three times and there were 6 "ayes" to withdraw the term limit amendment and 5 "nays" to keep the term limit amendment.

There was no further discussion, the motion passed according to Chairman Scherer.

Agenda item A4 to review and discuss the final amendments to the Richmond Home Rule Charter and recommend for consideration to the City Commission. Attorney

Frank Garza stated that based on the action that occurred under agenda item A3, the Charter Review Commission would be recommending two amendments. The two sections are:

Section 6.05 – Initiatives, Increase the number of signatures from 150 to 300 or 30% of the voters from the previous election whichever is higher.

Section 6.11 – Recall, Increase the number of signatures from 150 to 300 or 30% of the voters from the previous election whichever is higher.

Attorney Garza stated to keep in mind that the City Commission has the ability to reject the proposed amendments, add additional amendments, but is required to place on the ballot the amendments addressed in the petition, said petition items are:

1. Increase the number of Commissioners from two to four; and
2. All Commissioners to be elected from Single Member Districts.
3. Amend Section 6.05; and
4. Amend Section 6.11.

Attorney Garza stated a vote was necessary to accept the 2 proposed ballot items,

Carol Edwards made the motion to recommend the final two amendments with Kathy Graeber-Kubelka seconding the motion. The vote was 9 “ayes” and no “nays”. There was no further discussion; therefore the agenda item was closed.

There being no further business to be brought before the Commission, Dr. John Bunk motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Bobby Greenwood seconded the motion and the Commission voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

APPROVED:

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C. Michael Scherer, Chairman

Attest:

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Laura Scarlato, City Secretary