

Three Charter

Updates

Charter Commission

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Elected Officials
Setting Their Pay
Agenda Item 3.A.1

Some History

- Mayor and city council tried to give themselves a huge raise a couple of years ago
- Proposal was scaled down to a large raise during a council meeting
- Pay raise rejected by city voters
- Voters don't like politicians giving themselves large raises
- Average voter doesn't approve of politicians making far more than he does

Commission's Proposal

- Allow mayor and city council to set their own pay for next term
- No limits on compensation – that's risky
- Looks like another effort to give the mayor a giant raise
- Voters probably won't like it
- Addendum: limiting compensation changes would improve voter acceptance

Other Problems

- Charter commission strongly states their charge is *only* revising charter
- Substantial changes are supposedly out of purview
- Proposal is a large change
- Commission doesn't like fixing things that aren't obviously broken
- Current wording isn't broken, but the figures need adjusted

Balancing Elected Officials Pay

Agenda Item 3.A.2

Current Leadership Pay

- Mayor now paid \$150,342 annually. Annual increases for inflation.
- Councilors paid 15% of mayor's salary or \$22,551
- See city ordinance 9.05 (f)
- Salary often indicates value and skill
- Current councilor pay seems insultingly low
- Mayor paid more than leaders of other areas

My Proposal

- Reduce mayor's pay from \$150,000 to \$140,000 to better match other mayors
- Increase councilor pay from 15% to 25% of mayor's – \$35,000 instead of \$23,000
- Balancing pay more likely to be approved by voters than an overall increase

Charter Updates To Balance Pay

- Section 9.05 Schedule
- (f) Salary of mayor and council members. The mayor's salary having been established in the amount of \$75,000 \$140,000 by this provision in 1995 2024, each other council member shall receive an annual salary in the amount of *fifteen (15) twenty five (25)* percent of the mayor's salary. The mayor's salary shall automatically be adjusted annually for inflation or deflation with each other council persons salary thereafter adjusted to be equal to *fifteen (15) twenty five (25)* percent of the mayor's new adjusted salary. No meeting fees shall⁹ be paid to the mayor nor city council members.

Allowing Councilors To Become Mayor Agenda Item 4.A

Problem

- City charter prohibits councilors from holding other elected office during their council term
- Seems to prevent a current councilor from running for mayor in the middle of their active term
- But sitting councilors have campaigned for mayor
- Staggered elected terms would prevent some qualified candidates from becoming mayor

Solution

- Adjust charter to allow councilors becoming mayor
- Plus make the charter paragraph more readable

Recommended Charter Update

- Section 2.05 Prohibitions
- (a) Holding other office. No council member shall **simultaneously** hold any other elected public office during the term for which the member was elected to the council. No council member shall **simultaneously** hold any other city office or city employment during the terms for which the member was elected or appointed to the council. No former council member shall hold any compensated appointive office or employment with the city until two (2) years after the expiration of the term for which the member was elected or appointed to the council.

Recommendation Continued

- *Nothing in this **This** section shall be construed to **does not** prohibit the council or mayor from selecting any current or former council member to represent the city on the governing board of any regional, national, or other intergovernmental agency. **This section does not prohibit a current councilor from being elected mayor and then resigning as councilor to serve as mayor.***

Enjoy Nature

