

**CITY OF LAREDO**  
**SPECIAL WORKSHOP OF**  
**CITY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**  
**WITH**  
**CITY COUNCIL**

**1110 HOUSTON**  
**NOVEMBER 16, 1993**  
**5:30 P.M.**

**M93-W-39**

**MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 16, 1993**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

With a quorum present Albert F. Muller called the meeting to order.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Albert F. Muller, III,	Chairman	
Bill Casey,	Committee Member	
Jorge Casiano, Sr.	"	
Raul J. Guzman, Sr.	"	
Guillermo Medrano,	"	
Alfonso H. Ornelas	"	
Frank Staggs	"	
Saul N. Ramirez, Jr.,	Mayor	
Jose R. Perez, Jr.,	Councilmember,	District I
Jacinto P. Juarez,	"	, District II
Arlene Rash Aldridge,	"	, District III
Cecilia May Moreno,	"	, District IV
Blas Castaneda,	"	, District V
Eduardo Perales,	"	, District VI
Jose Gerardo (Jerry) Perez,	"	, District VII
Felipe Cardenas,	"	, District VIII
Gustavo Guevara, Jr.,	City Secretary	
Jose Salvador Tellez,	City Attorney	
Jesus Nava,	Asst. City Manager	

**ABSENCES:**

Sylvia Bruni,	Commission Member
Susan Foster	"
William N. Hall, Jr.	"
Virginia Flores	"
Arturo Nava	"
Jose A. Valdez	"

**II. DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS AND PUBLIC INPUT.**

Discussion started on the proposed Charter Amendments and Mr.

Muller stated that it wasn't clear for to that a person could run for City Council, then be Mayor, how many times and that after you run could wait a term out and then run again. He stated it is simply that a person could be elected as a City Councilman twice, four year terms and elected as Mayor twice for four year terms if you happen to serve out another type of term other than four years, that is not included in the four year term service. He quoted, "So what that meant to the us was, we were taking the risk as a commission of making that recommendation that somebody could actually serve out 11 years and 364 days." Mr. Muller stated that some of the precise language they had in previous minutes were hard to transcribe and were incorrect. He suggested that the minutes be corrected and read the recommendation from the commission verbatim that states **Section 2.01** shall read and quoted,

**"The Mayor shall serve a four (4) year term with a limit of two (2) elected four (4) year terms. The City Councilmembers shall serve four (4) year staggered terms with a limit of two (2) elected four (4) year terms. A person may serve two (2) elected four (4) year terms as City Councilman and two (2) elected four (4) terms as Mayor."**

He stated that this paragraph did not say anything about a Council member for more than eight (8) years or anything else and that it is incorrect in the minutes. He suggested that it be corrected and that it show the commission's recommendation.

Mr. Muller suggested that council may also look at the commission's recommendation and add something along the lines that these years are for the life of the person that runs, that you cannot skip a term and come back and run again.

Mayor Ramirez stated that he had suggested on the previous workshop that instead of putting with a limit of two elected four year terms that instead of putting the word "limit" that it be "lifetime." He stated they there are people that have already served out their two terms and have set out a complete term and it could be challenged to say show us that it's not a lifetime limit.

Mr. Muller pointed out that this would not mean that they can hold an office for life like some of the people in the last meeting were thinking, this means for your "lifetime" that this are your limits.

Mr. Muller stated that it was misunderstood on previous minutes and quoted for the record, that this is what it is supposed to say and it needs to be corrected and quoted the whole provision again and what the recommendation from the commission was. He quoted for the record as follows:

#### **Section 2.01 COMPOSITION ELIGIBILITY AND TERMS**

(C) Terms

"The Mayor shall serve a four (4) year term with a limit of two (2) elected four (4) year terms. The City Councilmembers shall serve a four (4) year staggered terms with a limit of two (2) elected four (4) year terms. A person may serve two (2) elected four (4) year terms as City councilman and two (2) elected four (4) terms as Mayor."

Council added the following to Section (C) to include, "serving an unexpired term is not affected".

**Section 2.02 COMPENSATION; EXPENSES**

Mr. Muller stated that the intent of the commission, the majority, felt that there should be a deduction for every meeting that is missed. They did not specifically speak to the fact of illness, official city business, they just spoke in regard to the person not being there. Mr. Muller stated that they did not specifically speak in the event of illness and unexcused absences, this was not discussed.

Mr. Muller suggested that the word "excused" be changed to "unexcused absence" in this section, (Section 2.02) if council so wishes.

**Section 2.02 COMPENSATION; EXPENSES** that it also include the word "unexcused" that the sentence read as follows:

The Mayor and City Council members shall get a salary deduction to be assessed for each unexcused absence from a Regular City Council meeting. The Mayor and City Council members shall receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties of office.

That on **Section 2.04 VACANCIES: FORFEITURE OF OFFICE, FILLING OF VACANCIES** will be changed back as it was to read as follows:

**(B) Forfeiture of Office**

The mayor or a City Council member shall forfeit his office if he (1) lacks at any time during his term of office and qualification for holding the office prescribed by this Charter by law, (2) shall fail to met the residency requirements for his election to office (3) is convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude or felony, or (4) fails to attend three (3) consecutive regular meetings without being excused by the City Council.

The chairman stated that on the next item, **Section 2.06 INVESTIGATIONS** the commission wanted to give the council as much powerful investigations as possible.

Mr. Muller stated that on **Section 2.14** it is the same situation as with the council where the two elected four year terms.

Mr. Muller pointed out that on **Section 2.16 City Secretary** the language is basically the same except that it will be appointed and not elected.

There were no significant changes in **Section 3.01** it was broken down into a appointment; compensation, then into qualifications.


There was some discussion on **Section 3.02** and **3.03**. Mr. Muller stated that on these sections it may take another meeting itself to decide.

Cm. Perales suggested that something to be inserted in **Section 3.01 Appointment; Compensation** that they review his compensation on a yearly basis during the budget process.

## II. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Muller announced the meeting adjourn and set December 7th as the next meeting date.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE MINUTES CONTAINED IN PAGES 01 TO 04 ARE TRUE, COMPLETE AND CORRECT PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 16TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1993. A CERTIFIED COPY IS ON FILE AT THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

  
GUSTAVO GUEVARA, JR.  
CITY SECRETARY

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Delia Rodriguez, Deputy City Secretary

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON:

CORRECTIONS: