

City of Lake Jackson
2021 Charter Review Report

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council,

The members of the 2021 Charter Review Commission:

Will Brooks, Chair

Ariel Luna, Secretary

Jesse Glatz

Brad Whitehead

William P. Yenne

..... are pleased to present our report on the review of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Lake Jackson.

As required by the charter in section 11.14, a committee of five Lake Jackson residents will review the Home Rule Charter of our city each “odd” year. The Charter Review Commission will then submit a report to City Council. This report will include recommendations for any possible changes to the charter. The City Council will review these recommendations and then decide whether to submit such proposed changes to the qualified voters of the city.

GENERAL COMMENTS

As members of the Charter Review Commission, we would like to thank City Council for entrusting us with this important duty. We are humbled and thankful for this opportunity.

We began meeting on July 19, 2021 and met the first and third Mondays of each month at 4:30pm in the conference room at City Hall. All meetings were posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

We also want to thank Councilmember Rhonda Seth for serving as our council liaison; Mayor Gerald Roznovsky for his frequent visits; Councilmember Vinay Singhania for sharing his thoughts with us, and city staff: Modesto Mundo, City Manager; Sherri Russell, City Attorney; Alice Rodgers, City Secretary (now retired); Sally Villarreal, Interim City Secretary; Sabrina England, Public Works Director and members of her health inspection team.

All the above-mentioned individuals provided us with invaluable assistance.

Also, we would like to commend past Charter Review Commissions for their contributions to keeping our city charter up to date and effective.

On that note, our city’s home rule charter is an effective governing document and continues to meet the needs of our city.

To that extent, our recommendations are of a more “housekeeping” nature.

Please see the chart below of the proposed recommendations and suggested changes.

Section	Changes	Discussion
1.04	Line 6 - Change “and” to “or” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will read out as “...The city <u>or</u> shall contain...” 	This will eliminate the need to provide “metes and bounds” and a “plat”
General	Change various mentions of “councilman” or “councilmember” to <u>only</u> “councilmember” everywhere in the charter.	This is for conformity and consistency.
3.06	<u>Vacancies:</u> If a vacancy occurs in the mayor’s position, the city council will select a member of city council to serve out the term of the mayor.	Add clarification on how a vacancy in the mayor’s position will be filled.
3.09	Line 6 - “circulation to city of Lake Jackson...” add “issue of newspaper and/or official city website” for the publication of the ordinances	Add clarification that city council meetings will be posted on the city’s website as well. In discussing this with the City Attorney, it was agreed that this item would not need to go to the voters. This change can be handled by the editors of the charter.
3.11	Line 3- “no ordinance should be finally passed until it has been fully read” to “until it’s caption has been read”	To comply with current practice of reading the ordinance caption, rather than the full ordinance at each meeting.
3.12	<u>Bonds for City Officials</u> Review current practice.	Determine if current insurance coverage meets this requirement. If not, begin requiring bonds as stated.
4.06	Section “D” sanitary code Eliminate all of section “D”	Remove section “D” and have appropriate health codes adopted by council in the code of ordinances. This will allow council and staff to keep any health and sanitary codes current. They will be able to update without having to amend the charter.
7.10	Remove this section	In consultation with the City Attorney, it was determined that this section is redundant and not needed.

9.11	<p>Remove language "...and the county clerk of Brazoria County..."</p> <p>Add to the end of the paragraph with the following:</p> <p>"...and/ or available on the city's official website.</p>	<p>The county no longer wants to receive the adopted budget.</p> <p>This provides easier access to the public to view the adopted budget.</p> <p>City attorney approved to rewrite.</p>
11.06	Line 6 - Remove the word "whatever"	Remove word through editor's note.
11.12(b)	Have editor's note added at the front of the charter to draw attention to this section.	<p>In 1988 voters approved changing the charter to read "(b) any reference in this charter to the masculine, includes the feminine; the word "he" should be read as "he/she. "</p> <p>This allows an editor's note at the front of the charter, after the Preamble, stating this fact.</p>

CONCLUSION

Again, thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve our community. We also would like to thank our fellow members for the respectful, serious manner in which this review was conducted.

We now leave these recommendations in the capable hands of our City Council.

Respectively submitted this 15th day of November, 2021.

Will Brooks, Chair
Ariel Lara, Secretary
Jesse Glatz
Brad Whitehead
William P. Yenne