

Julie Masters, Mayor
Charles Suderman, Mayor Pro Tem
Sean Skipworth
Walter Wilson

**AMENDED
MINUTES**
City of Dickinson
**CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING**

Wally Deats
Louis Decker
William H. King III
Chris Heard, City Administrator

February 4, 2020

The Dickinson City Council met in a duly called and announced **SPECIAL MEETING** on **Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.** The meeting was held in the City Council Chambers located at 4403 Highway 3, Dickinson, Galveston County, Texas, and was held for the purpose of considering the following items:

ITEM 1.) CALL TO ORDER AND CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

Mayor Masters called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Court Clerk Laurie Tollett called roll and certified a quorum. Council Members present were as follows: Mayor Julie Masters, Mayor Pro-Tem Charles Suderman, and Council Members Sean Skipworth, Walter Wilson, Wally Deats, and Louis Decker. Council Member William H. King, III was absent. Also present were City Attorney David Olson and City Administrator Chris Heard.

ITEM 2.) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING: Ordinance Number XXX-2020 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DICKINSON, TEXAS, ORDERING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 2, 2020, TO SUBMIT PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS TO THE VOTERS FOR THEIR APPROVAL; PROVIDING AN ESTIMATE OF THE ANTICIPATED FISCAL IMPACT TO THE CITY IF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ARE APPROVED; PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF THE ELECTION; AND MAKING OTHER FINDINGS AND PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE HOLDING OF SUCH ELECTION.

Council discussed the proposed Charter amendments, with members drawing attention to the amendments that they each felt needed to be changed or removed. Following a brief discussion about some minor typographical errors that needed to be corrected, each member of Council shared their thoughts about the proposed Charter amendments.

Council Member Skipworth questioned why the term limits began counting from the year 2013. Charter Review Commission Chairman Ivan Langford addressed the question, noting that the date was chosen so as to allow for the possible reelection of current members of Council this year. Council discussed the issue, with some members of Council in favor of term limits, and others opposed.

Council Member Deats made a motion to approve the placement of all proposed Amendments, as presented, on the Special Election ballot, and Council Member Suderman seconded the motion.

Chris Tucker, 2304 Hughes Road, Dickinson, Texas – Mr. Tucker addressed Council regarding proposed additional Charter provisions regarding development, and expressed his concerns with street drainage infrastructure in the city.

City Attorney David Olson recommended that, in lieu of one motion, Council should consider going through each proposed Amendment one at a time. Following a discussion about the proper parliamentary procedure for proceeding, Council Member Skipworth made a motion to table Council Member Deats' motion, and Council Member Wilson seconded the motion to table. There being no further discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote on the motion to table Council Member Deats' motion.

5 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker)
0 NAYS
MOTION PASSED

Council then considered each proposed amendment one at a time. The Council's discussion on those proposed amendments is below:

Proposition A: "Shall the Charter be amended to adopt the Council-Manager form of government?"

Council Member Deats made a motion to approve the placement of the proposed Amendment with text amendments, as presented, on the Special Election ballot, and Council Member Suderman seconded the motion. Council Member Wilson expressed his opposition in the change of the form of government, saying that having a City Manager would diminish the powers of the City Council. There being no further discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:
3 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Deats)
2 NAYS (Wilson, Decker)
MOTION PASSED

Proposition B: "Shall the Charter be amended by to provide council the power to provide for approval of subdivision plats and to carry out plans for areas destroyed by disaster?"

Council Member Deats made a motion to approve the placement of the proposed Amendment with text amendments, as presented, on the Special Election ballot, and Council Member Skipworth seconded the motion.

There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

4 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats)

1 NAY (Decker)

MOTION PASSED

Proposition C: "Shall the Charter be amended to limit the terms of office for the Mayor and Councilmembers?"

Council Member Deats made a motion to approve the placement of the proposed Amendment with text amendments, as presented, on the Special Election ballot, and Council Member Suderman seconded the motion. Council Member Deats said that this is not about personal opinions; it is about whether to allow voters to vote on this. Mayor Masters disagreed, saying that the opinions of each Council Member do matter here, and that she agreed with Council Member Skipworth's opposition to the Proposition and to term limits. Council discussed in more detail the arguments for and against term limits. There being no further discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

2 AYES (Skipworth, Wilson)

3 NAYS (Suderman, Deats, Decker)

MOTION FAILED

Proposition D: "Shall the Charter be amended to require a person to be a resident of the city for at least twelve months immediately preceding their election to the city council?"

Council Member Deats made a motion to approve the placement of the proposed Amendment with text amendments, as presented, on the Special Election ballot, and Council Member Skipworth seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

5 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

Proposition E: "Shall the Charter be amended to provide for compensation of the Mayor and Councilmembers not to

exceed \$75 per meeting or \$1,800 per year, whichever is less?”

Council Member Deats made a motion to approve the placement of the proposed Amendment with text amendments, as presented, on the Special Election ballot, and Council Member Wilson seconded the motion. Council Member Skipworth and Mayor Masters stated their opposition to the Proposition. There being no further discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:
2 AYES (Wilson, Deats)
3 NAYS (Suderman, Skipworth, Decker)
MOTION FAILED

Proposition F: “Shall the Charter be amended to permit the City Council to appoint a person to fill a vacant councilmember position within one year of a regular election?”

Council Member Deats made a motion to approve the placement of the proposed Amendment with text amendments, as presented, on the Special Election ballot, and Council Member Skipworth seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:
4 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats)
1 NAY (Decker)
MOTION PASSED

Proposition G: “Shall the Charter be amended to permit the passage of ordinances after two readings?”

Council Member Deats made a motion to approve the placement of the proposed Amendment with text amendments, as presented, on the Special Election ballot, and no Council Member seconded the motion.

MOTION FAILED

Proposition H: “Shall the Charter be amended to require an amendment relating to the administration of the City’s finances including requiring earlier submission of budget and publication of the budget as permitted by state law?”

Council Member Wilson made a motion to approve the placement of the proposed Amendment with text amendments, as presented, on the Special Election ballot, and Council Member Decker seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

5 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

Proposition I: “Shall the Charter be amended to increase the amount of the City’s disaster contingency fund?”

Council Member Wilson made a motion to approve the placement of the proposed Amendment with text amendments, as presented, on the Special Election ballot, and Council Member Decker seconded the motion. Council Member Wilson asked for information regarding the potential financial impact to the City. City Administrator Chris Heard said that he would prepare a full analysis ready to present to Council at the next meeting. There being no further discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

5 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

Proposition J: “Shall the Charter be amended to provide for the contract and purchase of goods and services consistent with state procurement laws?”

Council Member Wilson made a motion to approve the placement of the proposed Amendment with text amendments, as presented, on the Special Election ballot, and Council Member Decker seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

5 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

Proposition K: “Shall the Charter be amended to allow the appointment of members of council to serve on boards, commissions and committees where permitted by state law?”

Council Member Deats made a motion to approve the placement of the proposed Amendment with text amendments, as presented, on the Special Election ballot, and Council Member Wilson seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

5 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

Proposition L: "Shall the Charter be amended to prohibit any city officer or employee from participating in any vote or decision in which the person has a personal interest?"

Council Member Deats made a motion to approve the placement of the proposed Amendment with text amendments, as presented, on the Special Election ballot, and Council Member Skipworth seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

5 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

Proposition M: "Shall the Charter be amended to require the periodic review of the Charter by a council appointed charter commission?"

Council Member Deats made a motion to approve the placement of the proposed Amendment with text amendments, as presented, on the Special Election ballot, and Council Member Suderman seconded the motion. Mayor Masters said that she wanted to ensure that a Charter Review Commission be appointed every time that Charter amendments are considered. Council Member Skipworth made a secondary motion that the Proposition be amended to allow for ten years between Charter Review Commission reviews rather than five. City Attorney David Olson addressed the questions of Council and provided his legal interpretation of the proposed Amendment. Council Member Wilson seconded the motion to amend the time period. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote on the secondary motion.

VOTE:

4 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats)

1 NAY (Decker)

MOTION PASSED

There being no further discussion on the original motion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

5 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

Proposition N: "Shall the Charter be amended to permit the publication of the report of the charter review commission on the City's website?"

Council Member Deats made a motion to approve the placement of the proposed Amendment with text amendments, as presented, on the Special Election ballot, and Council Member Skipworth seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

5 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

Proposition O: "Shall the Charter be amended to provide for gender neutral terminology and to correct other terms, spelling and capitalization without making any substantive changes?"

Council Member Deats made a motion to approve the placement of the proposed Amendment with text amendments, as presented, on the Special Election ballot, and Council Member Skipworth seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

5 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

Proposition P: "Shall the Charter be amended to conform to the general laws of the State of Texas?"

Council Member Wilson made a motion to approve the placement of the proposed Amendment with text amendments, as presented, on the Special Election ballot, and Council Member Decker seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

5 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

Proposition Q: "Shall the Charter be amended to permit Council to renumber and rearrange the sections of the Charter by ordinance?"

Council Member Wilson made a motion to approve the placement of the proposed Amendment with text amendments, as presented, on the Special Election ballot, and Council Member Deats seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

5 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

Proposition R: "Shall the Charter be amended to permit Council to rearrange and renumber provisions by ordinance?"

Per recommendation from City Attorney David Olson, this Proposition was deemed redundant and was removed from consideration.

Proposition S: Council Member Skipworth made a motion to approve the placement of an additional proposed Amendment, with text amendments, on the Special Election ballot. The proposed Amendment would move future City of Dickinson municipal officer elections to the November Uniform Election Date. City Attorney David Olson will look into the feasibility of changing the election date. Council Member Deats seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

4 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats)

1 NAY (Decker)

MOTION PASSED

Proposition T: Council Member Skipworth made a motion to approve the placement of an additional proposed Amendment, with text amendments, on the Special Election ballot. The proposed Amendment would limit former members of Council from being employed by the City for at least ten years following the expiration of their last term of office. Council Member Deats seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

4 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Deats, Decker)

1 NAY (Wilson)

MOTION PASSED

Proposition U: Council Member Skipworth made a motion to approve the placement of an additional proposed Amendment, with text amendments, on the Special Election ballot. The proposed Amendment would prohibit active City employees from serving as voting members on City board or commissions. Council Member Deats seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

5 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

ITEM 3.) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING: Resolution Number 1812-2020 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DICKINSON, TEXAS, REPEALING RESOLUTION NUMBER 1079-2009; ADOPTING A REVISED POLICY AND APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT REGARDING USE OF MUNICIPAL MEETING ROOMS AND CITY GROUNDS AND FACILITIES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Council Member Deats made a motion to approve the Resolution, and Council Member Suderman seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

5 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

ITEM 4.) PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM 5.) ADJOURN

Council Member Suderman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m., and Council Member Wilson seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

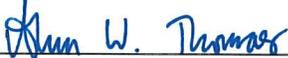
5 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker)

0 NAYS

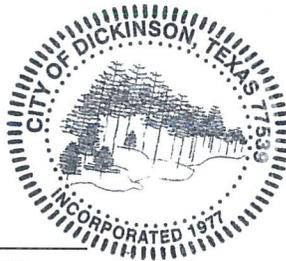
MOTION PASSED

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this the 10th day of March, 2020.

ATTEST:



Alun W. Thomas, City Secretary





Julie Masters, Mayor