



City Council Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date: September 17, 2019			
Submitted by: Jon Thatcher, Legal			
Consent	Discussion Only	Public Hearing	Action/Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Item Title: Discuss, consider and take any necessary action including action on a Resolution regarding appointing members to the Charter Commission, Issuing the Commissions Charge, and providing an effective date.			
How this item ties-in with the City’s Mission, Vision and Values: City officials and staff are accountable to the citizens of the City of Forney. The Charter governs and directs the activities of staff and officials.			
Attachments: Resolution			

Item Summary:

The City of Forney Charter is subject for review at the direction of the City Council or upon the proper petition of the citizens of Forney. The City’s charter was approved in 1997. It has not been amended since its inception.

Sections 11.14 and 11.15 of the City’s Code of Ordinance and Chapter 9 of the Texas Local Government Code regulate the process for amending the City’s Charter. Section 11.14 states, “Amendments to this Charter may be framed and submitted to the qualified voters of the City in the manner provided by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas as presently enacted or hereafter amended.”

Pursuant to Section 11.15 of the Charter, the City Council may appoint a Charter Commission of ten members at any time to study the current City Charter and recommend changes, if any. Commission members shall not serve for more than six months.

At the City Council meeting held on August 6, 2019, the Council decided the Charter Commission would consist of ten (10) members appointed by the City Council. Three of the members of the Commission would be City Council members and the remaining seven would be appointed by the City Council.

Below is the proposed schedule of events related to the Charter Review:

September 17, 2019 – The Council will consider a Resolution appointing members to the Charter Review Commission and issuing the Commission’s charge.

January 21, 2020 – The Charter Review Commission will present the Council with a summary of recommended Charter Amendments, for review and discussion. The Council will determine which items, if any, to place before the voters in the May 2020 election. Once the items are determined, ballot language will be prepared.

February 4, 2020 – The City Council will consider ordering the Charter Amendment Election to be held in May 2020 and approve ballot language.