



City Council Special Meeting

Study Session Agenda

February 22, 2021

6:30 PM

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Agenda - Motion to accept Study Session Agenda as presented**
3. **Discussion: Charter Amendment**
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Adjournment - Motion to adjourn the Special Meeting**



MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable City Council

From: Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, City Clerk

Date: February 22, 2021

Re: SPECIAL / STUDY SESSION MEETING

At the January 25, 2021 regular meeting, Council approved a Special Meeting – Study Session, requested by Clerk Bragg, to be held on Monday February 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the charter amendment.

This meeting will be held electronically using the Zoom Meeting application. To join the meeting, see the following:

Topic: Special Meeting-Study Session – Charter Amendment
Time: Feb 22, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2230778573>

Meeting ID: 223 077 8573

Join by Phone

Dial: 1-646-558-8656, Meeting ID 223 077 8573, followed by the # sign.



MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable City Council

From: Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, City Clerk

Date: January 25, 2021

Re: Study Session Request to discuss Charter amendment(s)

Clerk Bragg is requesting a ½ hr. (30 mins) study session for February 22, 2021 at 6:30pm to discuss a charter amendment.

The date and time is available for the study session request.

2/22/2021

Study Session

Discussion: Charter Amendment

What are the requested amendment(s)?

- **Section 2.7 Publications: Posting and Affidavit**
- **Section 6.12 Official Newspaper**
- **Section 6.13 Publication of Council Meetings**
- **Section 11.10 Notice of Meeting**

The changes to the above sections are necessary to modernize the language in the Romulus City Charter due to the accessibility of digital information, and electronic means being the preferred method of delivery for content consumption. These amendments do not remove any current practices under the City Charter but make equally available alternative means to providing quality city services. The goal is to make the City Charter a more evolving document.

Section 2.7 Publication; Posting & Affidavit

- “When by the provision of this charter, or the laws of the State of Michigan, notice of any matter or proceeding is required to be published or posted, it may be published or posted in the official publication site set forth in Section 6.12 of this Charter, and an affidavit of publication or posting of same, annexed to a printed copy of such notice or posting or proceeding, taken from posted site or paper in which it was published, specifying the time of publication, in the newspaper or electronic site in which the same was inserted, or by some person in his employ knowing the facts, if such notice is required to be by publication in a newspaper or electronic site or by the person posting the same when required to be by posting, shall be prima facie evidence of the facts thereof contained. Such affidavit of publication or posting shall be filed with the City Clerk.”

Section 6.12 Official Newspaper

- At or prior to its first regular meeting in December of every odd year beginning in calendar year 2023, the Council, after investigating the rates, quality of the sites, availability of newspapers and electronic sites and after receiving bids, shall designate some newspaper or two electronic sites of general circulation in the City which is qualified to publish legal notices under the laws of the State of Michigan, as the official publications of the City for the next twenty-four (24) months. All notices, ordinances, and other records required by the provisions of this Charter to be published shall be published in said official publications in the manner and form in this Charter provided; provided, however, that the Council may order additional publications of any such notice, ordinance or other record in other newspapers or electronic sites, in any financial or trade paper, journal or magazine. If, at any time, no publications has been designated as the official publication sites of the City, or in case of publication sites designated as the official publication sites of the City ceases regular publication or is violating any of the terms of its contract, the Council shall order publication of such notices, proceedings, ordinances, or other records as are required to be published, in some other publication printed in the English language and available in the City; provided, however, that the City shall not be without an official publication sites more than thirty (30) days.

Section 6.13 Publication of Council Proceedings

- “The minutes of Council shall be published in an official publication site set forth in Section 6.12 of this Charter within fifteen (15) days after the meeting.

Section 11.10 Notice of Meetings

- “Notice of the time and place of the meetings of the Board of Review shall be published by the Clerk in an official publication site set forth in Section 6.12 in this Charter not less than 15 days prior to the first meeting thereof.”

Ballot Question

Shall the City amend Section 2.7, 6.12, 6.13, and 11.10 of the City Charter to allow for the publication of legal notices and minutes of Council, Board, and Commission meetings in two (2) electronic sites or in a newspaper of general circulation in the City and for the reappointment of the official publication by Council every odd year beginning in calendar year 2023?

[The current language only allows for newspaper publication and for selection of the official publication each year.] The entire amended language of the above sections of the Charter are available for review in the City Clerk's office.

Important Reminders

We are aiming to have the charter amendment proposal on the ballot for the August 3, 2021 Primary Election.

- Should Council approve the amendments, it also needs to be approved by the Attorney General and the Governor prior to its submission to the county for certification. The City should allow for 30 days for Attorney General & Governor's approval.
- The ideal/safe date for approval & submission to State officials is **March 22, 2021.**
- Deadline to submit [to county officials] ballot wording of proposals qualified to appear on primary election is **May 11, 2021.**

QUESTIONS?
