

Charter Review Commission Kick-off Presentation

November 20, 2019

The logo for ADDISON, featuring the word "ADDISON" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font centered within a white circle. The circle is set against a blue background that is part of a larger graphic design on the right side of the slide, which includes diagonal lines and a grey triangle.

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Overview of charters
3. Process and timeline for Charter Review Commission
4. Examples of Staff and Council initiated issues
5. Preliminary discussion regarding major topics Commission would like to explore
6. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
7. Next Steps

What is a Charter?

- Similar in purpose to the Constitution at the Federal and State levels
- Foundational blueprint for a local government
- Establishes framework of the government's fundamental structure, powers, and processes

History of Home Rule Charters

- Cities in Texas were originally controlled entirely by State legislature
- In early 1900s, State realized that city issues were taking up all it's time and that cities needed additional autonomy
- In 1912, voters passed state constitution amendment authorizing home rule charters for cities of over 5,000 population
- Over 350 cities in Texas have adopted charters; just a few eligible have not
- Addison adopted its charter in 1978
 - Amended 4 times: 1982, 1988, 1993, 2010
 - 2010 examples: Location for beer and wine sales, minor language clarification

Basic Components of a Typical Charter

- Structure and Basic Elements of Governing Body
 - Powers of the City
 - Mayor and City Council
 - Elections
- Basic Administrative Structure
 - City Manager
 - Departments, Offices, and Agencies
- Financial Management
- General Provisions
- Amendment Process
- Transition and Severability



Qualities of a Good Charter

- Straightforward
- Consistent
- Thorough, but not exhaustive
- Flexible
- Focused on fundamentals

When to Consider Changing the Charter?

- Most local government issues are not charter issues
- Charter amendments should not be a “knee-jerk” reaction to a recent problem
- Charters amendments can produce positive change, but they can become tediously detailed with inefficient procedures and onerous restrictions on governmental functions.
- Ask yourself:
 - Can this problem be solved by the passage of an ordinance, or with a new policy or procedure?
 - Can this problem be solved by getting new officials in office?

Addison's Charter

- Article 1: Incorporation – Form of Government – Powers
- Article 2: The Council
- Article 3: City Manager
- Article 4: Administrative Departments
- Article 5: Municipal Finance
- Article 6: Franchises and Public Utilities
- Article 7: Municipal Planning and Zoning
- Article 8: Nominations and Elections
- Article 9: Initiative and Referendum
- Article 10: Recall
- Article 11: Miscellaneous Provisions

- **Proposed Second Meeting Agenda**
 - Public hearing
 - Discussion of Articles 1-6
 - Staff initiated major issues and minor amendments
 - Issues brought forward by Commission or Community

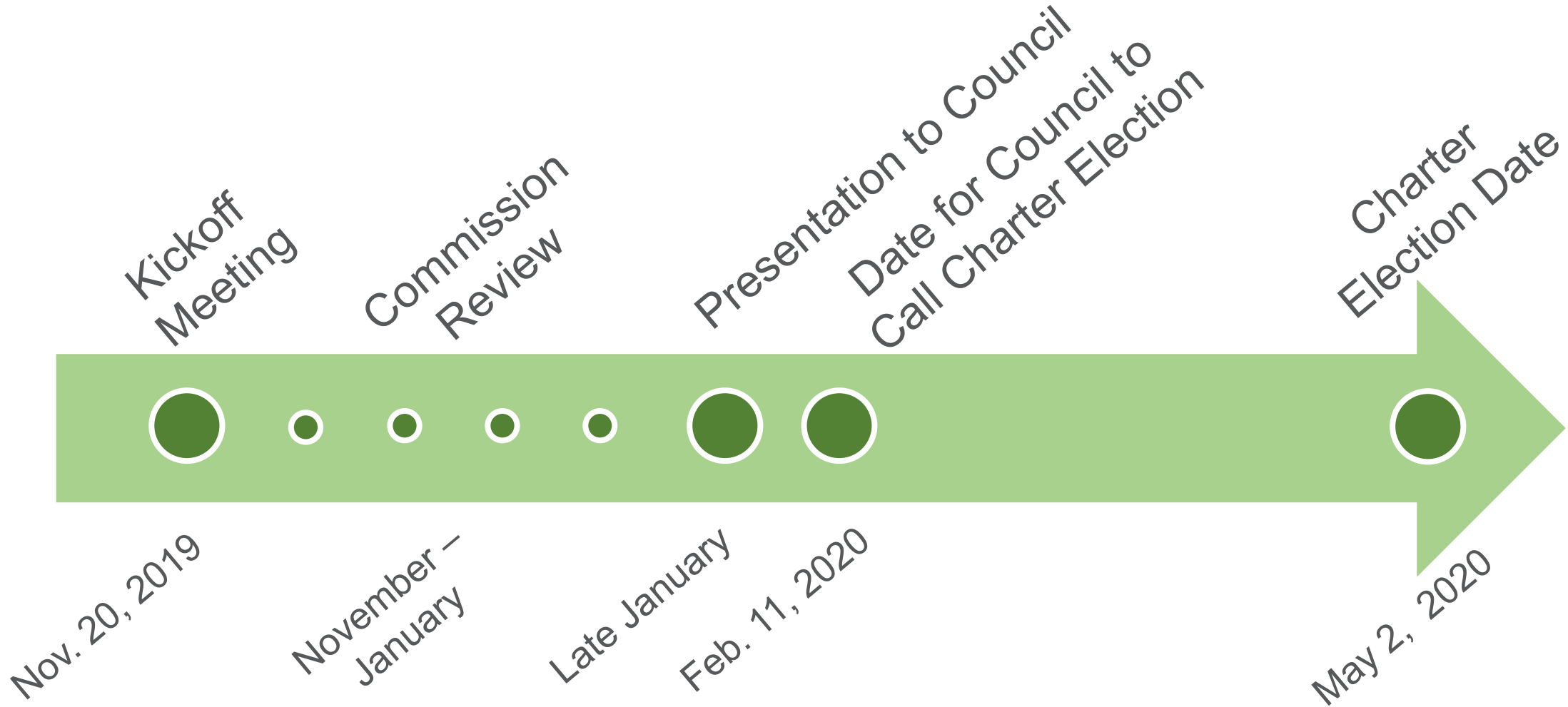
- **Proposed Third Meeting Agenda**
 - Public hearing
 - Follow up on Articles 1-6
 - Discussion of Articles 7-11
 - Staff initiated major issues and minor amendments
 - Issues brought forward by Commission or Community

Remaining Process Continued

- **Proposed Fourth Agenda**
 - Public hearing
 - Follow up on Articles 1-11
 - Discuss report drafting

- **Proposed Fifth Agenda**
 - Review final report
 - Discuss presentation to Council

Proposed Timeline for May 2020 Election



Staff Initiated Discussion Items

- Town administrative and legal staff have reviewed Charter for potential issues and proposed changes
- Two categories:
 - Major Issues
 - Substantive items that will need Commission discussion
 - Minor Amendments
 - Less substantive issues and “clean up” items for consideration

Item # ____	Article ____.
Current Language:	Section ____ - Title Current text.
Key Message:	Brief description of the issue.
Proposed:	Section ____ - Title Proposed “red-lined” text.

Staff Initiated Discussion Items

- Minor
 - Language cleanup and clarification
 - Compliance with State law

- Major
 - Issuing debt for Economic Development
 - Adopted 2010 Charter Language

Council Initiated Discussion Items

- Major
 - City Council term lengths
 - Alternative options for filing for place on the ballot
 - City Secretary reporting structure

Preliminary Commission Discussion

- Are there major issues the Commission would like to explore and discuss during this process?

Election of a Chair and Vice Chair

- Nominations for Chair
 - Vote
- Nominations for Vice-Chair
 - Vote

Next Steps

- Commission Consensus on Process and Timeline
- Scheduling Future Committee Meetings