



Citizen Advisory Committee on Governance Recommendations

Budget and Effectiveness Committee

DECEMBER 15, 2020

Today's Agenda

- ◀ Review recommendations from Citizen Advisory Committee on Governance
- ◀ Review actions for consideration taken by City Council
- ◀ Next Steps

Summary of Recommendations

Proposed Recommendations	Action Needed if Approved by City Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four-year terms by way of referendum • Staggered elections • Two term limits contingent on four-year terms • Nonpartisan election • Add a district representative and remove an at-large representative 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council action; or 2. Subject to approval by the voters at a referendum 3. Term limit changes would require approval from NC General Assembly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase Mayor and City Council Compensation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase Mayor and City Council Compensation to be comparable to that of the Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council action; or 2. Subject to approval through Budget Adoption Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update policy guidelines to consider when redistricting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council action

Recommendations from CAGC

◀Topic: Elected officials' terms of office and election method

Current status	Recommended update
1. Two-year terms	1. Four-year terms by way of referendum
2. No staggered elections	2. Staggered elections
3. No term limits	3. Two term limits contingent on four-year terms
4. Partisan election	4. Nonpartisan election

Considerations

- The Council may amend by ordinance subject to approval by the voters at a referendum
 - However, term limit adjustment requires legislative approval
- The Council may amend by ordinance without a referendum – however, 5,000 signatures on a petition filed within 30 days forces a referendum
- Budgetary implications to hold referendum

Recommendations from CAGC

◀Topic: Update City Council representatives

- *Recommendation: Update City Council representatives*

Current status	Recommended update
1. 12 total members of Mayor and City Council: a) 1 Mayor b) 11 City Council Members i. 4 At-Large ii. 7 District Representatives	1. 12 total members of Mayor and City Council: a) 1 Mayor b) 11 City Council Members i. 3 At-Large ii. 8 District Representatives

Considerations

- The Council may amend by ordinance subject to approval by the voters at a referendum
- The Council may amend by ordinance without a referendum – however, 5,000 signatures on a petition filed within 30 days forces a referendum
- Budgetary implications to hold referendum

Recommendations from CAGC

◀Topic: Elected officials' compensation

- *Recommendation: Increase Mayor and City Council Compensation to be comparable to that of the Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners*

Current status	Recommended update
1. Mayor total compensation: \$45,096	1. Mayor total compensation: \$56,431
2. City Council total compensation: \$33,915	2. City Council total compensation: \$48,563

Considerations

- Budgetary implications – increase in personnel expenses to General Fund
- City Council may change compensation rates subject to approval by Council vote; or
- Subject to approval through Budget Adoption Process

Recommendations from CAGC

◀Topic: Policy guidelines on Council districts

- *Recommendation: Update policy guidelines on Council districts*

Recommended update

- **Importance of the First Order (Highest)**
 - Districts must have substantially equal population (*Federal Requirement*).
 - Districts should be reasonably compact (Strongly recommend).
 - District boundaries may follow neighborhood boundaries or boundaries of areas containing residents sharing similar interests.
- **Importance of the Second Order**
 - When possible, districts should have relatively even partisan balance.
 - District boundaries may be drawn to create/maintain balance between major political parties.
 - District boundaries may follow precinct boundaries.
 - District boundaries may be drawn considering race of district residents as long as race is not the predominant motivating factor.
 - District(s) most likely impacted by future annexations may be smaller to minimize impact of future annexations and redistricting.
 - District boundaries may be drawn to avoid contests between incumbents.

Considerations

1. Need to consider 2020 Census results, available March 31, 2021.
2. Need to consider legal standards for re-districting.

Procedures to Change Form of Government

Process for change by City Council

- The Council adopts a resolution of intent and sets the date for a public hearing.
- The public hearing must be held at least 10 days after published notice and within 45 days of resolution.
- The Council must vote within 60 days of the public hearing but not before the next regular meeting.
- A notice of adoption of the ordinance must be published within 10 days after the adoption of the ordinance.
- If the ordinance is subject to a referendum, the referendum must be held at least 45 days after publication but not more than 90 days after the vote.
- If the ordinance is not subject to a referendum but a valid referendum petition is filed, the referendum must be at least 60 days after but not more than 120 days after receipt of the petition.

Timetable to Adjust Form of Government

◀ Referendum at the November 2 General Election

- Late May to Late June – Resolution of Intent
- Between Late June and Late July – Public Hearing
- August 9* or September 13* - Adopt Ordinance
- November 2 – Referendum

◀ Referendum at the November 2 General Election – sample of legally compliant schedule:

- June 28 - Adopt Resolution of Intent
- June 30 - Publish Notice of Public Hearing
- July 26 - Public Hearing
- August 9 – Adopt Ordinance
- August 11 - Publication of Notice of Adoption of Ordinance
- November 2 - Referendum

**Currently scheduled City Council Business Meetings in 2021*

Next Steps

◀ January 4, 2021 City Council Business Meeting

- **Budget and Effectiveness Committee Report Out to Full Council**
- **Public feedback period on the Citizen Advisory Council on Governance recommendations to City Council**

Questions?