

To: **Mayor and City Council**
 From: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**
 Date: **February 22, 2021**

Consideration of Proposed Charter Amendments

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At the Charter Commission meeting of January 26, 2021 (draft minutes enclosed), the Commission recommended the following for consideration by Council:

1. On a 7-2 vote, the Commission recommends the enclosed ordinance (1.06) increasing Commission membership from the current 11 to 13. In the past, membership had been reduced due to struggles with quorums and with lack of applicants for Commission seats. With increased interest in the Charter Commission membership, supporting members opined that they did not perceive that these past challenges would again exist in the foreseeable future, and the City should take advantage of the community interest.
2. On a 9-0 vote, the Commission recommends the enclosed ordinance (2.06) providing that among the opportunities for the Mayor to vote should be included circumstances wherein, due to temporary Council vacancy, a unanimous vote of available Council members could not pass a motion with under four (4) votes. The example of the past vote regarding the Wakota Life development approval is the situation contemplated by the Commission (in which three [3] temporary vacancies on Council were declared due to a legally recognized conflict of interest).
3. On a 9-0 vote, the Commission recommends the enclosed ordinance (3.04) which also deals with the same scenario as noted in item 2 above. This ordinance clarifies that Council membership relative to determination of what is a majority vote (typically 4 votes of 6 or 7) is reduced should there be declared that members of Council are not eligible to vote. Hence, in the case of 5 eligible members, a majority voting requirement would be reduced from 4 to 3. A quorum of the Council would continue to be required so that, in any case, four members of the Council would be required to hold a meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT:

		Amount
Fund:		
Department:		
Account:		

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. By motion, hold the first reading of an amendment to the Charter Section 1.06 increasing Charter membership to 13.
2. By motion, hold the first reading of an amendment to the Charter Section 2.06 expanding the situations within which the Mayor is entitled to vote.
3. By motion, hold the first reading of an amendment to the Charter Section 3.04 clarifying the definition of Council majority upon declaration of Council vacancy pursuant to section 2.05.