

To: Charter Commission

From: Nate Burkett, City Manager

Cc: Pam Whitmore, City Attorney  
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Date: February 19, 2026

Subject: Televising Charter Commission Meetings

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The purpose of this memo is to provide context and analysis regarding the idea of televising Charter Commission meetings. This topic has come up as part of our ongoing discussion about transparency and public engagement.

Currently, Charter Commission meetings are open to the public but are not broadcast. These meetings occur about three times per year and typically draw limited public interest. While the subject matter is important, it does not generally generate significant attention compared to City Council meetings. That said, televising meetings could offer benefits in terms of accessibility and transparency.

There are clear advantages to broadcasting these sessions. Televising would allow residents who cannot attend in person to follow the discussion, and it would align with our practice for City Council meetings, reinforcing a consistent approach to openness. It would also create a video record that could be referenced later. Because the City already uses an outside organization for streaming, the technical complexity is low, and the estimated cost is modest—about \$250 or less per meeting.

There are also considerations to weigh. While the cost is not a barrier, televising may affect the dynamic of the meetings. Some members may feel less comfortable speaking candidly on camera, and the formality of a televised setting can make discussion feel less conversational. This is particularly relevant as we consider moving some other committees to a “work session” format, where meetings are not televised and the seating arrangement encourages better dialogue. That approach is intended to improve discussion quality, and it raises a question about whether televising Charter Commission meetings would work against that goal.

In terms of options, the Commission could maintain the current approach and continue posting minutes without broadcasting. Alternatively, the Commission could choose to televise all

meetings live and archive recordings, or record meetings for later upload without live streaming. Televising only certain meetings does not appear practical because a cable technician must be on site for any recording or broadcast.

The decision ultimately comes down to balancing transparency with meeting effectiveness. This memo is intended to inform your discussion and help identify the approach that best supports the Commission's work and the City's commitment to open government.