

**Citizen Government Review Committee Minutes**  
**May 21, 2025**

City Hall, First Floor Conference Room, Topeka, Kansas, May 21, 2025. Committee Chair Jim Kaup called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. with the following Committee Members present: Connie Jacobson (Vice Chair), Jim Kaup (Chair), Shampayne Lloyd, Tamara Martin and Zachary Surritt (*alternate*) -5. Absent: Brian Broxterman -1.

Connie Jacobson moved to approve the meeting minutes of May 7, 2025. The motion seconded by Tamara Martin carried unanimously on voice vote. (5-0-0)

Chair Kaup submitted emails from Susan McClacherty, Valley Park NIA President, and Sarah Balzer, Topeka JUMP Lead Organizer to be attached to the minutes. (Attachment A)

**Douglas Jones, Association of Local Government Auditors Advocacy Committee member; and Bill Fiander, Lecturer, Washburn University Political Science Department, appeared as GUEST SPEAKERS.**

Douglas Jones, Association of Local Government Auditors Advocacy Committee member, provided a brief overview of his professional experiences and the actions necessary to create and implement an auditor position for the City of Topeka.

Chair Kaup questioned how “weaponization in auditing” and the layers of bureaucracy that could lead to inefficiencies and delays in municipal government were handled. He also questioned how the Committee could educate the Governing Body and citizens of Topeka on the positive impacts an auditor could have on municipal government operations.

Connie Jacobson asked how audit topics were selected.

Tamara Martin asked what the average number of audits per year should be performed.

Douglas Jones reported overall they select holistic audit topics they could perform in a given year; however, the number of audit positions depends on the scope and nature of audits which could range from 3-10 audits per year. He noted there were seven audit positions in Johnson County, Kansas, and 10 audit positions in Kansas City, Missouri. He stated the Association of Local Government Auditors Advocacy Committee would provide model legislation to establish an independent auditor position or office for the City of Topeka.

Committee members thanked Mr. Jones for providing his input on the process of creating a City Auditor position.

Chair Kaup urged Committee members to review the Johnson County, Kansas, and Kansas City, Missouri, auditor websites.

Bill Fiander, Lecturer, Washburn University Political Science Department, statements focused on the City's Charter Ordinance and the need to implement an enforcement mechanism for the instructions set out in the Charter Ordinance. He spoke in support of the current form of government if the integrity could be kept. He referenced his experience of over 20 years working for the City of Topeka by council members and the lack of accountability of political intrusion in personnel and/or administration matters and the difficult position it puts the city manager in. He stated he believes the question that the Committee needs to consider is "Who enforces the charter ordinance instructions?" He continued to explain that in his experience in working for the City of Topeka this issue created a difficult work environment and a culture of intrusion by council members causing the loss of new and existing talent.

Shampayne Lloyd asked Mr. Fiander if he believes the current form of government was operating outside the parameters of the City's Charter Ordinance as it relates to the interaction of elected officials and City Staff members.

Bill Fiander stated political interference was tolerated in the past; however, he was not sure if this was still the case.

Discussion ensued on the possible need for more regulations regarding the ethical behavior of elected officials and City Staff members; the possible need to incorporate a penalty clause in the City's Charter Ordinance for these types of situations; how complaints were processed and the need for multiple avenues to do so.

Mary Kuckelman Spenelli, Senior City Attorney, reported the City does have a resolution in place outlining a code of ethics for elected officials and the City's personnel manual has a robust compliant section outlined for intolerable behavior. She stated she would provide the Committee a more detailed memorandum outlining processes and procedures for these types of situations as well as the process of how to amend the Charter Ordinance.

Bill Fiander suggested they research what other cities have included in their charter ordinances as it relates to a penalty clause and/or penalty language and noted, by incorporating enforcement language now, it could possibly correct the culture of the City of Topeka over the next 10 years before the next review of the form of government.

Chair Kaup suggested the Cities of Wichita, Lawrence, Manhattan, Salina, Olathe, Emporia, Lenexa and Overland Park, Kansas, be researched to determine if penalty language was included in their charter ordinance for these types of ethical violations.

Senior City Attorney Kuckelman Spenelli stated she would assist Chair Kaup in researching the penalty language of other cities.

**DISCUSSION continued on the Report Introduction, Summary of Recommendations and detailed Explanation Statements.**

Chair Kaup inquired on the June 17, 2025, Governing Body meeting agenda deadline and when the final report must be submitted to the City Clerk.

Brenda Younger, City Clerk, stated the final report must be submitted by June 11, 2025.

Connie Jacobson stated she would provide introductory remarks to be reviewed by the Committee and included in the final report.

Chair Kaup submitted a Summary of Committee Recommendations to be reviewed by the Committee and included in the final report (Attachment B).

Zachary Surritt submitted the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the Government Structure summary recommendations (Attachment C) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> draft of the Structure and Elections summary of recommendations (Attachment D).

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to accept the summaries of recommendations as written.

Chair Kaup submitted final drafts for Appointment of a City Auditor, Interlocal Cooperation and the Citizen Government Review Committee summaries of recommendations (Attachment E).

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to accept the summaries of recommendations as written.

Shampayne Lloyd requested the enforcement of the City's Charter Ordinance be addressed as a separate recommendation.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to include the Enforcement of the City's Charter Ordinance in the final recommendations to the Governing Body.

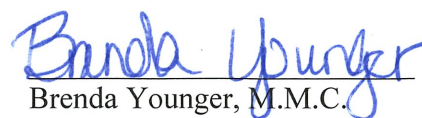
Chair Kaup expressed the importance of elected officials being required to review and sign a code of ethics.

Zachary Surritt suggested a penalty clause be included in the Charter Ordinance language that would require a step-by-step guide be created for elected officials and City Staff members.

Chair Kaup suggested the enforcement of the City's Charter Ordinance be tied to the duties of the City Auditor Position.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to keep the recommendation related to a City Auditor Position separate from the recommendation related to the enforcement of the City's Charter Ordinance.

No further business appearing the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



Brenda Younger, M.M.C.  
City Clerk

**Subject:** Re: Invitation to speak to the Citizens Government Review Committee

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**From:** valleyparkniatopeka@gmail.com

**To:** kaup@ [REDACTED]

**Date:** 5/8/2025, 12:18:11 AM

Hi Jim,

I sent an email to CAC members for them to have time to reflect and then solicited recommendations from the Citizens Government Review Committee at the CAC meeting last night. If I receive more feedback within the next week or two, I will certainly forward it to you. The feedback I received was not what you were looking for directly, in general they are wanting their council members to prioritize infrastructure projects (streets, alleys, sidewalks, lighting, and water drainage) as well as homelessness and reduced crime levels. A City of Topeka employee who attended your meeting interjected and stated the solicitation was more about the way the government works such as term limits, number of council positions, etc. In a nutshell, the neighborhood leaders expect their elected officials to represent the priority issues within their neighborhoods.

I also solicited feedback from within the Valley Park neighborhood and received the following message:

Date: Wed, May 7, 2025 at 9:52 AM

Subject: Re: Input Solicitation for the Citizens Government Review Committee

To: Valley Park < [REDACTED] >

Hi Susan,

I'd like to express my disappointment in the City with regard to items #3, #4, and #5. As far as I can tell, the City's advisory boards are mostly symbolic. The Council receives annual reports from them but is not required or expected to follow up or be in any sort of regular communication with them. For example, the City has done nothing for at least the past 6 years to address the recommendations of the Topeka Sustainability Advisory Board. The Council does not come to the Board for advice or recommendations. The Board is charged with providing guidance to the Council, but the Council does not ask for guidance or give the Board any indication of how they should direct their efforts to be most valuable to the Council and the City. Councilmembers rarely attend meetings and rarely communicate with the Board in any way. What's the point of having advisory boards if the Council/City does not at least acknowledge or engage their advice? Relatedly, the City has had an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategic Plan in place since 2010 but largely ignored it, taking little action toward the stated goals and seemingly oblivious to the fact that they are out of compliance with this plan. There is no accountability whatsoever to the goals of this program.

I have heard from many sources that the lack of cooperation between the County and City is a detriment to Topeka and is at least partly responsible for a lack of action on sustainability-

related issues--particularly with Parks & Rec and Solid Waste operated by the County. Surely more collaboration and a better working relationship between the two entities would benefit everyone living in Shawnee County.

I appreciate you being a voice for these concerns. If possible, I would prefer to remain anonymous if you share them.

Thanks, Susan!

/ Jim, the numbers referenced above, correspond with subjects the Citizens Government Review Board have discussed so far in our process:

1. Number of council districts, terms of office, district vs. at-large council district.
2. Term limits of councilmembers.
3. City follow-up on recommended actions from studies and advisory/civic organizations. Responsiveness.
4. Accountability for program initiatives (related to #3 above).
5. Need for greater degree of interlocal cooperation with the County and other local units of government.
6. Creation of a city auditor position to facilitate responsiveness, accountability and public trust in city government.

Please let me know if there is anything further I can do to assist you.

Susan W. McClacherty  
2024-2025 Citizen Advisory Council Chair  
Valley Park NIA President

Greetings!

We shared a presentation with Topeka's Citizens Government Review Committee on March 26. One of the main concerns that we highlighted is that the city of Topeka has a track record of paying consultants to do studies & share recommendations, but then not following through on the policy and funding changes recommended. We have seen this firsthand with our Affordable Housing Trust Fund work. The 2020 Housing Market Study & Strategy confirmed what Topeka JUMP's research had already shown- the #1 way to address the affordable housing crisis was to fund the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. It has been 5 years since this study and despite continued conversation and a worsening housing crisis the city of Topeka still hasn't fully funded the affordable housing trust fund. It took years and continuous pressure from JUMP for them to act to even activate the fund, so the initial \$1 million of one-time investments can finally be used to build more affordable homes and apartments.

Another example is our homelessness work. The city of Topeka received a report with several recommendations on how to address homelessness in May 2024. Despite the feedback that some councilmembers were frustrated because the report "didn't tell us anything we didn't already know"- the city hasn't taken action to develop or fund any of these recommendations. The only one that has taken place is a "multi-sector community coalition"- All Hands on Deck. In the absence of meaningful policy changes from the City surrounding homelessness, this group is working to identify partnerships, locations, and funding options for a low-barrier (also called safe-rest) shelter, one-stop resource center, and transitional tiny home villages. We hope that council members will choose to take action on these issues once they have a fully developed proposal in front of them. But it is still frustrating to our members that the response to these recommendations was to table it and wait for another group to figure it out.

After presenting to the Citizens Government Review committee, we continued to follow the committee's work. We were made aware that some cities have someone who is a "Performance Auditor"- and one of their jobs is to make sure governments follow up on matters like these. We support this measure & any other that would provide some accountability to make sure we are implementing recommendations. We need to take action when consultants identify proven strategies to solve our community's most pressing problems. Reports should not just be shelved to gather dust.

Sarah Balzer, Lead Organizer

Melodene Byrd, Co-Chair

Topeka JUMP (Justice, Unity, & Ministry Project)

## **SUMMARIES OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **NO. 1 RETAINING THE CITY MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT**

**The Committee's recommendation that most directly addresses its mission under the Charter Ordinance is that the current structure of mayor-council-city manager municipal government should continue. (ISSUE NO. 1)**

**The Committee heard almost unanimous support for the current form of government. It appears to be the proper fit for the City.**

**This is not to say that the Committee did not hear criticism relating to the current structure. Most of the criticism, however, appears to be attributable to the turn-over of city managers in recent years, i.e. the City's failure to follow-up on actions recommended in City-commissioned studies, from civic groups, and from citizens (ISSUE NO. 3). This contributes to some level of public frustration and a sense that accountability is not consistently demonstrated.**

**While it is too soon to give a grade to the current city manager, the comments received showed confidence that he would provide the stability and continuity the community needs.**

**The Committee also notes that the creation of a city auditor position (ISSUE NO. 5) could aid in providing needed follow-up and accountability.**



#### **NO. 4 INTERLOCAL COOPERATION**

**While the Committee recognizes that the City has a history of interlocal cooperation, especially with Shawnee County, we do not know whether more opportunities exist, i.e. we do not know whether the City benefits from all possible cooperation with other local units of government by sharing personnel, equipment, facilities, etc. This seems particularly important as the City faces a budget deficit.**

**To that end we recommend the City take steps to identify what agreements other cities in Kansas have entered into, and analyze the potential benefits new agreements can have for Topeka taxpayers (ISSUE NO. 4). Further, to encourage ongoing attention to interlocal cooperation we recommend creation of a joint City-County body which can objectively analyze those potential benefits and recommend agreements which will benefit the public.**

## **ISSUE NO. 5 ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF CITY AUDITOR**

**The Committee's recommendation for a city auditor position came in response to the concerns expressed to the Committee that the City fails to follow-up on studies, and on input from civic and advisory bodies, and members of the public. It is also offered in response to the potential benefits of having independent assessment of the performance of city programs and services, as well as its finances, and how this can increase public trust in its government. It was seen as significant that Topeka is the largest city in Kansas to not have a city auditor. (ISSUE NO. 5)**

**The recommendation is for the Governing Body to utilize readily-available and professional resources, and to talk with other cities, to identify the best set of duties the auditor should fulfill. An auditor appointed by the City Council, to advise the Council, Mayor and the City Manager, is the auditor position the Committee envisions.**

## **ISSUE NO. 6 COMPOSITION OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**Finally, the Committee recommends the Charter Ordinance be amended to increase the Committee size from five to ten members—one appointed by each councilmember and one by the mayor (ISSUE NO. 6). The rationale for this recommendation is to create more of a sense of ownership of the Committee by the governing body—we were surprised that only three of the current councilmembers accepted our invitation to express their observations on the city's governmental structure, especially as councilmembers are the ones who observe its functioning every day.**

**A second purpose behind the recommendation is to attempt to increase public awareness of the Committee and its mission. We were disappointed that we heard from so few citizens during our five months of meetings.**

**TO: Members of the Citizens Government Review Committee**  
**FROM: Zac Surritt**  
**RE: First Draft Issue Paper - Government Structure**  
**DATE: May 21, 2025**

**ISSUE:** The structure and form of Topeka's municipal government

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT:** The City of Topeka's Charter lays out the form of government that the city will operate under and what positions make up the Governing Body. Currently, the City of Topeka operates under a council-manager form of government since it was adopted in 2004. The governing body is made up of nine council people, each elected to represent one of nine geographic districts all made up of relatively the same number of constituents, and one Mayor, who is elected by the voters of Topeka at-large. Under this system, the City Manager answers directly to the Governing Body and oversees the day-to-day operations of the City of Topeka. The Governing Body has the power to appoint and remove the City Manager as well as conducting the business of the city by voting on ordinances, resolutions, applications, plats, zoning petitions, receiving reports and other items.

**CONFEREES:**

- Jim Reardon, February 5, 2025
- Hannes Zacharias, February 5, 2025
- Councilwoman Karen Hiller, February 19, 2025
- Councilman Spencer Duncan, February 19, 2025
- City Manager Dr. Robert Perez, March 5, 2025
- Mayor Michael Padilla, March 5, 2025
- Director Monique Glaude, March 5, 2025
- Juliet Abdel, Topeka Chamber of Commerce President, March 26, 2025
- Topeka JUMP, Sarah Balzer and Melodene Byrd, March 26, 2025
- Councilman Marcus Miller, April 9, 2025

- League of Women Voters, Vickie Arnett and Dr. Glenda Overstreet-Vaughn, April 9, 2025

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Deborah Dawkins, Written, March 17, 2025
- Joseph Ledbetter, Written, March 25, 2025

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Committee

recommends that the Governing Body take the following action(s):

- **Form of Government: No action.** This Committee found no strong evidence and very little support for changing the Council-Manager form of government. In fact, many strongly supported this form. The Committee had lengthy discussion around the topic of the council-manager form of government beyond what was presented in the form of conferees and public comment. Each time, it was found that the current form of government satisfies the need to have an efficient and effective method of running the business of the city while still having accountability to the public. A City Manager creates stability in the operations of the city, both as it relates to city employees as well as to the public. The City Manager still answers to the Governing Body and can be removed by the Governing Body if necessary. Currently, any issues with the management of the city are taken up with the City Manager and their staff. The Strong Mayor form of government creates more responsibility and burden on the mayoral office but can remove stability as the office is susceptible to change at least every four years.

**TO: Members of the Citizens Government Review Committee**  
**FROM: Zac Surritt**  
**RE: Third Draft Issue Paper – Elections, Terms, and Representation**  
**DATE: May 21, 2025**

**ISSUE:** The elections of Topeka's municipal government, terms, and representation.

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT:** The City of Topeka's Charter lays out the form of government the city will operate under, what positions and how many are elected, when, how, and for how long those local representatives are elected, and how the redistricting process occurs. Currently, the City of Topeka operates under a council-manager form of government with the governing body made up of nine council people, each elected to represent one of nine geographic districts all made up of relatively the same number of constituents, and one Mayor, who is elected by the voters of Topeka at-large. All governing body members are nonpartisan and elected to four-year terms with no term limits. Topeka elections for its governing body are held in odd-numbered years and staggered so that not all members are being elected at once. All even-numbered districts are elected one year, and all odd-numbered districts and the mayor are elected two years later. It is required by state statute that municipal elections occur on the same schedule as all other elections in the State of Kansas, meaning that primary elections occur in August and general elections occur in November. Primary elections are only held for offices where there are four or more candidates on the ballot by the filing deadline. If three or less candidates are on the ballot, no primary election is held, and that office is decided by the voters in the November election. Every ten years after the official United States Census report, a redistricting commission is formed by the City of Topeka to review the City Council district boundary lines and recommend any necessary changes to ensure that all nine districts are roughly even in population. That redistricting commission is made up of nine Topeka voters, each representing a Council district and appointed by the Council member of each district.

**CONFEREES:**

- Jim Reardon, February 5, 2025
- Hannes Zacharias, February 5, 2025
- Councilwoman Karen Hiller, February 19, 2025
- Councilman Spencer Duncan, February 19, 2025
- City Manager Dr. Robert Perez, March 5, 2025
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**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Deborah Dawkins, Written, March 17, 2025
- Joseph Ledbetter, Written, March 25, 2025

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Committee recommends that the Governing Body take the following action(s):

- **Number of Council members: No action.** This Committee heard that nine Council members works well, allowing more members to sit on each committee and be at the same place without concern for the Kansas Open Meetings Act. It also makes the City Council more representative of citizens as a whole.
- **Elections and Terms: No action.** There is strong support for staggered elections so experience and institutional knowledge is retained while allowing new members time to fully understand their responsibilities. Four-year terms were also supported and have become more and more common in cities similar to Topeka. Four years was determined to be enough time for any new governing body member to spend time getting to know the city better and their responsibilities without needing to worry about another election for a reasonable amount of time. There was no strong stance on term limits from conferees or the

public. Some cities have opted to enact term limits on their Mayor and Council members where there is a limit of serving two or three terms depending on the city. The Committee discussed the item of term limits for Governing Body members with consideration of what was presented to the Committee as well as research that had been conducted into the structure of other cities similar to Topeka. It is an item that may be considered in the future, but no action is being recommended at this time.

- **Redistricting: Take action.** The Committee recommends that the Governing Body amend the structure and considerations of the redistricting commission, so the council members are not the only ones appointing commission members while then having their own addresses considered when the commission makes any potential changes to district boundary lines. The Committee recommends that the commission still be made up of nine members appointed by the governing body to represent each district, but with the addition of an additional tenth member who is appointed by the Administrative Judge of the Topeka Municipal Court who shall serve as Chair of the commission. The Committee also recommends that it is written in the charter that when the redistricting commission makes its own recommendation to the Governing Body, the new boundary lines are not made with the consideration of incumbent council members' home addresses.



**FINAL REPORT FOR COMMITTEE ADOPTION**

**ISSUE: Appointment of a City Auditor**

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT:**

- 1. The purpose of a city auditor is to collaborate with the Governing Body and City Manager to elevate trust in government by providing objective, independent assurance and advisory services.**
- 2. A city auditor would conduct performance audits to provide objective analysis to assist the Governing Body and City Manager to:**
  - a. Improve the performance of city programs and services**
  - b. Reduce costs**
  - c. Facilitate decision-makers in taking corrective actions**
  - d. Contribute to public accountability**
- 3. A city auditor would also conduct financial audits to provide an independent assessment of the city's financial condition, its use of resources and other financial information.**
- 4. Topeka is the largest city in Kansas without a city auditor.**

**CONFEREES: Dr. Perez (memo) (4.18.25); Hannes Zacharias (Kaup memo) (5.7.25); Topeka JUMP (memo) (5.21.25); Doug Jones (5.21.25)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT: Leo Hafner (4.23.25); Monica Hill (4.23.25)**

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:** At the April 23, 2025 meeting the Committee agreed with the proposed recommendation but noted that the City's fiscal condition might necessitate a delay in creating the office of city auditor.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. Amend the Charter to create the office of City Auditor. The Auditor would be appointed by the City Council, and serve at the pleasure of the City Council. An Audit Committee of the Council would provide direction to the City Auditor.**
- 2. The City Auditor would perform both performance audits and financial audits.**
- 3. Among the duties of the City Auditor would be to:**
  - a. Ensure that studies and reports produced by the City and its consultants have their Governing Body-adopted objectives and timelines complied with.**
  - b. Provide analysis and recommendations that will help the Governing Body assure the public that potentially controversial actions have been thoroughly, objectively and independently vetted.**
  - c. Handle internal whistleblower reports.**
  - d. Advise the City on risk management, including employee discrimination claims, self-insurance levels and commercial coverages.**
  - e. Conduct performance audits of programs and services.**
  - f. Conduct financial audits of programs and services.**
  - g. Advise the Governing Body and City Manager on the use of outside consultants and other providers of services.**

## **FINAL REPORT FOR COMMITTEE ADOPTION**

### **ISSUE: Interlocal Cooperation**

#### **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT:**

- 1. Kansas law gives local governments a broad, liberal grant of authority to enter into interlocal agreements, encouraging efficiency and economy in government. This benefits taxpayers while still protecting public health, safety and welfare.**
- 2. Under the Kansas Interlocal Cooperation Act (K.S.A. 12-3901, et seq.) if each participating unit of government has the power to do something separately, then they may do so jointly via an interlocal agreement, e.g. law enforcement, distribution of water.**
- 3. Topeka and Shawnee County have a history of some successful joint undertakings, including:**
  - a. Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library**
  - b. JEDO**
  - c. Gage Park Improvement Authority**
  - d. Metro Topeka Airport Authority**
- 4. Agreements between Topeka and other cities, Shawnee County, townships, USDs and Rural Water Districts are all possible.**
- 5. While Topeka has had experience with interlocal agreements there are additional areas of governance which the City should identify and then perform an analysis as to whether Topekans would benefit from new arrangements/agreements. These include:**
  - a. Housing for the unsheltered**
  - b. Public health/Mental health**
  - c. Law enforcement**
  - d. Firefighting**
  - e. Emergency services**
  - f. Solid waste collection and recycling**

- 6. While the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council exists to facilitate the exchange of information among participating entities, its membership and mission may be too limited to serve as the vehicle for facilitating interlocal agreements.**

**CONFEREES: Councilmember Duncan (2/19/25)**

**League of Women Voters (4/9/25)**

**Jim Reardon (2/5/25)**

**City Manager Dr. Robert Perez (3/5/25)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None.**

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION: The Committee reviewed the first draft of this issue paper on 4/23/25. The Committee did not want the original proposal that recommendations either be adopted or rejected by the Governing Body within a fixed period of time following their presentation to the Governing Body.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. The Governing Body and the BOCC hold joint meetings at least every two months, to consider matters of mutual concern, including the review of existing interlocal agreements and how they are serving the public.**
- 2. The Governing Body direct the City Manager, City Auditor or City Attorney to research the Secretary of State's records of agreements, filed per the Interlocal Cooperation Act, to identify those pertaining to programs and services which the City has not previously considered providing via interlocal agreements.**
- 3. The Governing Body, working with the BOCC, create a joint City-County body, similar to JEDO, to identify areas where cooperation can result in efficiencies and economies and**

**maintain, or enhance, public health, safety and welfare. That body would make recommendations to the Governing Body and the BOCC for those matters of highest priority, with timelines for the necessary actions to reach desired outcomes. Interlocal agreements would be used to provide a degree of certainty, and longevity, to any agreed-to cooperative measures. To help ensure that the recommended actions of the body are given proper consideration, annual reports on the status of interlocal agreements would be given to the Governing Body by the City Manager or City Auditor.**

## **FINAL REPORT FOR COMMITTEE ADOPTION**

**ISSUE: Citizens Government Review Committee**

### **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT:**

**Amendments to the Charter provisions for the Citizens Government Review Committee could be beneficial to the mission of the Committee—to examine the structure of City government for possible modifications.**

**CONFEREES: None**

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION: On April 23 the Committee discussed the proposed issue paper.**

- 1. Timing of Committees. The initial proposal was to shorten the period between Committees from 10 to five years. The thinking was that events can occur rapidly, and five years would allow the Committees to be more responsive to changes, or the need for changes. Also, five years could make it easier to follow-up on the recommendations made by a previous Committee. Following comments by the City Clerk a majority of the Committee chose to stay with the current 10 year provision.**
- 2. Number of Committee members. The initial proposal was to increase the size of the Committee from five, plus an alternate, to 10. Further, that some of the membership would be representatives of civic organizations, such as the League of**

**Women Voters and the Citizens Advisory Council, in order to better achieve public engagement. Following discussion the Committee reached a consensus to have 10 members, one residing in each council district, chosen by the councilmember for each district, with the 10<sup>th</sup> member appointed by the mayor. The Committee thought this approach would provide more visibility for the public and more of a sense of ownership by the City Council and Mayor.**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1. Committee Membership. The Committee recommends that the Charter be amended to provide that the Citizens Government Review Committee be comprised of 10 members, one member from each council district, who resides in the district and is appointed by the councilmember for that district. The 10<sup>th</sup> member would be appointed by the mayor.**