CITY OF CASA GRANDE
STRONGER UNITED

Casa Grande City Charter Review Committee
Meets: Thursday, August 20, 2026 - 3:30 PM
510 E Florence Blvd -
Casa Grande, Arizona

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Minutes

C.1 Consider the Minutes of the Charter Review Committee Meeting of August 12, 2026.

D. Call to the Public

E. New Business

E.1 Review of the Casa Grande City Charter and Discuss Potential Amendments.

F. Reports and Updates by Staff

F.1 None.

G. Reports by Commission Members

H. Adjournment

Note: This meeting is open to the public. All interested people are welcome to attend. In order to allow participants to arrive, settle in, and prepare for the meeting without any last-minute delays, the doors to the meeting location will be open no later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled meeting time. Supporting documents and staff reports, which were furnished to the City Charter Review Committee with this Agenda, are available for review in the City Clerk's Office or online at www.casagrandeaz.gov.

Disabled individuals with special accessibility needs may contact ADA Coordinator for the City of Casa Grande at 520-421-8600 or TDD 520-421-8623. If possible, such requests should be made 72 hours in advance.

Posted on August 19, 2026 at 12:00p.m. at the below locations:

City Hall 510 E. Florence Blvd. Casa Grande, Arizona	Communications Center 520 N. Marshall Casa Grande, Arizona	City Website www.casagrandeaz.gov

Adriana Carpio-Solis, CMC
City Clerk

City Charter Review Committee Regular Meeting - Includes Actions Taken **C.1**

Meeting Date: 8/20/2026

Recommended By:

Prepared By:

Date Submitted:

Type of Action Requested:

Subject:

Consider the Minutes of the Charter Review Committee Meeting of August 12, 2026.

Presenter:

Recommendation:

Discussion:

Alternatives:

Attachments:

1. 08.12.2026 Charter Amendment Committee Mtg Notes

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT COMMITTEE

MEETS: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026 AT 3:30 P.M.

CITY MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM, 510 E. FLORENCE BLVD.

CASA GRANDE, ARIZONA

A. Call to Order
   Robert Aldous called the meeting to order at 3:33pm
B. Roll Call
   Quorum Present
C. The Committee shall elect a Committee Chair and Vice Chair
   Committee elects Richard Rosales, Chair and Randy Robbins, Vice Chair
D. Call to the Public
   Held
E. New Business

1. Report from staff to provide background and recommend a review process. For Discussion Only.

Presentation given.

2. Review of the Casa Grande City Charter

Staff and committee reviewed the Casa Grande City Charter by article and section. Articles and sections not indicated below were reviewed by the committee with no comments or suggestions made.

Article 1, Section 3

Subsection 9

Committee recommends changing “comprehensive plan” to “general plan” and agreed to park for further discussion.

Subsection 4

Comments made by Member Melissa Yost regarding whether the City can “clean and lien” properties and whether this process can be brought back.

Staff Robert Aldous to make note.

Subsection 8

Committee discussed amending the language to replace “may” with “shall,” so the provision reads “shall require.” Committee Member Michele Emig suggested ending the sentence after “building structure” and removing “other than” to provide greater clarity.

Article 2, Section 3

Committee member Melissa Yost raised concern that independent voters may not automatically receive a ballot for the City’s election when it occurs during a primary. Noted that voters must request a ballot and questioned how many voters are aware of this requirement. Committee member Mike Cruz explained that independent/non-affiliated voters must request either a Democratic or Republican ballot through the County Recorder’s Office. Discussed the logistical and cost considerations for the County in administering nonpartisan races during a primary election. Deputy City Manager Steven weaver noted that the City does not control the process because it is governed by state law. Suggested that the issue may warrant discussion with state officials. Staff suggested that, at minimum, the City could conduct outreach to ensure independent voters understand that they may need to request a ballot. Committee members discussed whether the County has the ability to issue ballots tailored to include nonpartisan races. The group ultimately agreed to “parking lot” the issue for future research and discussion.

Article 2, Section 4

Committee member Mike Cruz supported changing the Mayor’s term from two years to four years to align with the City Council’s terms, citing continuity and consistency in leadership. Deputy City Manager Steven Weaver supported the change, noting that two-year terms can result in elected officials spending significant time preparing for the next election rather than focusing on City business.

Committee member Ralph Varela supported a four-year Mayoral term, noting the amount of time required for a Mayor to learn the role, fulfill additional responsibilities, build relationships, and prepare for increasingly expensive elections.
Committee member Michele Emig supported a four-year term, noting that a longer term would provide greater opportunity to build relationships and influence at the state level.
Chairman Richard Rosales suggested changing the 4 consecutive terms to two to make it 8 years total. 2 4-year terms. Committee members agreed.

Article 2, Section 5

Staff introduced the existing Council Member term limit provisions and asked whether any changes were desired.
Committee member Mike Cruz provided historical context, noting that the current term limits were intended to encourage new candidates and provide an opportunity for new leadership, particularly in response to concerns about incumbents serving for 20+ years. This was one of the changes approved during the previous Charter process.

Article 2, Section 6

Committee member Mike Cruz raised concerns about removing the existing two-year restriction and whether doing so could provide too much flexibility in negotiating City Manager compensation or employment arrangements. Referenced concerns about compensation arrangements in other communities and the need to establish appropriate boundaries for the City.

Staff Robert Aldous clarified that the proposed change primarily concerns the removal provision and providing greater flexibility regarding the City Manager's employment contract.

Article 2, Section 8

Deputy City Manager Steven Weaver suggested considering changing the title "Mayor Pro Tem" to "Vice Mayor" to align with terminology used by most other cities. The proposed terminology change was parked for future discussion.

Article 2, Section 12

The committee discussed whether the Charter should address broader attendance requirements and excused absences, including a possible annual limit on absences. The item was parked for further consideration.

Article 2, Section 14

Committee discussed updating the Charter language regarding the frequency and scheduling of Council meetings to allow greater flexibility while remaining consistent with state law. The item was parked for further discussion.

Article 3, Section 1

The committee discussed the 24-month cap on City Manager contracts, including whether it creates a recruitment obstacle and limits flexibility. The group noted that removing the 24-month limitation had previously been recommended and discussed the potential benefits of allowing longer or more flexible contract terms. The item was parked for further discussion.

Article 3, Section 6

The committee discussed whether City Manager severance and removal provisions should remain in the Charter or instead be addressed through the employment contract, noting that removing them from the Charter could provide greater flexibility for recruitment and negotiations. The committee also identified potential inconsistencies in the voting requirements for removal and agreed to further review the provisions. The item was parked for further discussion.

Article 4, Section 2 and Section 3

The committee discussed updating the appointment provisions to give the City Manager greater flexibility in hiring certain positions without requiring Council confirmation. They also discussed replacing the outdated "City Treasurer" reference with "Finance Director" and using more general terminology in the Charter to allow for future changes in organizational structure and position titles. The item was parked for further discussion.

Article 4, Section 6

The committee discussed merit and the three positions of City Manager, City Attorney, and City Judge, noting that the City Manager and City Attorney do not align exactly with the City Judge's appointment and contract structure, with the committee indicating the matter should be parked for further discussion.

Article 6, Section 3

The committee discussed a need to research comparable municipalities and review the Charter to determine whether "Claims Against the City" should be clarified or renamed so the public does not interpret routine payment items as liability or injury claims.

Article 6, Section 6

The committee discussed updating the policy language to reflect current practice by changing the required quarterly audit to an annual audit. The change was recommended because annual audits are now the City's standard practice and would better align the policy with common practices. There was also discussion about removing or revising certain wording and whether annual audits are standard among other cities or if some conduct them every two years.

Article 7, Section 5

The committee discussed the $50,000 spending limit and considered removing the specific $50,000 cap and instead referring to an amount established by Council and City Code, allowing Council to adjust the limit over time as needed. There was general agreement that $50,000 may no longer be sufficient. The group also discussed removing references to fire zones, since the City no longer has any, and agreed that the related subsection could be removed.

Article 8, Section 6

The committee discussed the City's ordinance approval process and whether it could be streamlined. The current process requires two readings before an ordinance can move forward, followed by a 30-day period. Staff noted that they could not identify another Arizona city using the same two-reading process, with most using one reading followed by a 30-day period. The group discussed whether moving to a one-reading process would make the City's process more consistent with other municipalities and reduce delays, particularly for larger projects and contracts. They also discussed the existing practice of placing unanimously approved ordinances on the consent agenda for the second reading.

Article 8, Section 10

The committee discussed the City's newspaper publication requirements for ordinances and public notices. Committee member Melissa Yost was concerned about what happens if a local newspaper is no longer available. Staff noted that recent state legislation has made newspaper publication optional for cities in certain circumstances, while still recognizing it as a useful way to reach residents. The group discussed whether the City's requirements should be updated to allow for publication on the City's website or through another form of public notice, particularly given the cost of newspaper publication and the declining use of traditional newspapers. They also noted that other cities have already moved toward alternative forms of publication. To be parked for further discussion.

Article 10, Section 1

Committee Member Mike Cruz raised concerns on whether the City Charter could limit participation in local initiatives and referendums by non-city residents or outside organizations. The concern was that outside political groups could influence local petitions or referendums, particularly on major development and economic development projects, potentially interfering with decisions supported by City residents and Council.

Staff indicated that state law may limit the City's ability to make changes, but agreed to research whether the Charter provides any authority to restrict participation by non-residents or outside groups. The committee generally supported looking into the issue, particularly to determine whether the City could distinguish between local residents exercising their rights and outside organizations organizing or funding local petition efforts.

F. Adjournment

Chairman Richard Rosales adjourned the meeting at 5:01pm

City Charter Review Committee Regular Meeting - Includes Actions Taken **E.1**

Meeting Date: 8/20/2026

Recommended By:

Prepared By:

Date Submitted:

Type of Action Requested: Boards & Commissions

Approved By:

Subject:
Review of the Casa Grande City Charter and Discuss Potential Amendments.

Resolution/Ordinance Number:

Presenter:

Recommendation:

Discussion:

Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives:

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Attachments:

None