

CITY CHARTER COMMUNITY MEETING

CITY OF ST. GEORGE



AGENDA

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02 / CONTEXT SETTING

03 / CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

04 / COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

05 / STAY ENGAGED

WELCOME



CHARTER COMMISSION

Who We Are

The Charter Commission is an appointed group of citizens in St. George who are tasked with developing the St. George Home Rule Charter.

Members of the St. George Charter Commission are:

- Business leaders
- City councilmembers
- Community leaders
- Educators
- Government experts
- Non-profit leaders

What We Do

The Charter Commission will meet regularly this fall to:

- Discuss and decide the content of the home rule charter
- Review other/best practices from around the U.S.
- Seek input from citizens on key elements to include in the charter
- Draft and approve a Home Rule Charter for St. George for the City Council's review/approval and a vote of the residents of St. George



CITY CHARTER COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ryan Heck, Chair

Erin Monroe

Patty Cook, Vice-Chair

Andrew Murrell

Norman Browning

Rubin Patel

Jason DeCuir

Kimberly Plant

Josh Hoffpauir

Gerry Tarleton

Chris Meyer



ACTION	2024 - 2025							
	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.
City Charter Commission Meeting 1								
Community Meeting 1								
City Charter Commission Meeting 2								
City Charter Commission Meeting 3								
Community Meeting 2								
Draft Charter								
City Charter Commission Meeting 4								
Introduce Charter to City Council								
City Council Vote								
Application to Bond Commission								
Bond Commission Meeting								
Deadline to submit for March 29, 2025, ballot								
Election								

CONTEXT SETTING



LAWRASON ACT: WHERE WE ARE TODAY

- Default government for incorporated municipalities in Louisiana
 - Creates a Mayor-Alderman form of government
 - Required Positions:
 - Mayor
 - Board of Alderman
 - Chief of Police
 - Clerk / Tax Collector
- Primarily utilized by municipalities and parishes with small populations
- Louisiana law allows for Home Rule Charters to establish local plans of government



WHAT IS A HOME RULE CHARTER?

Allows municipalities to create their own government that works for them

Outlines the duties and powers of the mayor, city council, and city staff

Outlines the form of government the city will choose

Enables cities to formalize key principles on which they were founded



FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

Mayor-Council

In a mayor-council, the mayor holds authority to veto council actions, appoint city department heads, and create a budget.

Council-Manager

City Council holds the power and will hire a manager to oversee the public and carry out the council's policies.

Commission

Individually elected officials serve on a small governing board that exercises legislative and executive powers.

COUNCIL- MANAGER



HOW DOES IT WORK?

City Council

Council members are elected by the public and serve as the city's governing body (elected by district and/or at-large citywide). The council sets policy, goals and priorities, and hires a city manager to carry out its vision.

Mayor

The mayor is elected by all residents and often serves as a member of the council, and in many cases as the leader presiding over council business. The mayor is the official representative of the city to outside parties. The exact role of the mayor is determined by the charter.

City Manager

The city manager is an expert hired by the city council to serve as the chief executive of the city government and oversee all day-to-day operations. The city manager reports to the city council and is accountable to goals and policies the council sets.

WHAT IS A CITY MANAGER?

- Chief administrative officer for the city
- Hired by and reports to the City Council
- Oversees city operations, full-time/part-time staff, and city contractors working to meet resident needs
- **NOT** a member of city council, he or she is a **hired** professional



EXAMPLES

City	Year Charter Approved or Incorporated	Population Size	Form of Government	Size of Council	City Manager Duties
College Station, TX	Charter approved 1952; updated in 2021	124,319	Council-Manager	6 at-large members, and the mayor	Responsible for performing all duties listed by the charter or required by the City
Sandy Springs, GA	Charter approved 2005; updated 2011	107,763	Council-Manager	6 district members, and the mayor	Responsible to the mayor and city council for the proper and efficient administration of city affairs
Cedar Rapids, IA	City incorporated in 1849; Charter approved in 2005	136,429	Council-Manager	5 district members, 3 at-large members and the mayor	Serves the council and the community and brings to the local government the benefits of his/her training and experience in administering municipal projects and programs.

KEY DECISION POINTS

Strong mayor vs.
council-manager

Process for electing
a mayor

Process/structure
for city
management

Term limits

Compensation

Other positions
named in the
charter

Actions requiring an
ordinance

Process/thresholds
for making charter
changes

Total council
districts

Council at-large
seats

What else do you expect may require the commission's attention?

COMMENTS & QUESTIONS



STAY ENGAGED

Share your thoughts...

Email

Contact city leadership at
lorraine.beaman@stgeorgela.gov

Comment Cards

Comment cards are available tonight for you to leave your thoughts.

In-Person

Commission members are in the room tonight to take your questions, ideas, and feedback. All commission meetings are also open to the public and reserve time for public comment.

Upcoming Commission Meetings

- Commission Meeting 2 – Sept. 11, 2024 | 5:30 P.M.
- Commission Meeting 3 – Sept. 25, 2024 | 5:30 P.M.
- Community Meeting 2 – Oct. 1, 2024 | 5:30 P.M.
- Commission Meeting 4 – Oct. 16, 2024 | 5:30 P.M.



THANK YOU

