

Summary of City Board of Aldermen Positions Currently and as Proposed in Charter

4 th Class City	Proposed Charter
Aldermen	City Council member
2 year term	3 year term
Power vested in Mayor & Board of Aldermen	Power vested in City Council
Quorum of 5, not counting the Mayor	Quorum of 5, counting the Mayor
Vote on all matters before the Board	SAME
Roll call vote as name is called by the Mayor	Roll call vote as name is randomly called by City Clerk
President of the Board nominated by Mayor . The President of the Board or Mayor pro tem retains Aldermen vote and also has mayor voting authority in case of a tie.	Mayor Pro Tem selected by Council (only has one vote and no veto power)
Meeting procedures adopted by ordinance	Meeting procedures will continue to apply. Voting procedure will change in that the Mayor position voting only in the case of a tie is no longer applicable.
Provide advice and consent for appointments and removals of offices and such as city employment positions such as city administrator, treasurer, attorney, prosecutor, municipal judge, night watchman, street commissioner and such other officers may be authorized by ordinance to appoint.	Appoint City Attorney, City Prosecutor and City Manager positions. Advice and consent on appointment of Municipal Judge. All other positions are hired by the City Manager and designees with the distinction that the City Clerk is appointed by the City Manager with the advice and consent of the City Council.
Provide advise and consent for appointments to citizen board and commissions	SAME
	Consent to agenda items assigned to a council committee by the Mayor
5 of 8 Aldermen required to vote in the affirmative to pass an ordinance	5 of 9 Council members (which includes Mayor position by definition) to pass an ordinance.
Override Veto with two-thirds vote of the Board of Aldermen, or 6 votes	Override Veto with two-thirds vote of the entire City Council, including the Mayor, or 6 votes.

CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BELTON, MISSOURI EXPLANATORY NOTES

These explanatory notes are provided by the Belton Charter Commission as an introduction to, and summary of, the Charter. However, these notes are not part of the official text of the Charter.

This constitutional home rule Charter is the fundamental legal document of our city. It provides for the form and structure of the city's government, defines and limits the powers of the city officials and employees, and establishes the basic procedures for conducting city business. Under its former statutory form of government, Belton could use only those powers expressly granted under the Missouri Constitution and state law. In contrast, under this home rule Charter, the voters of Belton and the City Council can approve any legislative enactment not specifically prohibited by the Missouri Constitution, state law or the Charter.

FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The City Council, elected by the citizens, performs the legislative duties of the city. The Mayor, elected by the citizens, is a voting member of the City Council and retains the veto power. The Mayor shall be recognized as the head of the city for all legal and ceremonial purposes. The Mayor and Council set forth the policies of the city which will be implemented by a professional City Manager who will carry out day-to-day administrative duties for the city. All city elections will be non-partisan.

WARDS

In a name change only, Aldermen Wards become City Council Wards. Belton will continue to be divided into four City Council wards, identical to those that existed at the time of adoption of this Charter, and shall contain, as nearly as possible, an equal number of inhabitants.

THE COUNCIL

The former Board of Aldermen is now the City Council and Aldermen are now City Council Members. The City Council shall consist of nine

members, one of whom shall be the Mayor, elected by qualified voters. Two City Council Members are elected from each of the four wards for staggered three year terms (formerly two year terms). A City Council Member shall have been a resident of the city for two years prior to his or her election, a qualified voter, and shall remain so for the term of office, and a resident of his or her ward for six months prior to his or her election.

THE MAYOR

The Mayor continues to be elected at large, but for a term of four years (formerly two years). The Mayor must have been a resident of the city for two years prior to his or her election, a qualified voter, and shall remain so for the term of office. The Mayor shall be a voting member of the City Council and shall attend and preside at meetings of the City council, may veto ordinances, shall appoint with the advice and consent of the City Council members and officers of various boards, commissions and committees, and other duties specified by the City Council. The Mayor shall be recognized as head of the City government for all legal and ceremonial purposes.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager is appointed by a majority of the entire City Council to serve for an indefinite term and may be removed on recommendation of the Mayor with the consent of a majority of the entire City Council, or by a two-thirds vote of the entire City Council on its own initiative. The City Manager is the chief executive officer of the City and responsible to the City Council for the day-to-day administration of all city affairs.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

All existing departments, agencies, authorities and offices shall be continued under this Charter. The City Attorney is appointed by a majority of the entire City Council. The City Clerk is appointed by the City Manager with the advice and consent of a majority of the City Council.

CHIEF OF POLICE

The Charter provides that the Chief of Police shall continue to be an elected position for a term of four years. The Chief of Police must have been a resident of the city for two year prior to his or her election, a qualified voter, and shall remain so for the term of office. In addition, the Charter sets forth qualifications for the position of Chief of Police. The Chief of Police is responsible for the enforcement and maintenance of law and order and will direct and supervise the police department.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

The Parks and Recreation Board continues as an administrative board with the primary responsibility for the care, custody and control of the city parks and city park funds. However, to provide greater accountability to the citizens, the Charter has provided a procedure through which decisions of the Parks and Recreation Board may be appealed to, and reviewed by, the City Council. The Parks and Recreation Board shall emulate city policies and procedures.

MUNICIPAL COURT

The Charter provides for a Municipal Court (additional divisions of the Belton Municipal Court may be added when necessary) and the judiciary shall continue to be appointed by the Mayor, with the advice and consent of a majority of the entire City Council, for a term of four years (formerly two years). Judges shall, among other qualifications, be licensed members of the Missouri Bar, residents of the State of Missouri for one year prior to the appointment and be at least twenty-one (21) year of age and less than seventy-five (75) years of age. The City Council shall provide personnel to manage and perform the day-to-day operations of the Municipal Court.

FINANCE

The Charter provides that the City Council shall adopt an annual balanced budget for the city government. The city budget process also includes the annual preparation, submission and approval of a five-year capital program.

INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND RECALL

Giving voters more control over their elected officials, the Charter includes new powers called initiative, referendum and recall.

Initiative allows the qualified voters of the city to propose ordinances to the City Council. An initiative petition signed by ten percent (10%) of the total number of qualified voters registered to vote at the last regular city election will place the question on the ballot in the next city election.

Referendum allows the qualified voters of the city to require reconsideration by the City Council of any adopted ordinance. A referendum petition signed by ten percent (10%) of the total number of qualified voters registered to vote at the last regular city election will place the question on the ballot in the next city election for which timely notice may be given.

Recall allows the qualified voters to remove either a popularly elected or appointed official before his or her term has expired. A recall petition must be signed by qualified voters representing at least thirty percent (30%) of the total number of votes originally cast in the election of the official subject to the recall and will place the question on the ballot in the next city election for which timely notice may be given. A recall petition shall contain a general statement of the reason(s) for the recall.

PERSONAL FINANCIAL INTEREST

The Charter requires that city officials, elected or appointed, who may have a direct or indirect financial interest in any contract or transaction of the city disclose that interest and refrain from voting on, or participating in, the contract or transaction.

CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Charter may be formed and submitted to the voters by using the same constitutional process provided for the development of a complete charter. In addition, amendments may be proposed by the Council, by a Charter Review Commission, or by the voters

through petitions. From time to time, but not less often than every ten years, the City Council must appoint a Charter Review Commission.

TRANSITION

The Charter allows prior city policies and practices which are not inconsistent with Charter provisions to carry forward, including the personnel system, tax structures, ordinances, contracts, and other matters relative to the daily operations of the city.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

At the first meeting of the City Council after the election adopting the Charter, the Charter becomes effective and begins serving as the legal framework for the operation of city government. To make the transition, the following will occur: officials elected prior to April 7, 2009 will continue in office until the expiration of their terms; City Council Members elected in April, 2009, will serve three year terms; The Mayor and Chief of Police elected in April, 2009, shall serve a four year term.

CONCLUSION

One overriding concern continuously expressed by the Charter Commission in the drafting of this Charter was to ensure, as comprehensively as is possible in a single written document, that the City of Belton will have effective and efficient government responsive to the needs and wishes of the citizens of this community. The Charter Commission believes this Charter is a major step toward achieving that objective.