



Agenda

**AMENDED - Regular Meeting of
the Charter Review Commission
April 30, 2026 at 5:00 PM
Council Chambers, City Hall
200 Lincoln Avenue**

Procedures for Charter Review Commission Meeting

Viewing: *If the relevant technology is available to record the meeting in City Hall,* members of the public may stream the meeting live on the [City of Santa Fe's YouTube channel](#). The YouTube live stream can be accessed from most smartphones, tablets, or computers.

The video recording, *if created*, of this and all past meetings of the Governing Body will also remain available for viewing at any time on the [City's YouTube channel](#). Staff is available to help members of the public access pre-recorded Governing Body meetings online at any time during normal business hours. Please call 955-6521 for assistance.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Request for Approval of the April 13, 2026 Charter Review Commission Meeting Minutes. (Xavier Vigil, Assistant City Clerk; xivigil@santafenm.gov)
5. Presentations
6. Discussion and Possible Action Items
 - a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
 - b. Public Input Session Planning
 - c. Formation of Possible Subcommittees
 - d. Review of Current Charter for Reference.
 - e. Review and Discussion of the Charter Review Commission's Previous Recommendations.
7. Matters from Staff

8. Matters from the Committee
9. Matters from the Chair
10. Next Meeting: May 28, 2026
11. Adjourn

Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations, contact the City Clerk's office at 955-6521, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.



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**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
APRIL 30, 2026, 5:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 200 LINCOLN AVENUE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Charter Review Commission was called to order on April 30, 2026, at 5:05 pm, by Xavier Vigil, in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Brandon Vella
Commissioner Maria Perez
Commissioner Kendal Chavez, arrived later in the meeting
Commissioner Pamela Ray, virtually
Commissioner Renee Villarreal
Commissioner John Paul Granillo
Commissioner Roberta Duran
Commissioner Rod Gould
Commissioner Lillie Mae Ortiz

OTHERS PRESENT

Xavier Vigil, Assistant City Clerk
Geraldyn Cardenas, City Clerk
Marci Eannarino, Legislative Policy and Innovation Manager
Sarah Piltch, City Attorney's Office
Christine Spiers, Legislative Coordinator
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Villarreal asked to re-order the items under item 6 as follows:
a, d, e, c and b

MOTION A motion was made by Commissioner Villarreal, seconded by Commissioner Villa, to approve the agenda as amended.

VOTE The motion passed on a voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 13, 2026 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MOTION A motion was made by Commissioner Granillo, seconded by Commissioner Gould, to approve the minutes as presented.

VOTE The motion passed on a voice vote.

5. PRESENTATIONS

None.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

NOMINATIONS Nominations were made for Chair as follows:

Commissioner Perez nominated Commissioner Ortiz as Chair.

Commissioner Vella self nominated for Chair.

Commissioners Ortiz and Vella gave their background and experience and why they wanted to serve as Chair.

VOTE Commissioner Ortiz was elected as Chair of the Charter Review Commission with the following roll call vote:

Commissioner Gould, Commissioner Ortiz; Commissioner Duran, Commissioner Ortiz, Commissioner Villarreal, Commissioner Ortiz; Commissioner Ray, Commissioner Ortiz; Commissioner Ortiz, Commissioner Ortiz; Commissioner Chavez, Commissioner Ortiz; Commissioner Granillo, Commissioner Vella; Commissioner Vella, Commissioner Vella.

NOMINATIONS Nominations were made for Vice Chair as follows:

Commissioner Gould nominated Commissioner Vella as Vice Chair.

Commissioner Duran nominated Commissioner Perez as Vice Chair

Commissioners Vella and Perez gave their reasons for wanting to serve as Vice Chair.

VOTE Commissioner Perez was elected as Vice Chair of the Charter Review Commission with the following roll call vote:

Commissioner Gould, Commissioner Vella; Commissioner Duran, Commissioner Perez; Commissioner Villarreal, Commissioner Perez; Commissioner Ray, Commissioner Perez; Commissioner Perez, Commissioner Perez; Commissioner Ortiz, Commissioner Perez; Commissioner Chavez, Commissioner Perez; Commissioner Granillo, Commissioner Perez; Commissioner Vella, Commissioner Vella.

D. REVIEW OF THE CURRENT CHARTER

Ms. Eannarino reviewed the documents provided in the packet regarding the previous recommendations.

Commissioner Perez said the version of the Charter on the website is not the newest version.

Mr. Vigil said the version in your packet and on Civic Clerk is the newest version.

There was discussion around the intent of the Governing Body for this Charter Commission and the Resolution that states that other matters may be considered.

It was clarified that the intent of the Governing Body was for this Charter Commission to focus on separation of powers, but the Commission can also consider other additional matters.

Chair Ortiz stated that the Commission can bring up whatever we feel as we move forward.

There was discussion around term limits and who the City Attorney, City Clerk and City manager work for.

Chair Ortiz said as we get deeper, we will give guidelines to staff and the City Attorney as to issues we need answers on.

E. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSIONS PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

Chair Ortiz said the report is in the packet. Chair Ortiz reviewed the 15 recommendations made by the Charter Commission. Of those topics, 9 were sent to the Governing Body. The Governing Body recommended 6 amendments to the Charter

for the voters to consider.

Chair Ortiz reviewed a list of lessons learned including, the previous Charter Commission did not have enough time and were not set up for success; publicity is essential; there was not enough information sent out to the public, there was no budget; there needed to be more transparency; public hearings and public input were not done; much of what was provided to us was hard copy; there as no ongoing ability for the community to make comments online; we need to be efficient with the resources we have and do not have; the range of topics we considered was too wide; we needed dedicated staff to provide some of the research; the subcommittee structure and reporting back to the Commission needs to be clear; and we need to be mindful if we want to hear from the City Councilors or be independent and do our work without them. If we decided to hear from them, we need to open the door to all of them and be fair and equitable.

C. FORMATION OF POSSIBLE SUBCOMMITTEES

Commissioner Gould commented that the Commission should wait on this item until we have talked about the topics.

Chair Ortiz said she thinks that it is premature to form subcommittees no. We need to decide on topics first then form subcommittees.

Commissioner Perez said her thoughts around subcommittees are to have a research on governance subcommittee, a community action subcommittee and an outreach subcommittee.

B. PUBLIC INPUT SESSION PLANNING

There was discussion around the months to schedule hearings, scheduling regular meetings, the publicity of the events, the design of the hearings/events; having background concept information provided; capturing the information from the events; breaking into small groups during the events; the structure used by Portland; an education tout; having sessions with community groups and maybe a session at the Community College government classes.

Ms. Cardenas said the intention was not to only have constituents from that District there. It was to spread out locations. It was not to be specific to each District.

There was consensus that the events would be called Community Conversations; education and community input would be done at each Community Conversation; no Community Conversations will be scheduled in November or December; the Portland plan will be looked at; a base level of understanding will be provided for participants at the beginning so they can give input in each meeting and

make formative recommendations; and District 1 and 3 will be in the same month - District 2 and 4 will be in the same month.

Ms. Eannarino said Jerica will be in attendance at the next meeting to give input on the Community Conversation sessions.

7. MATTERS FROM STAFF

Mr. Vigil asked the Commissioners to contact him as to what they would like to see on the website. He also thanked the legislative team for providing materials for the meeting.

Chair Ortiz said her suggestion would be to put the subject matter we are discussing on the website along with a link for public comments.

Commissioner Perez suggested that short videos with educational components in English and Spanish be put on the website.

A QR code for the Charter was suggested.

8. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Commissioner Villarreal thanked staff for putting together the packet and thanked Commissioner Vella for running and putting himself out there. Congratulations to the Chair and Vice Chair.

Chair Ortiz asked for a list of the Commissioners with their contact information to be sent to each Commissioner.

Chair Ortiz said we need a time limit for meetings.

There was consensus that the meetings will be 2 hours.

The following topics were suggested for discussion at future meetings:

Strategic planning and budgeting; forms of government; revisit Councilors having to give up their seats when they run for office; aides for City Councilors; reassessing that the Mayor appoints the City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney; have the Pro Tem be elected rather than appointed; Council Committees; the Charter vs the Municipal Code and staff capacity.

9. MATTERS FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Ortiz thanked all of the Commissioners for their willingness to serve on the

Commission and all of the staff for the work they do. She would like the Commission to decide on what we want to work on and prioritize those items for staff research.

10. NEXT MEETING: MAY 28, 2026

There was consensus that future meetings will be on the 4th Thursday of the month.

11. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Commissioner Lillie Mae Ortiz, Chair

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer