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Councilman continues quest to change charter

by [Fred Afflerbach](#) | Business Writer

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Temple city councilman Tony Jeter is still pushing for change in city government ethics law.

Despite no support from fellow council members and Mayor Bill Jones III, the seven-year councilman continues his mission to prohibit elected officials and city employees from doing business with the city - directly or indirectly.

His campaign is almost two years old. He's brought up the subject in workshops and on his blog numerous times before, stating elected officials doing business with the city puts the community in a negative light, even though no laws are broken.

On Monday, he posted on his blog a revised city charter amendment that he said is ready for "prime time."

The three-paragraph proposal states no city council member or employee shall have a direct financial interest in any city contract for goods or services. This includes sub-contracts, Jeter said.

Anyone who violates the proposed charter amendment would have to forfeit his, or her, office or position.

"That's the draft I would like to see the voters approve, or disapprove," Jeter said Monday afternoon. "I put a lot of research into what a lot of communities do and gotten feedback from a number of people."

Temple voters must approve any change to the city charter. But first, the city council would have to pass a motion that calls for a public vote, or 5 percent of registered voters - about 1,720 people - would have to sign a petition.

"I think this is something the voters should have a say in. I don't think this is something the council should decide by non-action," Jeter said. "I think the voters should have the opportunity to decide this."

No other council member has publicly supported Jeter's campaign. Councilman Russell Schneider, who has landed more than \$3 million in city contracts with the city since 2005, said earlier this year he doesn't see a problem with his company, R.T. Schneider Construction, doing business with the city.

Earlier this year, Mayor Bill Jones III said "I think it's silly to prohibit a council member from doing business with the city if it's going to benefit the city."

Jones said on Monday he hasn't changed his position, and was unaware that Jeter had posted on his blog a proposed charter amendment.

"I don't read it," Jones said about the blog. "I never take anything away from a council member. They're certainly welcome to do what they think is the

right thing. Let's just see where it goes from here."

The city has a charge account with a company that Jones owns, Temple Steel.

Jeter said he is through with politics when his term expires next May. Before he leaves city council, however, he would like Temple voters to have an opportunity to approve or deny the charter amendment.

"However it goes, that would bring closure for me," Jeter said.

Tony Jeter's blog: www.tonyjeter.com/blog

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<p>SUMMARY OF PROPOSED FRANCHISE AM CONSTRUCTION</p> <p>On September 3, 2009, the City Council of the City of Temple, Texas considered on first reading an ordinance granting AM Construction a non-exclusive franchise with the City of Temple. The City Council will consider the proposed ordinance on second reading on September 17, 2009 and will conduct a public hearing on October 1, 2009 when it gives first consideration to the proposed franchise ordinance.</p> <p>PURPOSE: A non-exclusive franchise is proposed for AM Construction to provide for construction job site cleanup, removal and sorting of 15 yards or less, roll-off containers, and the removal of construction site waste within the City of Temple, Texas.</p> <p>TERM: The franchise is effective for a term of one (1)</p>
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