

2019 CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The 2019 City Charter Review Task Force held a meeting on Tuesday, July 30, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in the 4th Floor Conference Room at City Hall.

Members present: Chairman Jason Horn, Ken Beck, Donna Jean Boyer, Jeanne Daffron, Derek Evans, Michael Grimm, Rick Hope, Kevin Kelly, John Reese and Frank Still.

Members absent: Brett Carolus, Joseph Marraud, Byron Myers Sr. and Vice Chairman John Spencer.

City officials present: Mayor Bill McMurray, Councilmember Russell Moore, Bryan Carter, City Attorney; and Paula Heyde, City Clerk.

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order. Jason Horn, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of minutes from the June 24, 2019 and July 16, 2019 meetings. Ken Beck made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2019 and July 16, 2019. Second by Rick Hope. Motion carried (10-0).

Agenda Item #3 – Review of potential revisions to the Charter. Sec. 3.2(a) Composition” – Chairman Horn said he went to the Buchanan County Clerk’s website and looked up the information on the election results of several past elections, specifically the district elections, and the percentage of voters voting for the district councilmembers is very low to win an election. He distributed copies of a map showing the Council districts.

There was discussion on having the entire city vote for the district councilmembers, having two districts instead of five, doing away with council districts and putting a cap on how much money can be raised and spent on an election campaign.

Kenny Reeder, 4000 River Road, said the reason there are five districts is if they all stuck together they could overrule the at-large councilmembers and the mayor.

Everyone agreed to table the discussion on Sec. 3.2(a).

Discussion on Sec. 3.2(c) “Election and terms” – Ken Beck proposed that in 2020 there be an election for Districts 1, 3, 5 and the mayor and in 2022, an election for Districts 2, 4 and the three at-large members and there be a term limit of eight years.

Mr. Hope made a motion that the Committee propose staggered terms. Second by John Reese. Motion carried. (Vote: Ayes, Beck, Daffron, Evans, Grimm, Hope, Horn, Kelly, Reese, Still--9; Nay, Boyer--1).

Mr. Hope made a motion to not mess with term limits. Second by Mr. Reese. Motion carried. (Vote: Ayes, Beck, Boyer, Daffron, Evans, Hope, Horn, Kelly, Reese, Still--9; Nay, Grimm--1).

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Discussion on Sec. 3.3 “Compensation; expenses” – Copies of the following were distributed: 1) Sec. 2-36 “Compensation” from the Code of Ordinances; 2) list of City Council benefits; and 3) handout with cost information associated with electronic devices provided to the City Council.

Mr. Hope made a motion to leave the compensation as written. Second by Frank Still. Motion carried (10-0).

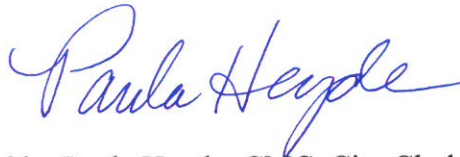
Discussion on Sec. 3.6(b) “Forfeiture of office” -

Chairman Horn made a motion that no more than six meetings can be missed in a calendar year with a super majority of the Council required to remain in office on the seventh absence (regardless of the reason for the absences). Second by Mr. Hope. Motion carried. (Vote: Ayes, Beck, Daffron, Evans, Grimm, Hope, Horn, Kelly, Reese, Still—9; Nay, Boyer--1).

Chairman Horn said his thought is that after going through the Charter, the changes will be listed and the Committee will go through them and narrow them down to the ones the group wants to submit.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 20, 2019, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the 4th Floor Conference Room at City Hall.

By general consent, the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.



Minutes transcribed by Paula Heyde, CMC, City Clerk.