

2019 CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The 2019 City Charter Review Task Force held a meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in the 4th Floor Conference Room at City Hall.

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

Members absent: Joseph Marmaud.

City officials present: Councilmember Madison Davis, Councilmember Russell Moore, Councilmember Brian Myers; Bryan Carter, City Attorney; Ted, Elo, Asst. 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 July 30, 2019 meeting. Rick Hope made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 30, 2019 meeting. Second by Kevin Kelly. Motion carried (11-0).

Agenda Item #3 – Discuss potential revisions to the Charter. Sec. 3.2(a) Composition” – Discussion continued from the previous meeting on whether or not to have districts, the number of districts and having the entire city vote for each district councilmember instead of just those in the district.

Councilmember Madison Davis said there is a near majority of the councilmembers for which he doesn't get a say in who they are. We've got to look at how to make the voters have representatives who are all equally accountable to them.

Councilmember Russell Moore said he would not like to be elected by people who are not in his district.

[Ken Beck and Brett Carolus arrived during discussion on this issue.]

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

Mr. Kelly made a motion that the Committee's recommendation is to reduce the number of districts in the City of St. Joseph from five and increasing the at-large members by the same number. Second by John Spencer. Motion carried. Vote: Ayes, Carolus, Daffron, Evans, Horn, Kelly, Spencer, Still--7; Nay, Beck, Boyer, Grimm, Hope, Myers, Reese-6.

Sec. 4.2 “Removal” – Chairman Horn made a motion that the reference to “majority” in paragraphs 4.2 (a) and (c) be changed to two-thirds (2/3rds) majority. Second by Jeanne Daffron. Motion carried (13-0).

Sec. 6.1 “Fiscal year” – Chairman Horn made a motion to change the fiscal year to match the calendar year. Second by Byron Myers Sr. Motion carried (13-0).

Chairman Horn noted that other sections of Article VI would have to be changed so that it doesn't contradict the change in fiscal year.

[Derek Evans left the meeting.]

Sec. 9.2 "Judge, staff and court facilities" – Vice-chairman Spencer made a motion that the mandatory retirement age of the Municipal Judge be reduced from 75 to 70 years of age (identical to what the state requires for an Associate Circuit Judge to retire) to be effective after the current judge leaves office. Second by Rick Hope. Motion carried (12-0).

Sec. 10.1(b) "Primary Elections" – Chairman Horn made a motion to eliminate the primary election. Second by Mr. Hope. Motion carried. Vote: Ayes, Carolus, Daffron, Hope, Horn, Kelly, Reese, Spencer--7; Nay, Beck, Boyer, Grimm, Myers, Still--5.

Sec. 10.4(a) "Primary Election" - Chairman Horn made a motion to change the last sentence in the paragraph to read "In the event a candidate in a primary election received votes from a majority of the voters that voted in that primary election, he or she shall be declared elected" and to add language to Sec 10.4(b)(2) to clarify that there will be two candidates for each remaining open position. Second by Mr. Kelly. Motion carried (12-0).

During discussion, Chairman Horn said it's the Committee's job to submit ideas to the Council and then let them decide what they want to put on the ballot.

Sec. 13.6 "[Exclusive or limiting franchise prohibited]" – Vice-chairman Spencer made a motion to eliminate Sec. 13.6. Second by Mr. Kelly. Motion carried (12-0).

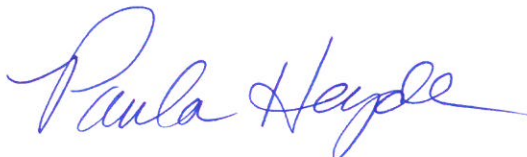
It was decided to have one more meeting to go over all the changes recommended by the Committee to ratify them before forwarding a recommendation to the City Council.

Chairman Horn asked the City Clerk to send a list of all the recommended changes to the Committee prior to the next meeting. He asked those who are unable to attend the next meeting to email their comments to the City Clerk prior to the next meeting.

Vice-chairman Spencer suggested that a work session be held with the City Council for the Committee to present and discuss the recommendations.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in the 4th Floor Conference Room at City Hall.

By general consent, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.



Minutes transcribed by Paula Heyde, CMC, City Clerk.