

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES

October 26, 2020

Webex Conferencing System

5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER Chairperson Singer called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

PRESENT Chairperson David Singer, Vice Chairperson Otis Wheeler, Councilor Shelia Gilmour, Councilor Christine Forgey, Erin Donnally Drake, John Lunt and Allen Woods.

ABSENT None

ALSO PRESENT Mayor Roxann Wedegartner; Councilor Penny Ricketts; Councilor Virginia Desorgher; School Committee Chairperson Amy Proietti and members of the public.

CHAIR STATEMENT: This meeting is being recorded by the Charter Review Committee. If any other persons present were doing the same they must notify the chairperson at this time.

Chairperson Singer opens discussion on proposed Charter Changes submitted after September 14, 2020 and reports of assigned sections of the Charter by Committee members. Comments included:

- Section 1.7 definitions (o) voters recognize legal residents/resident aliens along with registered voters.
- Section 2.1 composition (a) as to whether it would be more beneficial to reduce at large Councilors by 2 and have an 11 member Council, have all Councilors be considered at large representatives, or not propose any changes and leave as is.
- More rationale and compelling argument would need to be presented to the Committee as to how proposed changes could benefit the City.
- Section 2.4 compensation for Councilors; rationale was given for and against the continuation of compensation for Councilors. The issue may be addressed through the ordinance level.
- Section 2.11 filling of vacancies or Section 2.2 Council president; language would need to be added if the President of the council was appointed as Mayor.
- Section 2.8 city auditor; change wording from “appoint” to “elect”.
- Clarification of the City Clerk’s position to the City Council and the Mayor.
- Section 2.6 –(c) 2 Rules of Procedure striking “delivered in hand or to the place of residence” in the case of emergency or special meetings.
- Section 3.1 (c) & (d) Compensation and further compensation would be consolidated. (a) Mayor qualifications; there should be an age limit for the eligible voter who could run for Mayor.
- Appoint a committee to set the Mayor’s salary.

Next meeting: Monday, November 9, 2020, 5:30 pm, City Hall Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, or via Webex, if required.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Councilor Gilmour, second by Councilor Forgey, it was by unanimous roll call,

VOTED: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:20 P.M.