

City of Aurora, Ohio
2014 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
May 29, 2014

The 2014 Charter Review Commission of the City of Aurora, Ohio met in Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, May 29, 2014 for the purpose of holding a regular public meeting. Commission Chairman Dr. Larry Oswick called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jane Adams
William Keckan
Charisse Louis
Dale Moravec
Dr. Larry Oswick
Nancy Schnell
Liz Sutter
Mary Thomas
Richard Vlasak

Also Present: Dean DePiero, Law Director
Morgan Schweighoefer, Deputy Clerk of Council

Dr. Oswick asked for clarification of a statement made at the previous meeting by the Parks and Recreation Director regarding their division's section in the Charter. Ms. Schnell explained that Mr. Kraus feels the Parks and Recreation section covers everything the department does and he is comfortable with how it reads. Mr. DePiero further explained that Mr. Kraus is comfortable with it based upon how the Charter reads and the codified ordinances and with the programs they operate the language is sufficient. Mr. DePiero said there is a need to be careful not to put too much into the Charter as well. He said the consensus was there did not need to be any changes. Dr. Oswick asked if there should be language in the Charter regarding connectivity. Mr. DePiero replied it is an area that the Mayor and Council are concerned with and they want to focus on, but within the overall policy initiatives and policy agenda; he does not think it is an issue for the Commission and feels it is not necessary to address it in the Charter.

Consideration of Minutes

MOTION: Approval of the April 29, 2014 Charter Review Commission Meeting minutes as amended

Ms. Sutter moved; Ms. Thomas seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote. Dr. Oswick and Ms. Adams abstained.

Approval of Language

Mr. DePiero said the objective is to review the sections where there are recommended amendments. He said at the next meeting the Commission will vote on them.

Section 3.03 and Section 4.07 - Change election for vacancy to "Next Municipal General Election"

Mr. DePiero explained the purpose of changing this section along with Section 4.07 is to eliminate the cost of a special election.

There were no objections.

Section 3.15 - add "together with the Mayor"

Mr. DePiero explained the purpose of the change is to allow for collaboration between the Executive and Legislative branch. Mr. Keckan asked how it would be determined if there was indeed collaboration. Mr.

DePiero said if the Administration wanted to form a new commission, Council would be involved as legislation would go before them for approval. Mr. DePiero stated it is not a major change it is involving the Mayor and legislative branch more in the process.

There were no objections

Section 3.11 – add language indicating that legislation shall be posted for 15 days after passage by an emergency. Mr. DePiero explained that the change is not a major policy change it is for notification purposes.

Dr. Oswick suggested including posting on the city's website in the language.

There were no objections

Section 3.12 – move the date for adoption of the budget to February 28. Mr. DePiero explained that currently the state law mandates that municipalities pass their operating budgets by March 31 of each year. He said the city's Charter requires the budget to be passed by February 15. He said Mr. Paul suggested February 28 as it is a lot more palatable from an accounting standpoint to complete the year end reconciliations.

There were no objections

Section 4.05 – add language allowing the Mayor to appoint interim directors for 90 days. Mr. Moravec suggested changing it to read “for up to a maximum of 90 days.”

Mr. DePiero will review the possibility of adding the change to Section 4.05A

There were no objections

Section 4.08 – omit “shall commence concurrent with that of the Mayor and add “effective upon the mayor taking office.”

There were no objections

Section 6.02 – increasing purchasing threshold to \$20,000 - \$25,000. Mr. Moravec stated he is more comfortable with \$20,000. Dr. Oswick stated he is concerned by not increasing the amount enough it will block small businesses out of the bid process. Mr. Moravec said doubling the amount is still keeping the reins on things. Ms. Thomas stated the amount has been too low for too long. Dr. Oswick agreed with Ms. Thomas. Mr. Moravec asked for the inclusion of language that there are expectations that the greatest level of professionalism will be brought to the purchasing process. Mr. DePiero stated he is not certain how to capsulize that request in the Charter.

Dr. Oswick polled the Commission, results are as follows:

Vlasak:	No change
Moravec:	\$20,000
Keckan:	\$25,000
Adams:	\$20,000
Oswick:	\$25,000

Sutter: \$25,000
Louis: \$20,000
Schnell: \$25,000
Thomas: \$25,000

Mr. DePiero stated he would draft the amendment for \$25,000. He said he will have the Clerk's office conduct a survey of cities similar in size to Aurora to get an idea of what they are doing. He said at the next meeting if the Commission feels \$25,000 is not appropriate it can be changed.

Section 7.01 – include “Mayor” so it reads Mayor and Council.

There were no objections

Section 13.02 – second paragraph change “or” to “of.” Insert “who shall be appointed by the Mayor. Eliminate that they shall be clerk of deputy clerk of council.

There were no objections

Section 13.04 – delete more than 2/3^{rds} and insert two-thirds vote.

There were no objections

Section 14.03 – comma after Commission in first paragraph. Section C – include “Historic or Landmark District.”

There were no objections

Section 14.05 – change first line to “with four months” and add “from the Planning Commission” at the end of the sentence.

There were no objections

Section 17.03 – omit duplicate language from the last paragraph.

There were no objections

Section 3.16 – delete “for any cause, including absence or inaccessibility or disability”

Mr. DePiero said there currently is discussion with the Council President and the Mayor regarding a suggested change. Mr. Moravec asked that the compensation level be looked at. Mr. Moravec asked if it is necessary to pay the Council President the same salary as the Mayor.

Mr. DePiero said that he will draft language pertaining to the Planning, Zoning and Building Department. He said it is not addressed in the Charter and the Administration would like to add a section that codifies in the Charter the duties of that department. He said he will have the language completed in time to include it in the next meeting packet.

Dr. Oswick asked if connectivity will be included in the charter.

Dr. Oswick polled the commission if connectivity should be included in the charter:

Thomas: yes
Schnell: yes
Louis: yes
Sutter: abstain
Oswick: yes
Adams: yes
Keckan: no
Moravec: no
Vlasak: no

Mr. DePiero suggested including reference to connectivity in Section 13.03 – Powers and Duties of the Planning Commission or including it in the Master Plan contents in Section 14.03. Dr. Oswick suggested possibly referencing connectivity in the Planning, Zoning and Building section. The Commission along with Mr. DePiero agreed that it would be appropriate to include a reference to connectivity in Section 14.03.

Mr. Moravec said he will go along with connectivity but he has concerns with spending money. He said he does not see sidewalks as a necessity, but as a luxury or an enhancement to a quality of life that is good already. He said money should be spent on necessities. He commented if connectivity is included it should state that funding will not come from bonds or the general funds.

Mr. DePiero said he will provide suggested language in the Master Plan section of the Charter. He said the Commission can amend and/or vote on it at the next meeting.

Mr. Moravec said he received an email from a resident regarding term limits and a primary. He said he wanted to address the email publically and that those concerns were previously discussed by the Commission.

Citizens Comments

Mr. George Mazzaro, Eldridge road, said he was very upset about the email that the Commission received. He said he takes exception to the resident blaming the deputy clerk for something she did properly. He said whatever the amount chosen for purchasing that is included in the Charter must be enforced. He said the Administration needs to monitor the purchases. He explained the state bidding process. He said he would be happy to provide more information regarding purchases made within the city.

Mr. DePiero stated the next meeting is June 16 at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Louis said that she is not able to attend the meeting.

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn

Mr. Moravec moved; Ms. Adams seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Morgan Schweighoefer, Deputy Clerk of Council
Minutes transcribed by:
Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council