

Charter Revision Commission Minutes

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2019 FEB 26 PM 1:50

Regular Meeting on February 21, 2019

6:30PM - Call to order by Chairman Granfield

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: John Brunetti present, Victoria Clifford present, Monique Bolt absent, Rohan Smith present, Silvana Apicella present, John Carrano present, Iris Diaz present, David Riccio absent, Edward Granfield present

Motion to accept meeting minutes from January 31st, 2019 meeting by John Brunetti.
Seconded by Iris Diaz. Passed.

No Q&A session.

Floor opens for discussion.

Apicella: Inquires on why the town of Orange is included in the Charter's language.

Granfield & Brunetti: State that it may be simply historic language.

Carrano: States that this is on Corp Counsel's radar.

Apicella: Inquires about term limits and if it is worth having three terms.

Granfield: States that if the language on term limits is accepted by Corp Counsel, a debate can be restarted. If rejected, the Commission can consider taking it out.

Apicella: Inquires about the position of tax collector and if it requires compensation.

Granfield: Mentions that the position is practically ceremonial and can be taken out if need be.

Apicella: Inquires if, in the Board of Education section, the Superintendent position should be included in the language.

Granfield: States that there is no need to include such language as the position exists and operates through an employment contract.

Apicella: Inquires about the Emergency Response System position in the Charter, whether the current listed job requirements are acceptable.

X 

The Commission reviews the language for the section on ERS.

Carrano: Suggests taking out the word "or" between requiring a college degree and years of job experience.

Granfield: Suggests letting this go and allow them to figure out the hiring process. This may be digging past the scope of the Commission.

Apicella: Points out grammatical changes to be made in the Fire Department section. Also inquires if the city has any constables.

Carrano: States that "shall" should be changed to "may" to allow the city to have the choice in having a constable.

Diaz: Inquiring the reasoning behind 19 hours limit in a section of the Charter.

Granfield: States that this 19 hours limit allows for benefits cut-off and to avoid people taking advantage of this.

Also brings to light that there are five changes that should be considered by the Commission. First suggestion is regarding Charter language on the city manager section. Inquires if, during the replacement period, the time limit should be 90 days with a 90 day extension until a replacement is found for the position instead of 180 days.

The Commission comes to a consensus that it should be left alone and kept at 180 days.

Granfield: Provides second change and it is regarding the section of mayoral vacancy.

The Commission comes to a consensus that it should be organizational and agrees with the change suggested by Chairman Granfield.

Granfield: Third change is regarding the language on an economic referendum. Mentions that the current language is not very applicable and the use is virtually nonexistent.

Carrano: States that the current language may deter economic development and it may be better to revert the language to before edits were made by this Commission.

Smith: Prefers having an easy flow of economic development rather than possibly hindered by this current language.

Granfield: The Commission will table this debate until next meeting.

Fourth suggested change revolves on the section with Village Improvement. Suggests substantiating the language to allow City Council to be in a more comfortable zone with it. This will give the City Council more teeth when engaging with this section of the Charter.

The Commission comes to a consensus of agreeing with the change suggested by Chairman Granfield.

Granfield: Fifth suggested change revolves around the section on Retired Personnel. Wishes to create flexibility but avoid allowing them to reacquire benefits. They should be working on as an independent contractor or on a consulting basis.

The Commission comes to a consensus of agreeing with the change suggested by Chairman Granfield.

Discussion closes.

Chairman Granfield opens Q&A session.

City Council Chairman Ronald Quagliani: Pleased with work done, though mentions that City Council will need enough time to process and understand all of the changes made by the Charter Revision Commission. Also inquires if there will be an organization that will enable all of the changes made.

Granfield: Hopes to allow for ample time for the City Council to review the changes and states that it will be up to them to enable the changes.

Closes Q&A session.

No New Business.

Motion to adjourn by John Brunetti.

Seconded by Victoria Clifford.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06PM.