

Charter Revision Commission Minutes

Meeting on August 23, 2018

6:31 p.m.- Call to order by Chairman Granfield

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Motion to accept meeting minutes from August 9th, 2018 meeting by John Carrano.
Seconded by Victoria Clifford. Passed.

Discussion with Assistant Corp. Counsel Craig Sullivan.

Question: Can the city set terms other than two or four years for various city officials?

Answer: Most likely not. However, Town Clerk and Tax Collector can have terms between two and six years. Mayor can have terms set to four years.

Question: Can the city change certain elected positions to appointed positions?

Answer: Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Tax Collector can be appointed.

Question: Can the Charter Revision Commission incorporate a provision clarifying the duties of various departments?

Answer: This answer has not changed from the previous memo.

Granfield: Do the guidelines for elected commissions share these guidelines for appointed commissions?

Answer: There is not a difference. Believes the general rule is that the guidelines are applied to both and should be followed for both.

Granfield: States it is possible to extend terms to line up all elections to be on the same year.

Carrano: Wonders if there is something else that is affected if the city switches to a 3:1 district system.

Answer: This shouldn't impact anything such as education and schools.

Brunetti: Concerned that a town manager may feel pressured by political reasons. They should not be able to be removed for political reasons if they are simply doing their duties.

Sullivan: Believes this would need an ethical-related ordinance or simply stating it in their contract.

Granfield: Credentials and incentives can be established for appointed positions. However, wonders if credential requirements can be written into the charter for elected positions.

Sullivan: Does not believe this is possible.

Granfield: The Treasurer position is currently an elected position, questions if it is possible to adjust or change the scope of the position.

Sullivan: Will need to conduct further research to determine if this is possible.

Discussion with Assistant Corp. Counsel Craig Sullivan concludes.

Floor opens for discussion.

Granfield: Suggests for the commissioners to put in individual thoughts on the City Clerk position on possibly being switched from elected to appointed.

Carrano: States that there are positions which are "at-will," slightly different from appointed.

Individual thoughts:

Apicella: Appointed or preferably "at-will."

Brunetti: Appointed or preferably "at-will."

Granfield: Appointed or "at-will."

Carrano: Appointed or preferably "at-will."

Clifford: Appointed or preferably "at-will."

Bolt: Appointed or preferably "at-will."

Smith: Appointed or "at-will."

Granfield: Considers empowering Treasurer and spread its responsibilities across multiple boards and oversee city finances. If they are credentialed, they can oversee/chair the Board of Finance and be involved in the budgetary process, for example. Considers eliminating the Tax Collector position.

Discussion concludes.

New Business:

September 13th Special Meeting cancelled. Next meeting is September 27th.

Corporation Counsel will take the time to review and research to provide valuable answers.

Motion to adjourn by John Brunetti.

Seconded by Monique Bolt.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03PM.