



Minutes of the Charter Review Commission from Wednesday February 26, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

1.) Call to Order

2.) Roll Call

Charter Review Commission Members Present: Dennis Mariola, Dennis Campbell,
Nancy Binzel, Janice Arch
Amy Jones

Charter Review Commission Members Absent: Rick Charles, Christy Staats

City Officials Present: Drew Reilly, Hannah Morris,
Kyle Herman

3.) Approval of Minutes

Approval of February 12, 2025, Minutes:

Motion made by Nancy Binzel, seconded by Denny Mariola to approve Approval of February 12, 2025, Minutes.

Vote – Yeas: Denny Mariola, Dennis Campbell, Nancy Binzel, Janice Arch, Amy Jones. Nays – None. Motion carried unanimously.

4.) Discussion of Article XIX “Amendments to the Charter”

Law Director Drew Reilly explained Article XIX. Explained to the commission that they can present any changes as one presentation or as they review each section they can present to Council at that time. That way if there are changes that need to be made they can be done.

There are two ways that the Charter can be amended. Five members of Council vote in favor of putting it on the ballot or a petition of the electors of 10% of the previous general election.

There is a section of adoption, it becomes affirmative on the majority vote of the people unless there are two conflicting pieces.

Changes to the Charter, if something were to be determined unconstitutional by either the United States Supreme Court or the Ohio Supreme Court it wouldn't have to go to

the ballot to get changed. The Law Director can make that change and then upon unanimous approval by Council and the Mayor's approval it can be taken out from the Charter.

Amy Jones had questions regarding what happened in 2020 with Charter Review changes.

Dennis Campbell had questions regarding how outside legal counsel is selected if needed, if it was someone contracted with the city or if they could choose anyone.

Nancy Binzel had questions regarding if something has been declared unconstitutional and someone on Council is refusing to support then what can happen since you need unanimous approval.

Mr. Reilly gave a printout of the 2020 change was to strike out the ability for Council to change the charter whenever they wanted. That was not approved by Council in 2020 to go to the ballot.

Mr. Reilly explained how outside legal counsel works in this regard- City Council must approve, and that the Law Department would go solicit and then bring it to Council to approve. City Council can also recommend their own outside legal counsel.

Mr. Reilly commented on Ms. Binzel's question regarding if there is one member of Council refusing changes. Mr. Reilly explained that he would then write a legal opinion saying that we should not follow this provision. Or a mandamus action could be done, where that states that a valid court order somewhere that you're asking a court to force an elected or public official to do something.

Mr. Campbell asked if there were any changes that the Commission wanted to be made to this section of the charter.

Ms. Jones had stated that she may want to look at that five people voting on Council since there are seven, but since that did not pass last time, she is hesitant to make that change.

5.) Discussion of Article XX "Charter Review Commission"

Mr. Reilly explained that Charter Review Commission happens every five years and there are seven members are appointed by the Mayor and approved by Council. The members cannot hold another office or sit on another commission within the City.

Commission duties are the meetings have to be open to public and review the Charter and no later than August 1st you must provide your recommendations to Council for amendments and then the two-thirds have to approve to send to the ballot.

Mr. Reilly stated we had a comment from the Clerk of Council stating that they may want to look at the deadline of August 1st due to the deadline for the Board of Elections is September 5th and there is only one Council meeting scheduled in August. There has to be three readings with Council, they have to do adopt the amendments and sent to the Board of Elections. They must be submitted to the Board of Elections 60 days before an election.

Ms. Arch had stated that it may be beneficial to submit amendments as they go through the Charter rather than waiting.

Mr. Reilly stated he would do research on how early you can submit things to the Board of Elections.

Changes will be submitted to the Committee of the Whole, prior to getting right onto the Council agenda.

Mr. Campbell stated that they should have things ready July 1st. Ms. Binzel stated that it may be best to have it prepared by June 1st, Mr. Mariola agreed with June 1st. Allows for more time to make changes if necessary.

Mr. Reilly asked if the commission would like to see an amendment for the next meeting for the change of date in the Charter from August 1st to July 1st.

Ms. Binzel motioned to make that date change; Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Reilly stated he would have that ready by the next meeting for approval.

Mr. Campbell had asked when it had changed to a two-thirds vote rather than a simple majority. Mr. Reilly stated he would look back into meeting minutes and history and get an explanation of that.

They may revisit the two-thirds over the simple majority at a later meeting if necessary.

6.) Discussion on Meeting Dates and Times

Commission discussed when they wanted to meet.

Next meeting date was decided on Wednesday, March 5th at 6:30 pm in Boards and Commissions.

Voted unanimously to meet on February 26th at 6:00 pm.

Discussion on next weeks meeting and what to discuss, Mr. Campbell suggested to go through Articles 1-4 of the Charter and see what they can get through during the meeting.

Ms. Binzel stated she would send comments to Mr. Campbell since she would not be able to attend the next meeting.

7.) Other

Councilmen Kyle Herman had asked if there was public comment, it was not on the agenda, and Mr. Campbell asked that it be added to the agenda for next week.

Mr. Campbell swore in Councilmen Kyle Herman (3652 Hiwood, Stow).

Mr. Herman had discussed that he is heavily involved in civic engagement and shared ideas to get the public more involved. He stated in his day job he helps advise other Charter Review commissions. He explained what other cities do to promote resident engagement, having town hall meetings and public comments at the meetings.

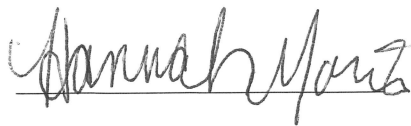
The Commission expressed liking the idea of holding Town Halls to present to the city to see if they are interested in the amendments that are being considered or if they have feedback from residents.

The Commission discussed getting feedback from the residents prior to presenting amendments to Council.

It was discussed to get more social media blasts sent out of when meetings are and having the public comment sections.

8.) Adjournment

Motion made by Amy Jones, seconded by Nancy Binzel, to adjourn. Vote – Yeas: Nancy Binzel, Amy Jones, Dennis Campbell, Denny Mariola, Janice Arch. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.



Clerk



Chairman