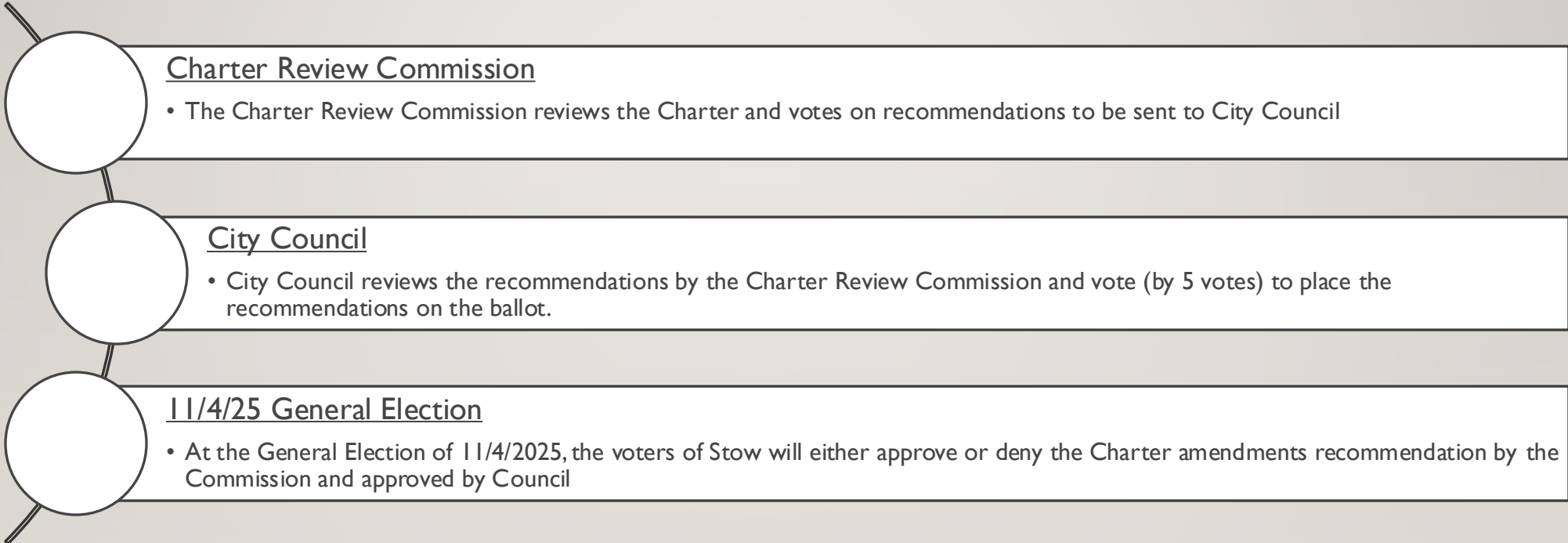


2025 STOW CHARTER REVIEW

APRIL 1, 2025 – TOWN HALL MEETING

ARTICLES I-IX, XIX AND XX

CHARTER REVIEW PROCESS



ARTICLES THAT THE COMMISSION HAS ALREADY COVERED

- Article 1 – Name and Boundary
- Article 2 – Municipal Powers
- Article 3 – Mayor
- Article 4 – The Council
- Article 5 - Wards
- Article 6 – Department of Finance
- Article 7 – Department of Public Service
- Article 8 – Department of Public Safety
- Article 9 – Department of Law
- Article 19 – Amendments to Charter
- Article 20 – Charter Review Commission

CURRENT – SECTION 3.06 ACTING MAYOR

- President of Council, or any member of Council designated by the majority vote of Council, in that order, shall become the Acting Mayor with all the powers of the Mayor in the event the Mayor, or one acting in that capacity for the Mayor, is temporarily: (a) Absent from the Municipality, (b) Inaccessible, (c) Unable for any cause or reason, to perform the duties of the Mayor, or (d) Until Council elects a Mayor in the event of the vacancy of said office as said procedures are set forth in Section 3.07 herein under. Any member of Council performing the duties of the Acting Mayor shall relinquish his/her Council voting power on any motion or legislation.

PROPOSED CHANGE – SECTION 3.06 ACTING MAYOR

- President of Council, ~~or any member of Council designated by the majority vote of Council, in that order,~~ shall become the Acting Mayor with all the powers of the Mayor in the event the Mayor, ~~or one acting in that capacity for the Mayor, is temporarily:~~ (a) Absent from the Municipality, (b) Inaccessible, (c) Unable for any cause or reason, to perform the duties of the Mayor, or (d) Until Council elects a Mayor in the event of the vacancy of said office as said procedures are set forth in Section 3.07 herein under. **In the event that the President of Council, while acting in the capacity of Acting Mayor is temporarily: (a) Absent from the Municipality, (b) Inaccessible, (c) Unable for any cause or reason, to perform the duties of the Mayor, or (d) Until Council elects a Mayor in the event of the vacancy of said office as said procedures are set forth in Section 3.07 herein under, then Council shall choose, by majority vote, a designee from their membership to serve as Acting Mayor.** Any member of Council performing the duties of the Acting Mayor shall relinquish his/her Council voting power on any motion or legislation.

CURRENT – SECTION 4.12 PUBLIC NOTICE

Unless precluded by law from so doing, public notice, as required by law, or by this Charter, or by resolution or ordinance, shall be given resolutions, ordinances, statements, notices, measures, orders, proclamations and reports in the manner determined by Council, except that if public posting be selected as the medium, then a public posting on the City's website and not less than 6 public places in the Municipality shall be established for such public posting.

Council shall cause each resolution and ordinance to be given public notice commencing not later than 10 days after its first reading in the event that the rule requiring three readings is not suspended, and like public notice shall be given each resolution and ordinance after its adoption and approval by the Mayor, or upon the expiration of the time within which it may be vetoed by the Mayor, or upon its passage after veto by the Mayor, as the case may be.

PROPOSED CHANGE – SECTION 4.12 PUBLIC NOTICE

Unless precluded by law from so doing, public notice, as required by law, or by this Charter, or by resolution or ordinance, shall be given resolutions, ordinances, statements, notices, measures, orders, proclamations and reports in the manner determined by Council, except that if public posting be selected as the medium, then a public posting on the City's website **and any other social media platforms utilized by the City** and not less than **6 3** public places in the Municipality shall be established for such public posting.

Council shall cause each resolution and ordinance to be given public notice commencing not later than 10 days after its first reading in the event that the rule requiring three readings is not suspended, and like public notice shall be given each resolution and ordinance after its adoption and approval by the Mayor, or upon the expiration of the time within which it may be vetoed by the Mayor, or upon its passage after veto by the Mayor, as the case may be.

CURRENT - ARTICLE 20 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Section 20.01 Composition and Term

In January, 1980, and each 5 years thereafter, the Mayor shall, with confirmation by Council, appoint a commission of 7 qualified electors of the Municipality holding no other office or appointment in this Municipality, as members of a Charter Review Commission to serve until their duties as provided in Section 20.02 are completed. The members shall serve without compensation.

Special Charter Review Commissions may be established by Council when necessary, with appointments to be made by the Mayor and confirmed by Council.

Section 20.02 Duties

The Charter Review Commission shall, in meetings open to the public, review the municipal Charter, and, no later than August 1 of the same year, recommend to Council such amendments, if any, to this Charter as in its judgment are conducive to the public interest.

Section 20.03 Submission to Electors

Upon approval by two-thirds of Council, Council shall submit to the electors all such proposed amendments to this Charter in accordance, in each instance, with the provisions of the Constitution of Ohio.

PROPOSED CHANGE - ARTICLE 20 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Section 20.01 Composition and Term

In January, 1980, and each 5 years thereafter, the Mayor shall, with confirmation by Council **by the last meeting in January in the year in which the Charter Review Commission shall convene**, appoint a commission of 7 qualified electors of the Municipality holding no other office or appointment in this Municipality, as members of a Charter Review Commission to serve until their duties as provided in Section 20.02 are completed. The members shall serve without compensation.

Special Charter Review Commissions may be established by Council when necessary, with appointments to be made by the Mayor and confirmed by Council.

Section 20.02 Duties

The Charter Review Commission shall, in meetings open to the public, review the municipal Charter, and, no later than ~~August~~ **July** 1 of the same year, recommend to Council such amendments, if any, to this Charter as in its judgment are conducive to the public interest.

Section 20.03 Submission to Electors

Upon approval by two-thirds of Council, Council shall submit to the electors all such proposed amendments to this Charter in accordance, in each instance, with the provisions of the Constitution of Ohio.

POTENTIAL CHANGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Article 6 – Department of Finance
 - Currently, the Charter does not provide for an Acting Finance Director in the event of a temporary incapacity of the Finance Director. The Commission is discussing adding a Section 6.08 to remedy this omission.
- Article 9 – Department of Law
 - Currently, the Charter does not provide for an Acting Law Director in the event of a temporary incapacity of the Law Director. The Commission is discussing adding a Section 9.07 to remedy this omission.
- Article 5 – Wards
 - The Charter Review Commission may recommend that Council convene a special commission on Wards and Redistricting in future years

ARTICLES TO BE COVERED BY THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

- Article 10 – Planning Commission and Zoning Procedure
- Article 11 – Board of Zoning and Building Appeals
- Article 12 – Civil Service Commission
- Article 13 – Parks and Recreation Board
- Article 14 – Cemetery Board
- Article 15 – Finances
- Article 16 – Nominations and Elections
- Article 17 – Initiative, Referendum, and Recall
- Article 18 – Franchise
- Article 21 – General Provisions
- Article 22 – Budgeting Procedures