

CITY OF WICKLIFFE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2008

Meeting Minutes

The Wickliffe Charter Review Commission held a meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2008 in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Chairperson Cindy Marino.

Commission Members present: Nancy Cole, James Schall, Judy Powers, Don Contenza, Cindy Marino, Joe Oboczky, Ron Ely and Cookie LoSchiavo. Mary Ann Surtz was not in attendance.

Cindy Marino asked if everyone had read the minutes and asked if it would be okay not to read them aloud; then asked for approval of minutes. Approval of the minutes for the January 22 meeting were motioned by Joe Oboczky and seconded by Judy Powers. All in attendance were in favor.

Maria Matiyasic stated that minutes to every meeting will be posted at the library. Maria will contact library to find out how minutes will be posted; in a binder, etc.

Cindy Marino would like everyone to read the minutes before the meeting in order to save time having to read them at the meetings.

Cindy Marino sent a letter to the Mayor, Council and Administrators to let them know about this Commission's meetings. Maria added that she received a response from Mayor Ruffner stating that he would like to meet with the Commission once the group has reviewed the Charter. The topic he would like to discuss is "the limit of contracts without seeking public bidding". He would like come to a meeting after the group has read the Charter. Maria will let him know which meeting to attend. Police Chief Ice doesn't have anything that he feels right now that he needs to come to a meeting for. Any questions regarding the Police Department, you can let him know.

Cindy Marino referred to the minutes from last meeting where Mayor Ruffner did state that he thought it was a good idea to read through the charter first, and she thinks that is a good idea. The group will just read through it tonight and make notations and any questions as you go along. We'll get into discussions after we have gone through it.

The first 10 pages of the Charter were then read starting with the Preamble through Article III. Below are the areas that were discussed and marked for further review.

Article I. Name and Boundaries. Discussion began to understand. Nancy Cole wanted more explanation; Joe Oboczky stated that it is saying no boundaries

can be changed without the assent of the majority of the electors of the City or Council. Changes would have to go on the ballot.

Cindy Marino stated that the City of Willowick Charter is almost verbatim to Wickliffe's.

Ron Ely noted that the Charter is too much legalese for the common layman to understand.

Article III. Section 1. Composition, Term and Qualifications. Paragraph 1...Cindy Marino questioned why "of the year 1985" is mentioned in this article. Cindy would like to look into this. James Schall states that in talking with the Mayor he has a problem with this article. All elected officials are elected in the same year, so if we had a turnover of elected officials we could be starting with everybody without experience. Judy Powers wonders why we aren't staggering every 2 years. Jim thinks that is something that should be considered. It seems to him that they tried to change it last time and it didn't get past this Commission. Discussion began on how to stagger this current council to get to that point. Cindy wonders what other cities are doing. Cindy asked that maybe they e-mail their Councilperson to let them know that this group is discussing this and would like to get their perspectives on it.

Jim Schall and Cindy Marino asked the Commission to mark on their copies of the Charter any items to go back to discuss further. Ron Ely suggested that they mark them on a scale from 0-5 on the importance and then they can come back to determine if they will discuss them any further. All agreed. Five will be the highest and 0 the lowest.

Article III. Section 1. Composition, Term and Qualifications. Paragraph 3...Ron Ely stated this seems redundant; Judy Powers noted that anything we change in this Commission needs to go to the voters.

Article III. Section 1. Composition, Term and Qualifications. Paragraph 4.... Don Contenza asked if someone is called up for military duty for 6 months, what would happen. Jim Schall said that person would have to resign their Council position. Don asked if he/she would get their seat back. Jim stated that it doesn't say. Cindy Marino suggested that they continue reading and when they get to the vacancies section it may be explained in there.

Also in Paragraph 4 it states that Council members cannot be employed by the 'Wickliffe City Board of Education'. It was unclear if this meant teachers, custodians, bus drivers, etc. or was this just the elected School Board that could not hold a position on Council. Judy stated she believes this is due to conflict of interest. Some on this Commission consider these entities separate, so they don't

see the conflict of interest. Cindy Marino thinks it means the Board of Education not the schools. There was much discussion. This will be noted to look into at future meetings.

Article III, Section 4. Vacancies. (a)...it makes sense to this Commission. (b)...The Mayor may appoint anybody to replace the Council President position if it cannot be filled by a member of Council. Commission agrees that this is okay.

Article III, Section 5. Salaries. Jim Schall noted in essence this states that salaries are set 30 days prior to election.

Article III. Section 8. Special Meetings. Judy Powers has spoken to Gordon Levar about this and asked how notification for special meetings is done. He told her that usually the Police Department delivers notification to Council. Jim Schall asked what they would call such a meeting for. The group believes that Labor contracts, off time in summer, storms, etc. may cause a Special Council meeting.

Article III. Section 11. Ordinances and Resolutions; Procedure. It is stated in this Article that 'all ordinances, resolutions, statements,.....shall be posted in not less than 5 of the most public places in the City'....Members asked where the Ordinances and Resolutions are posted. Library, Post Office, City Hall, Senior Center?

Article III. Section 13. Emergency Ordinances and Resolutions. Jim Schall and Joe Oboczky would like to have this clarified. Maria Matiyasic was asked to contact Bill Gargiulo to explain this to the Commission. Maria will send a memo to him asking him to put this Section in writing in layman's terms and if he could explain why Council has so many "emergency" votes at meetings and they are not explained in the minutes. It is not necessary for him to come to a meeting unless, after receiving his explanation, there are still questions.

There was a consensus to stop the reading of the Charter at this point.

Discussion began about Public Bidding of contracts. Joe Oboczky believes that the main reason this group is here is to consider the increase of awarding contracts from \$10,000 to \$25,000. He would like more information. Before they can make any decision on this, he would like to see some history of contracts between \$10,000 and \$25,000 that have been awarded in the past 2 to 5 years, so he knows exactly what types of contracts would be affected by raising this dollar limit. Maria was asked to contact City Hall to get a report. Cindy said they do not need it for the next meeting. 5 years would be great; 2 years would be sufficient. He would like to list to include contractor name, product and dollar amount. Jim Schall stated that it was brought up at the Jan. 14 Council meeting and Council would like to see it raised to the state level. Ron Ely would like to look at it a different way. Should they consider raising it to a percentage of the

City Budget? Find the date that this was changed and check the City's budget at that time. He would like more information to justify raising this dollar amount. There was a lot of discussion regarding this issue.

Joe Oboczky motioned to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.; Jim Schall seconded. All were in favor.

Maria Matiyasic, Secretary

Cindy Marino, Chairperson

Next Meeting: February 26, 2008