



CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
April 18, 2018

The Charter Review Commission meeting of April 18, 2018 was called to order by Chairman Ivancic at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers.

Roll Call

The following members were present:

Michael Casadonte; Daniel Ivancic; Mark Ozanick; Thomas Thielman; Joseph Turi; Joseph Yesilosky; Donald Zimmerman.

Excused: Camaron Mays, Linda Lipovec

Reading and Approval of Minutes

After reading the minutes of the April 11, 2018 meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

Communications

Mayor Barbish was in attendance to offer his opinions and answer questions. An idea that he would like to have the CRC pursue is the position of City Manager rather than Mayor. It would be a non-political position, appointed by Council.

He does not feel that the two Council-at-Large positions are needed for a community of 12,500 persons. Council President and four Ward Councilpersons would suffice, although he is not sure how the number of elected officials is determined. Mr. Ivancic commented that in a previous meeting, this CRC discussed the idea of Council President being elected from within, not through an at-large election.

Mayor Barbish strongly believes that the City of Wickliffe needs end referendum zoning. If a zoning change would be requested, it could be accomplished through a vote of City Council. He would like to see this Charter change on the November 2018 ballot.

Mr. Zimmerman asked Mayor Barbish what his impetus for wanting to do away with two council-at-large positions and going to a full-time city executive (Mayor or City Manager). Mayor Barbish commented that there are payroll costs involved; and having only ward council persons would encourage those elected to do more for the residents within their ward. A full-time Mayor or City Manager could take on the responsibilities of economic development, saving the cost of an additional employee. With the many responsibilities of the position of Mayor, it is a very time-consuming job.

Mr. Thielman commented that he could support a full-time Mayor or City Manager; however, not with a reduced council. We have a long history of competent mayors from Harry Coulby through Bill Margalis. He could not support ending referendum zoning while having a reduced council.

Mr. Yesilosky would like to see term limits eliminated.

Mr. Zimmerman was interested to know Mayor Barbish's opinion of staggered terms. Mayor Barbish commented that currently, there is a lot of change all at once. He feels the idea of staggered terms should be entertained.

Old Business

There was no old business.

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DISCUSSION:

Article XI Initiative, Referendum and Recall

Section XI-1. Initiative and Referendum.

No discussion.

Section XI-2. Recall.

Mr. Zimmerman commented that not much difference is found among the charters that he has read in regard to recall elections.

Section XI-3. Mandatory Zoning Referendum.

Mr. Turi commented that this section may be prohibitive to future growth and should be stricken. Mr. Yesilosky commented on commercial properties that are abutted by multiple types of zoning. He feels this is restrictive to growth. The consensus of the group is that it would be beneficial to spend more time on this section.

Article XII Franchises

No discussion.

Article XIII Amendments to Charter

Section XIII-1. Voting Procedure.

No discussion.

Section XIII-2. Charter Review Commission.

Mr. Yesilosky would like the Charter to be reviewed every five years, rather than every ten years. Mr. Thielman would like to further discuss the idea that each council person nominates one Charter Review Commission member, with the balance nominated by the Mayor, all with council approval. Mr. Zimmerman reminded the members that an item may be changed through Council action any time in between formal CRC sessions.

Article XIV Miscellaneous

Section XIV-1. Effective Date of the Charter.

No discussion.

Section XIV-2. Effect of Partial Invalidity; Saving Clause.

No discussion.

Section XIV-3. Effect of Charter Upon Existing Laws, Ordinances and/or Rights.

No discussion.

Section XIV-4. Interpretation of the Charter.

No discussion.

Public Comment –

Resident Chris Mlachak commented that a City Manager with a background in public administration would be a good thing for the City, as opposed to a full-time Mayor. He would like to see the number of council members remain at seven if referendum zoning were removed from the Charter.

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Other –

Mr. Zimmerman commented that perhaps a section of definitions could be included with the Charter. He would like the Law Director to be asked to offer suggestions on updates he may wish the commission to discuss.

Mr. Ivancic requested that all bring to the next meeting a list of the top ideas that have been noted as worthy of further discussion and then will ask for Council input.

Adjournment –

Motion was made by Mr. Ozanick, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman to adjourn the meeting. By show of hands, all were in favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2018 at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers:

Respectfully submitted:



Susan M. Iafelice, Secretary

Approved: 

Daniel Ivancic, Chairperson