



CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
June 4, 2018

The Charter Review Commission meeting of June 4, 2018 was called to order by Vice Chairman Zimmerman at 6:41 pm in Council Chambers.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Michael Casadonte; Linda Lipovec; Mark Ozanick; Joseph Turi; Donald Zimmerman.

Absent: Daniel Ivancic; Camaron Mays; Thomas Thielman; Joseph Yesilosky-excused

Reading and Approval of Minutes

After reading the minutes of the May 23, 2018 meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

Communications

There were no communications.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Council Members Biondolillo, Bogo, Jaworski, Koski, Levon, and Sakacs were present for discussion.

DISCUSSION:

Article III The Council - Section 1. Composition, Term and Qualifications

Joseph Sakacs-Council Ward 3 is content with four ward seats, two at-large seats, and the council president seat. Terms should not be limited. If someone is not doing a good job, he or she will not be re-elected. If someone is doing a good job, he or she will be re-elected and that term should not be limited.

Sherry Koski-Council Ward 4 feels seven is a good number. With less, it would be more difficult to ensure a quorum. Our elected positions are part-time and full-time jobs and families come first. It is important for Council at Large members to be available for residents when the ward council person is not. She is in favor of staggered, four-year terms; it could happen that the entire group of elected officials would be new and no experience on council would exist. Would not be opposed to term limits; however, oftentimes others do not have an interest in running.

Edward Levon-Council President prefers Council President to be voted for by residents. Seven council members is a good number. He feels the school board members would be the better persons to have conversations with concerning staggered terms since that is the procedure they follow. He is opposed to term limits. Term limits would not help the city when someone is in office and is doing a great job.

Matthew Jaworski-Council at Large feels if there would be less council members, there would be less individuals to serve the residents. Many times, residents with a concern will contact more than one elected official to help resolve the issue. Council President should be elected by the voters to prevent politicking. Position of Council President requires much work, patience, and leadership. A person who truly desires this

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position should have the opportunity of election by the people. The situation could arise that no one on council has the desire to be elected from within as council president. The men who created our Charter understood that running with cover is not good. If someone wants to run for an office, they need to be willing to give up their current seat. He feels that staggered terms/running with cover creates animosity. Mayor is the only position that should have term limits. That is where movement is created, when councilpersons desire to move his or her way up. Council seats should not have term limits since it is hard to find people to run for council seats.

Thomas Boggo-Council Ward 1 commented that Council President should be elected by the voters. The number of council persons should remain as is. He is not sure of his opinion on staggered terms, but likes the suggestion that contact be made with school board members in this regard. He does not support term limits.

Jason Biondolillo-Council Ward 2 agrees that the Council President should be elected by the voters to prevent politicking. His concern would be is it cost effective to have elections every two years rather than every four years? He would like to ask residents if they feel staggered terms would promote higher voter turnout and involvement or more voter apathy. He does not support term limits.

Mr. Zimmerman shared a conversation he had with a former mayor of another city with staggered terms. She liked non-staggered terms. She was not concerned with the unlikely event that an election could bring all new elected leaders since department heads actually run a city, possessing the institutional knowledge to do so.

Public Comment

Resident Chris Mlachak commented that he has been attending council meetings for 30 years. He feels that staggered terms/running with cover creates animosity. Council President should be elected by the people to keep politics and the divide out of it. If one would be forced into the position, he or she may not do a good job.

Resident Dan Bishop is against staggered terms and term limits. If someone is good, he or she will be re-elected; if not, he or she will not be re-elected.

Other

Mr. Zimmerman thanked the council members for their time and asked if there were any further comments. Mr. Levon invited the Charter Review Commission members to reach out via telephone or email to any of the council persons with any further questions on the review of the Charter.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Ozanick. By show of hands, all were in favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2018 at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted:



Susan M. Iafelice, Secretary

Approved:



Donald Zimmerman, Vice Chairman