

Minutes of the Charter Review Committee

January 26, 2022

In Attendance: Michael J. Barber, Lisa Benedetti, Ken Godnavec, Al Hess, Tammy Cappadonna-Kloss, Phil Piccus, Mike Zernic

Absent: Jim Meola
Phillip Trippi

Presiding: Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr.
Law Director - Tim Paluf

Temporary Secretary: Jolene Greve

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Mayor Brunello welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. The Mayor advised that two individuals who are serving on the committee were not in attendance at the meeting. Mayor Brunello introduced members from the city present for this first meeting which included Law Director, Tim Paluf, Prosecutor, Mike Lograsso, Council President, Ann D'Amico, and Executive Assistant, Jolene Greve.

Mayor Brunello asked the committee members to introduce themselves. Mayor Brunello turned the meeting over to Mr. Paluf, who will share the pertinent details and purpose of this committee.

Mr. Paluf gave the committee members a brief overview of their responsibilities and reported that the Charter Review Committee gathers every five to six years, and that the last time the Charter had been amended was in 2011. The Charter Review committee did meet in 2017, however, no changes were made to the Charter at that time. Mr. Paluf reported that if there are any changes to the Charter, it must go to the vote of the people.

Mr. Paluf recommended that the committee review the Charter six sections at a time. Should there be any questions or suggestions, Mr. Paluf will try to answer them or seek an answer from the Department Heads. Mr. Paluf will ask the Department heads to attend a meeting after the Charter has been reviewed to identify if they have any changes for review. The committee decides if any changes to the Charter necessary.

Mr. Paluf reported that the Charter Review needs to be completed by July, in order to meet the Board of Elections requirements and get items on the November ballot. He advised that a secretary and a chairperson should be appointed.

Mr. Zernic asked if there was any thing legally pending that is requiring anything changes by the state. Mr. Paluf reported that he is not aware of anything at this time.

Ms. Benedetti asked if they could get the minutes from the last Charter Review to see what that group went over. Ms. Greve advised the minutes from previous year's are available on the city website to review. Ms. Greve will have copies available for the committee at the next meeting.

Mr. Hess inquired as to whether the full Charter was available. Mr. Paluf reported that the Charter was distributed at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Paluf asked if the committee had each other's contact information. A Contact List was passed out to each committee member at the meeting.

Ms. Benedetti asked if Mr. Paluf could explain what the Charter is about and the purpose of its review. Mr. Paluf explained that the Charter is our Constitution. All of our laws and our Codified Ordinances are based off the Charter. It is the foundation of how we base our laws.

Mr. Godnavec asked how the committee would know what item was amended from and to if there had been an amendment change, and if there were changes made, if the committee could be made aware if the changes were positive. Mr. Paluf responded that those types of questions can be directed to Council and the respective Department heads.

Mr. Paluf suggested the group meet to select a chairperson and secretary. The group will select their chairperson and secretary at their next meeting.

Discussion was held on what days of the week will work best for the group, and the consensus is that Wednesdays would be best. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Mr. Paluf made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Mayor Brunello thanked everyone again for their willingness to serve and give their time on the Charter Review Committee.