

MINUTES
CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
March 4, 2024

Members in attendance:

Marc Dann (Zoom)
Dean Jackson
Jim Wooley
Judy Hilow
Martha Woerner
Michael Barnes

Others Present:

Jennifer Swallow, Asst. Law Director
Kevin Spellacy, Attorney and Consultant
Danielle Cariglio
Cory Stofko, Council Intern
Sarah Kepple, Council President
Cindy Marx, Ward 4 Council Member
Kyle Baker, Council Member
Cindy Stribeg, Council Member
Chief Fischer, Police
Chief Dunphy, Fire
Michael Colletta, IT Supervisor
Chris Gordon, Director of Public Works
Shawn Leininger, Director of Planning
Chad Berry, Director of Human Services
Peter Rancatore, Director of Finance
Meghan George, Mayor
Linda Bebe, League of Women Voters
Mary Ashburn, League of Women Voters
Colleen Boyd, Ranl the Vote Ohio
Venera Foti, League of Women Voters
Kyle Herman
Janis

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Judy Hilow.

Motion by Jim Wooley to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2024 meeting, seconded by Angelina Steiner. All members present voted to approve.

Director interviews were begun:

Chad Berry gave a description of what his department does and that it is not affected by any Charter provisions. Angelina asked if Chad sees any issues that could be addressed now. Chad indicated that he does not.

Tim Dunphy explained his department and interactions with Civil Service Commission. He stated no need for Charter sections that are relevant to his division to change.

Kevin Fischer explained his department and Civil Service interactions. He sees no need to for Charter amendments.

Angelina asked the Chiefs if they saw a need for a Safety Director. They both indicated that an extra level of management would be overly burdensome and they did not see the need for a SD.

Chris Gordon explained what his department is responsible for. He stated no Charter changes were needed.

Shawn Leininger explained the roll of Planning and Development along with ABR, BZA and Planning Commission and indicated that he would like to see changes to provisions relative to boards and commissions. He indicated that sample language from other charters and his recommendations would be forthcoming.

Chris Parmelee explained the Division of Housing and Building, that the division is not mentioned in the Charter and he does not see any need for changes.

Peter Rancatore explained the functions of Finance and that he did no see any need for Charter revisions.

Council salaries were discussed. Jim indicated that in his research he did not find other communities that provide a Council salary increase based on those negotiated with the unions or awarded other employees. Dean indicated that County Council salary increases are based on non-union employee raises. Mayor George indicated that cost of living increases creates strife with bargaining units when negotiating and that administrative staff increases are usually in line with union increases. Danielle indicated that the Council President does not receive additional compensation. The question/issue of in term increases was raised as it is generally frowned upon across nearly all branches of state and local government. The Commission will be provided a copy of the 2024 Salary Survey that is conducted by the Civil Service Commission. Cindy Marx noted that prior to Council voting a salary increase in 2013, there had not been an increase since 1982. The current Charter provision regarding Council's salary increases was explained to directly address this issue as if Council does nothing with the recommendation from the Civil Service Commission, the increase automatically goes into effect for the following term of office.

Ranked Choice Voting was discussed. Colleen explained that it's a different style of voting where voters choose candidates by ranking them in choice of preference and that it seems to work very

well in Maine & Alaska and that she sees no downsides to this style of voting. Dean noted that the Alaska Senate recently voted to keep Rank Choice Voting. The question was asked what wrong would be fixed by moving to this method of voting.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

APPROVED MARCH 18, 2024 AS AMENDED.