

Charter Review Committee

February 12, 2020

Minutes

Present Committee Members: Ed Cameron (minutes), Denis Kennedy, School Committee Member Bruce Menin, Connie Preston, Councillor Heather Shand, Sheila Taintor, Councillor Charlie Tontar (Chair), Juliet Walker, Councillor Sharif Zeid.

Public: Joe DiBiase, Peter Fitzsimmons, Jim McCarthy, Jane Snow.

Public Comment:

Jane Snow says that the Mayor's Comment is not in the Council packet and should be.

Peter Fitzsimmons of 7 Arlington Street regarding Section 7 would like to establish Rank Choice Voting and he would like it to go to a City ballot. Other cities in MA and NYC have passed it.

Minutes

Approval of Jan 22 minutes on motion by Zeid, Walker

Minutes of January 29 are being finalized with addition of flow chart(s). Awaiting feedback from Atty. Lauren Goldberg on flow.

Approval of February 5 minutes on motion by Menin, second by Shand with addition of Capital Improvement Plan, approved.

Article 1 Incorporation Review

Sec. 1-3. Would be the place to change form of government, bigger than the scope of tonight's conversation (Zeid).

Sec. 1-7 Definitions.

City officer-discussion of meaning by Kennedy.

Zeid suggests adding definition for "City Solicitor."

“Majority vote” shall be discussed.

“Measure” shall be discussed.

Article 2 Legislative Branch Review

Section 2-1-Composition

- (a) Composition should be ‘under section 7-6’ not ‘under section 7-7.’
- (b) Term of office discussed to stagger terms. Menin discussed how School Committee terms are staggered including 4 year terms. Zeid says 4 year term might inhibit candidates. Walker thinks it could be confusing to the public to have different length terms.

Section 2-2-President

- (a) Election and term....look at term limits. One year term seems fine. Might consider what to change if manager.

Section 2-3-Prohibitions

- (a) Holding other city or position...Administration has suggested a modification with a waiver for minor positions.
- (b) Interference with administration...Zeid discussion of clarity of language and secondly City Solicitor

Section 2-4 Compensation

- (a) Compensation...Administration has recommended a elected official compensation committee...to be discussed.

Section 2-6 (b) definition of quorum shall be discussed.

Section 2-6 (c) (2) discussion of notification of Special Meetings

Section 2-7 Access to Informationlook at (b) and (c)

Section 2-9 Ordinances and other measures

- (a) Measureswe agree that smaller items like block parties could be passed on the same night.

Section 2-10 City Council confirmation of certain appointments...Zeid suggests looking at language that allows Council to initiate removals.

Section 2-11 Filling of vacancies will be looked at

Suggestion to add a 2-12 City Council acceptance of gifts....that acceptance of gift

No meeting next week.

Wednesday, February 26th at 7PM. Public hearing then time to cover Sections 5, 6, 7, 8.

Thursday, March 5th at 7pm at City Hall, (Section 3 and 4)

Tuesday, March 10th at 7pm at Senior Center (Tontar won't be in attendance)

Wed, March 18th at 7pm at Senior Center

Wednesday, March 25th at 7pm at Senior Center

Wednesday, April 1st at 7PM at Senior Center

Public comment:

Joe Dibiase suggested about capitalization in the document making it easier to identify as a defined word.

Motion to adjourn by Preston, seconded by Kennedy. Meeting adjourned at 10:22.