

Charter Review Committee

Minutes

February 26, 2020

Present: Ed Cameron (minutes), Denis Kennedy, Councillor Heather Shand, Councillor Tontar, Juliet Walker

Absent: School Committee Member Bruce Menin, Connie Preston, Sheila Taintor.

Public: Jane Snow

Meeting Called to Order at 7:05PM

Article 5. Administration Organization

Sec. 5-1 Organization of city agencies---whole section is flagged. Committee understands that this is common language in other charters.

Article 6 Finance and Fiscal Procedures

Sec. 6-2 Annual Budget Meeting---discussed whether to add another meeting in Spring between the November Annual Meeting

Sec. 6-3 Submission of operating budget---discussed moving from May 15 to May 1. Change Sec. 6-3 re-organization for clarity.

Sec. 6-4 Action on the operating budget---discussed having CIP hearing and having financing plan in CIP add requirement that city and school budget be online.

Sec. 6-5 Capital Improvement program---discussed coordinating between operating and CIP

Sec 6-6 Independent Audit---needs to be put into practice

Article 7 – Elections---this would be where Ranked Choice Voting could apply.

Article 8 Citizen Petition Mechanisms--discussed

Public Comment:

Dr. Hazem Mahmoud submitted a letter in favor of term limits for Mayor, to set provisions for Mayoral recall, to remove Mayor as Chair or member of School Committee, add section on removal of certain officials.

Jane Snow mentions that page 28 Section 6-4d School full budget is not online.

Meeting of Thursday, March 5 will be changed to 7:30. We will cover Sections 3 and 4.

Discussed how to later discuss City Manager option and Rank Choice Voting.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:28 on a motion by Cameron, seconded by Walker

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