

**CITY OF CHARDON CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Meeting Minutes*

May 14, 2018

**Charter Review Committee Members present:**

Debbie Chuha, Councilman  
Chris Dussing  
Bob Landies  
Todd Lester  
Nancy McArthur, Chairman

Victoria Nicholas  
Ramona Saikaly  
Hannah Sekas, Vice Chairman  
Mary Jo Stark

**Members Absent:**

Heather Huff  
Tom Nolfi  
Karen Sweet

**Also Present:**

Jim Gillette, Law Director  
Dave Lelko, Councilman  
Mike McArthur

Rebecca Repasky, Secretary  
Jeff Smock, Mayor

Mrs. McArthur called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Roll was called.

Mrs. Chuha made a motion to accept the April 30, 2018 minutes with two (2) corrections. It was seconded by Mrs. Saikaly. The vote carried 9-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mrs. McArthur suggested changing Section 9.01 Nominations and Elections to read: signed by registered electors of the Municipality of two percent (2%) of the number voting in the Municipality at the last preceding general election, but not less in number than twenty-five (25). Mrs. McArthur explained the current Charter makes it appear as though either/or number can be used.

The Committee agreed.

**CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON CHARTER CHANGES**

Mrs. Sekas provided the Committee with a flow chart of possible outcomes keeping the position of Mayor and eliminating the position Mayor.

Mr. Gillette commented he does not believe the Charter Review Committee has the authority to make a recommendation of removing the position of Mayor, without extensive review and investigation. He said the Committee could make a motion to City Council to appoint a special committee to further investigate and research the topic. Mr. Gillette recommended not having this issue on the fall 2018 ballot. Mr. Gillette explained by eliminating the word Mayor from the Charter, duties and responsibilities for President of Council will need to be listed and that may not be able to be accomplished by fall. He said Council may want to be a part of this process.

Mr. Lester said he wants to vote for a Mayor to run the City.

Mr. Landies asked if Mrs. McArthur or Mr. Smock have had residents approach them with the confusion on the topic. Mrs. McArthur said yes, some. Mr. Smock said no.

Mr. Dussing said the City Manager form of government is most effective and voting for a Mayor to run the City would be a weakness for a small town.

Mr. Gillette said electing a Mayor to run the City is a significant step and would need to be looked at carefully and then the Charter would have to be changed.

Mrs. Sekas explained there is concern giving the recommendation back to Council because those on Council may have personal interests and not address the concerns of the people. Mr. Gillette said a petition by the people could collect signatures to be given to the Board of Elections.

Mrs. Stark said she agrees with Mr. Gillette to have City Council appoint a special committee to research and investigate the position of Mayor.

Mrs. Sekas made a motion to keep the title of Mayor. It was seconded by Mr. Lester. Mrs. Chuha said based on tradition, she wants to keep the title of Mayor for Chardon.

The vote carried six (6) 'yes' votes to three (3) 'no' votes to keep the title of Mayor.

Mrs. Nicholas made a motion to recommend to City Council the appointment of a special committee to research and investigate the position of Mayor and potential changes. It was seconded by Mrs. Sekas. The vote carried seven (7) 'yes' votes to two (2) 'no' votes.

Mrs. Chuha asked who the committee will be made up of. Mr. Gillette said that will be up to City Council.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs. McArthur asked Mr. Gillette if language should be added to the Charter regarding prohibiting financial political activity from city employees. Mr. Gillette said an employee cannot be prohibited political activity because of free speech. Mr. Gillette explained the Charter cannot prohibit City Staff from helping campaigns (if on their own personal time); however, the Charter can prohibit financial contributions from Staff. The decision was made not to take any action at this time.

Mr. Gillette said he will prepare legislation to be voted on at the next meeting.

Sections to be voted on:

- Section 3.06; Part G – (remove) 'to regulate the subdivision and platting of land outside of the boundaries of the Municipality as provided by general law'
- Section 3.11 – Council Salaries to be determined by the Civil Service Commission
- Section 6.08 – Remove the word 'Volunteer' to be read: Chardon Fire Department, Inc.
- Section 9.01 – Clarification of two (2) percent of the vote or no less than twenty-five (25) signatures
- Section 9.02 – (add) 'Each elective officer of the Municipality shall be a qualified elector of the Municipality and shall have resided in the Municipality or in territory annexed thereto for a period of at least two (2) continuous years immediately preceding the date of election.'
  - Section 9.02 should clarify in the 'general' election

In addition, all grammatical errors are to be corrected.

#### **ADJOURN**

Mrs. Stark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. It was seconded by Mrs. Chuha.

Respectfully Submitted:

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NANCY MCARTHUR, CHAIRMAN

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Rebecca Repasky, Secretary