

**CITY OF CHARDON CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Meeting Minutes*

May 29, 2018

**Charter Review Committee Members present:**

Debbie Chuha, Councilman  
Heather Huff  
Bob Landies  
Todd Lester  
Nancy McArthur, Chairman  
Victoria Nicholas

Tom Nolfi  
Ramona Saikaly  
Hannah Sekas, Vice Chairman  
Mary Jo Stark

**Members Absent:**

Chris Dussing  
Karen Sweet

**Also Present:**

Jim Gillette, Law Director  
Dave Lelko, Councilman

Rebecca Repasky, Secretary

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 May 14, 2018 minutes. It was seconded by Mrs. Sekas. The vote carried 10-0.

Mrs. McArthur asked for a motion to amend the agenda to hold an executive session. It was seconded by Mrs. Nicholas. The vote carried 10-0.

Mr. Gillette asked what the need for executive session is. Mrs. McArthur said to further discuss either removing or keeping the title of Mayor. Mr. Gillette explained the premise of executive session as said by the Ohio Revised Code is for pending litigation, real estate property or personnel matter. He said this does not meet those requirements and was not on the agenda sent to the papers. Mrs. McArthur said items can be added to the agenda because the meeting was publicized to the public to attend.

It was decided not to hold an executive session. Mrs. Sekas made a motion to rescind the previous meeting's motion to recommend to Council the creation of a special committee to research the need for the position of Mayor. It was seconded by Mr. Lester. The vote carried 8-2.

**VOTING ON LISTED PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS**

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’.

Mrs. Nicholas made the motion to approve the proposed Charter amendment. It was seconded by Mrs. Chuha. The vote carried 10-0.

SECTION 3.11 – Council salaries to be determined by the Civil Service Commission.

Mrs. Chuha made the motion to approve the proposed Charter amendment. It was seconded by Mrs. Stark. The vote carried 10-0.

SECTION 6.08 – Remove the word ‘Volunteer’ to be read: Chardon Fire Department, Inc.

Mr. Lester made the motion to approve the proposed Charter amendment. It was seconded by Mr. Nolfi. The vote carried 10-0.

SECTION 9.01 01 – Clarification of two (2) percent of the vote or no less than twenty-five (25) signatures.

Mrs. Nicholas made the motion to approve the proposed Charter amendment. It was seconded by Mr. Lester. The vote carried 10-0.

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.’

Mrs. Stark made the motion to approve the proposed Charter amendment. It was seconded by Mrs. Saikaly. The vote carried 10-0.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs. McArthur asked if the Charter should include language to prohibit City Staff from holding office one (1) year after working; as in City Council members not being able to work as the City Manager and Finance Director one (1) year after holding office. (Sections 4.01 and 5.01). Mr. Gillette said, without doing full research, he is unsure how the Charter can limit someone’s ability to hold office. Mrs. McArthur agreed and said if it is not in the O.R.C., then that decision could be challenged.

Mrs. Nicholas asked how those two (2) position are listed in the Charter. Mr. Lelko said he guesses, it was to prohibit Council members from hiring their own people, into those listed positions.

The committee continued discussion on keeping or removing the position of Mayor from the Charter.

Mrs. Sekas explained the previous meeting left some members of the Charter Review Committee feeling as if the decision to recommend to Council the removal of the position of Mayor was beyond the authority of the Committee. She said that is the purpose of this Committee and the Committee has done research and investigation. She said some felt the discussion was cut short.

Mr. Gillette said that was only his recommendation because there was no real recommendation. He apologized for making it appear that way and said the Committee can make a recommendation as they see fit.

Mrs. Sekas made a motion to rescind and withdraw the previous meeting’s motion in regards to recommending to Council the creation of a committee to explore the position of Mayor. It was seconded by Mr. Lester.

Mrs. Sekas said she believes this can go onto the fall ballot. Mr. Gillette explained to the Committee he has the ability to tell Council this is not adequate if no reason is presented.

Mrs. Sekas reviewed the flow chart. Previous questions regarding the topic were re-explained.

Mrs. Stark said she believes this should be recommended to Council to create a special committee to further investigate the topic.

Mrs. Sekas made a motion to remove the title of Mayor from City Council as a position, because of public confusion and because it is only ceremonial; but keep the position of President of Council and Vice President of Council. It was seconded by Mr. Lester. The vote is as follows:

Mrs. Chuha – NO  
Mrs. Huff – NO  
Mr. Landies – YES  
Mr. Lester – YES  
Mrs. McArthur – YES  
Mr. Nolfi – NO  
Mrs. Nicholas – YES

Mrs. Stark – YES  
Mrs. Sekas – YES  
Mrs. Saikaly – ABSTAINED

The vote carried 6-3 with one (1) abstention.

The next meeting to vote on the proposed ballot legislation will be: Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Gillette requested those that voted YES, to remove the title of Mayor, email their reasons why they want the title to be removed.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Lester made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. It was seconded by Mrs. Stark.

Respectfully Submitted:

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NANCY MCARTHUR, CHAIRMAN

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Rebecca Repasky, Secretary