

Charter Review Committee
March 26, 2024

A meeting of the Charter Review Committee was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at city hall, conference room 122, located at 203 South Troy Street, Royal Oak. The meeting was called to order at 5:51 p.m. by Chairperson Everett.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT
Chairperson Everett
Commissioner Hunt
Ron George
Salvatore Vitale (6:04 p.m.)
Deborah Zukin

ABSENT

Also present was City Attorney Grochowski.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Janice Wagman stated that Chapter Eight, Section 11 of the charter, lists four millages but does not include the publicity tax millage, library millage or senior services millage. She is wondering why these three are not in the charter.

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APPROVAL OF MARCH 26, 2024, AGENDA

Moved by Zukin
Seconded by George

Be it resolved the Charter Review Committee hereby approves the agenda for the March 26, 2024 meeting as presented.

Adopted unanimously

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 20, 2024, CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by George
Seconded by Zukin

Be it resolved the Charter Review Committee minutes of February 20, 2024 are hereby approved as submitted.

Adopted unanimously

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS
UPDATE FROM ATTORNEY REGARDING CHARTER AMENDMENTS

City Attorney Grochowski informed the committee that a charter revision cannot be placed on an August Primary ballot. They can place items on a November ballot, but because this year it is a Presidential Election, it's not recommended. The next General Election will be in November of 2025 and if approved, these amendments they have been working on can be placed on that ballot.

He can send this proposed language to the Attorney General's office for pre-approval so that they are all submitted prior to the election deadlines for 2025.

He presented a draft commission letter which explained their proposed amendment and ballot language for Chapter Three Sections 11, 25 and 26. He asked the members to review and provide feedback at the next meeting.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST AMENDMENT EDITS

At the last meeting, the committee approved language for a proposed amendment to Chapter Three, Section 43. The charter change worksheet presented by George in January did not remove or edit section 43, but rather added a new section to Chapter Three, Section 47. Grochowski asked the members to review that language, prepare draft ballot language and present it at the next meeting. If the members approve the drafted language at that time, he can submit it to the Attorney General's office for pre-approval as well.

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NEW BUSINESS

George presented a handout explaining where the charter could use some updated language regarding vacancies. In Chapter Three, Section 10, he would like to expand and clarify the definition of vacancy. In Chapter Three, Sections 7 and 9, he would like to clarify the succession of Mayor Pro Tem to Mayor. In Chapter Three, Section 9, he would like to expand the definition of the process for filling vacancies. Commissioner Hunt would like other charters studied on this topic as well. The members can review this handout, start to research and discuss further at the next meeting.

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ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of George and seconded by Everett the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Melanie Halas, City Clerk / bh