



City of Hudson, Ohio

Meeting Minutes - Draft Charter Review Commission

Andrew R. Duff, Chair
George W. Roth, Secretary
Marcia W. Boote
Robert M. Cain
Ann Coleman
Joseph Mulligan
J. Randall Nye

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

7:00 PM

Town Hall

1. Call to Order

M. Duff called to order the meeting of the Charter Review Commission at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present 6 - Ms. Boote, Dr. Coleman, Mr. Duff, Mr. Mulligan, Mr. Nye, and Mr. Roth

Absent 1 - Mr. Cain

3. Oath of Office: Joseph Mulligan

Mr. Joseph Mulligan took an Oath of Office, as administered by City Manager Howington, and confirmed by City Solicitor Hunt.

4. Approval of the Minutes

A. [15-0018](#) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEETINGS.

Attachments: [January 28, 2015 Meeting Minutes - DRAFT](#)

A motion was made by Mr. Roth, seconded by Dr. Coleman, that the Minutes be approved as submitted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Ms. Boote, Dr. Coleman, Mr. Duff, Mr. Nye and Mr. Roth

Abstain: 1 - Mr. Mulligan

5. Public Comments

Council President DeSaussure, 7563 Sugarbush Trail, thanked Commission members for serving, and he proposed amendments to Sections 3.02, 3.04, and 3.07 pertaining to Council's workshop sessions and the Clerk of Council's required attendance at Council meetings only at which legislative action may be taken. (See proposed amendments attached to record copy of these minutes).

In addition, based upon perceptions of some constituents, Mr. DeSaussure proposed that Commission members consider a proposal to amend Section 3.10 to increase the salary of

City Council members to cover minimal expenses, saying that the existing salary of \$10 per month may tend to stifle the level of diversity and/or accountability. He distributed salary comparisons (attached to file copy of these minutes). Discussion followed regarding the proposal and current practices for expense reimbursements. Mr. DeSaussure suggested that this item could appear on the ballot as a separate issue.

6. Discussion Items

A. [15-0014](#) ARTICLE I: NAME AND BOUNDARIES

Attachments: [Article I](#)

Section 1.01, Name: Mr. Hunt suggested that the Commission consider an amendment to change the name to "City of Hudson, Ohio."

Section 1.02, Boundaries: No comments.

Amendments to Article I were considered.

B. [15-0015](#) ARTICLE II: FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND POWERS

Attachments: [Article II](#)

Section 2.01, Form of Government: Mr. Duff observed that the Mayor-Council-Manager form seems to have worked well in Hudson.

Section 2.02, Powers: Mr. Duff inquired if the current language was as strong and as broad as can be written to give the City the most power in exercising home rule. Mr. Hunt was supportive of the current language. Mr. Ney inquired regarding powers not enumerated, intergovernmental cooperation, and council of governments. Mr. Hunt said that the City is limited to some extent in areas of contracting and cooperative purchasing, for which he intends to make suggestions for amendments elsewhere in the Charter.

Amendments to Article II were considered.

C. [15-0016](#) ARTICLE III: THE COUNCIL

Attachments: [Article III](#)

Section 3.01, Composition and Terms: Mr. Duff questioned why terms of office for Council members commenced in December rather than in January after the election. Mr. Hunt suggested that this provision addresses the lame duck issue. Discussion followed regarding approval of the Five-Year Plan and annual Budget in December.

Section 3.02, Meetings: Mr. Hunt suggested wording to amend current language regarding the organizational meeting and work session meetings.* Discussion followed.

Section 3.03, President: Mr. Hunt suggested wording to amend current language to clarify the term for the President of Council.* Discussion followed regarding this, as well as references in this section to Sections 4.02, 4.03 and 4.04 regarding powers, vacancy, and absence of the Mayor. Mr. Duff questioned appointments by the Council President as opposed to appointments by the entire Council. Mr. DeSaussure explained that the President may appoint Subcommittees of Council and Council Liaisons.

Section 3.04, Clerk of Council: Mr. Hunt suggested wording, so that the Clerk is not required to attend the work session meetings.*

Section 3.05, Powers: At the request of two Council members, Mr. Hunt suggested language for a parallel provision to that granted to the Mayor in Section 4.02, Powers, specifically "The Council shall have the right to request and receive information in a timely manner on all matters addressed by, or participated in, by the Mayor in the Mayor's official capacity." Discussion followed, and there was consensus in opposition to the proposed language. Also discussed was a correction of a typographical error in this section referencing Section 6.03, instead of 6.04, of the Charter.*

Section 3.06, Journal: No comments.

Section 3.07, Quorum and Procedure: Mr. Hunt suggested clarification wording regarding quorum. Discussion followed.*

Section 3.08, Ordinances and Resolutions: No comments.

*Section 3.09, Ordinances and Resolutions that Take Immediate Effect: Mr. Hunt suggested clarification wording regarding utility improvement projects.**

Section 3.10, Salaries and Bonds: Members discussed Mr. DeSaussure's proposed change (see Public Comments), and there was a consensus in favor of maintaining the current Charter provision for a \$10 per month salary for Council members.

Section 3.11, Vacancies: Mr. Basil explained a proposal to increase the time allowed to fill a vacancy from 30 to 60 days. There was a consensus in favor of this proposed amendment.*

Section 3.12, Administrative Service: Members discussed possible amendments to this section pertaining to City Council members' interactions with staff, as well as to Section 5.03 regarding powers of the City Manager. Also discussed was the possibility that City Council could amend the Codified Ordinances, Section 220.03, Council Rules, to address this issue. There was consensus among members to modify this Charter section.

Section 3.13, Removal: Members discussed amending this section to allow for suspension.

** (See proposed revisions attached to record copy of these minutes).*

Amendments to Article III were considered.

D. [15-0017](#)

ARTICLE IV: THE MAYOR

Attachments: [Article IV](#)

Section 4.01, Term: No comments.

Section 4.02, Powers: Mr. Mulligan questioned the need for the Mayor to serve as a judge when authorized by Council, being that Hudson no longer uses a Mayor's Court; but there was a consensus in favor of maintaining the current wording. Members also discussed possible amendments to the wording "The Mayor shall be the official and ceremonial head of the Municipal government...."

Section 4.03, Vacancy: No comments.

Section 4.04, Absence: No comments.

Section 4.05, Administrative Service: Members discussed this proposed new section, "The Mayor shall deal solely through the City Manager in respect to any part of the administrative

service for which the City Manager is responsible," as well as a possible amendment to Section 5.03 regarding powers of the City Manager.

Amendments to Article IV were considered.

Discussion Items for Future Meetings

Members discussed procedures for approving the Commission's recommendations for Charter amendments.

Mr. Duff proposed reviewing Articles V through VIII at the next meeting on April 9, 2015, and other members agreed.

Mr. Duff requested that staff provide copies of the National Civic League's Model City Charter to Commission members.

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Roth, seconded by Mr. Nye, to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Duff adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m. after the motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Ms. Boote, Dr. Coleman, Mr. Duff, Mr. Mulligan, Mr. Nye and Mr. Roth

Andrew R. Duff, Chair

George W. Roth, Secretary

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth Slagle, Clerk of Council.

Upon approval by the Charter Review Commission, this official written summary of the meeting minutes shall become a permanent record, and the official minutes shall also consist of a permanent audio and video recording.