

# CITY OF TWINSBURG, OHIO

## CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES

**April 21, 2014**

**ROLL CALL:** D. Romito, G. Spera, R. Syphen, T. Jones, J. Magnes, D. Martin, D. Detweiler, K. Monachino, D. Albright (arrived during meeting)

**ABSENT:** none

**ALSO PRESENT:** Gary Sorace, Council Member  
Katherine Procop, Mayor  
David Maistros, Law Director  
Amy Mohr, City Engineer

**R. Syphen started the meeting at 7:00PM**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 7, 2014**

Moved by R. Syphen, Seconded by Mr. Romito

Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously 8-0 (D. Albright absent)

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** Will take place during 'Old Business' when the topic is discussed

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Summer Recess:**

- Ms. Mohr addresses the commission. She had reviewed the past six years of July summer meetings. There were ballot issues that were covered in past July meetings. Conditional use permits have been approved in past years in July. There are two projects (golf course) that will likely come up in July 2014 due to the timing of the projects and the bid process.
- Mr. Sorace had received input from council members regarding the summer recess. They indicated that it would be fine to leave the charter as is.

**Setting Council Meeting Dates:**

- In regards to setting the council meetings day of the week, Mr. Sorace explained that council can change meeting dates as needed, so there is no need to change the charter to change the current days of the week.
- Mr. Romito believes that our charter is outdated. Other area charters all indicate that council holds "one meeting per calendar month", not specifying specific days of the week. Mr. Romito feels more residents would be potentially able to attend Monday meetings, instead of Tuesdays.
- Ms. Spera feels that it shouldn't be changed if it has been working for council. She is concerned that there are already a significant number of Charter Review Recommendations going to the ballot.
- Mr. Maistros explains the issues with having Monday meetings. (Confusion as to when meetings are, when they fall on Monday holidays)
- Mr. Romito suggests members think it over and discuss at the next meeting.

**(Mr. Syphen moves the discussion back to the topic of Summer Recess)**

- Some discussion between Mayor Procop & Ms. Spera
- Decision was made to keep language as is, since council can make changes as needed.

### **Civil Service Section 7.05:**

- Mr. Maistros met with the Civil Service commission. The language in the Civil Service rules matches the language in our Charter regarding classified & un-classified personnel.
- Mr. Maistros has provided commission members with his recommendations to remove some titles from our Charter (for example, all persons employed by any court of record, all employees of the public library, clerk of the Board of Education), and adding two (already existing) department heads (Director of Planning & Community Development, Law Director) to the list, so that it is consistent with the Civil Service language.
- Temporary, seasonal and part time positions are defined in Chapter 147
- Mr. Maistros explains that the proposed changes are just to match the language of the Charter to the actions of what is actually happening. Some language dates back to the 1960's.
- Other proposed changes include removing references to gender in the final paragraph
- There is discussion about splitting the changes in this section into Section A and Section B, due to the number of changes in the language, in order to help the voters see that the changes are strictly updating language, not adding positions to the city.
- Mr. Maistros will draft language to reflect these changes

### **Parks & Rec:**

- Ms. Monachino met with Derek Schroeder and reviewed the Parks & Rec section in the charter. She presents some proposed changes.
- Ms. Spera and Mayor Procop discuss the proposed changes and format. (some conversation not picked up by microphone)
- Discussion to leave out the section of the proposed draft that deals with the format of the Parks & Rec Board
- Mr. Sypen requests that Mr. Maistros draft language that will include statements up to "supervision skills" on page two of Ms. Monachino's document.

### **Section 3.01 Council Number & Terms:**

- Goal is to develop consistency in the start and end time of council terms. Suggestion is that the regular term commences at first regular meeting of council in December following an election, and will end at the first meeting of council in December four years after assuming office.
- Members agree with the draft that Mr. Maistros has proposed.

### **Summary of Above:**

Mr. Sypen and commission members are requesting specific ballot language for **Section 3.01, Section 7.12 & Section 7.05**

### **Section 4.05 Powers of the Mayor:**

- Mr. Maistros explains that the change in this section is to the Legislative section, giving the mayor a vote on appointments to boards & commissions.
- Discussion between members on how tie votes are handled in council.

Mr. Sypen and commission members are requesting specific ballot language for **Section 4.05**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Primary:**

- An option of eliminating the primary is discussed among the commission members.  
Potential issues:
  1. If it was on the ballot to remove the primary, some voters may perceive that as a right being taken away from them.
  2. Candidates would need to make a choice to run either for mayor OR for council.  
Would not be able to run for a council seat if they were not elected Mayor.
- Unofficial pole of commission members shows members split between leaving the primary as is in May vs. putting language on the ballot eliminating it all together.
- Members request that Mr. Maistros draft language to eliminate the primary so that they can review it and decide if it will move forward to council and possibly to the ballot.

Ms. Spera asks Mr. Syphen if she could address an item under “**Old Business**”. She would like to poll members to see where the commission members stand on the issue of changing the day of council meetings.

#### Options:

1. Leave the Charter as is, as the second and fourth Tuesday of the month
  2. Change it to a more generic statement stating “at least once a month” that would allow council to set the dates in December for the following year
- Unofficial pole of commission members shows 8-1 in favor of leaving it as is

## **AUDIENCE COMMENTS:**

Pete Metropolis, of 9044 Gettysburg Dr. Twinsburg, Oh

Mr. Metropolis believes that a specific date should be selected for council to take office, and not have a floating day.

## **MISCELLANEOUS:**

There is some discussion between Mr. Sorace, Mayor Procop, Mr. Maistros and Mr. Syphen on assigning a specific day.

Mr. Sorace suggests using December 1<sup>st</sup> as the date.

Mr. Maistros will add the date of December 1<sup>st</sup> to the draft.

**NEXT MEETING DATES: May 5, 2014 7PM**

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Syphen makes a motion to adjourn

Seconded by Mr. Martin

**This meeting adjourns unanimously adjourned at 8:35PM**