



Charter Review Commission Minutes

Stow City Hall Boards and Commissions Room, Thursday, June 11, 2015, 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Andrea Denton, Robin Kory, Annal Vyas, Nicole Walker, Kelly Johnson, and Mary Botts

Members Absent: John Long and Tim Schofield

Also Present: None

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Robin Kory

Approval of Minutes ó Motion to approve the minutes of May 21, 2015 held until all the members have reviewed them.

The Committee reviewed the following open dates for future meetings: June 18th, June 25th, July 9th, July 16th, July 23, and July 30th.

Ms. Kory said that looking at Tim's notes, if we get to a point where we can come up with our themes, if one of them is term limits, he put them down as a low priority. He wants to focus on cleaning up some of the wording in the Charter, which is what the public wanted too so we will put focusing on wording high.

Ms. Johnson said regarding term limits, Council is totally divided on what they want and it was put to the voters last election and totally voted down so why put it on the ballot again?

Mr. Vyas said I agree with Kelly as far as term limits. I will say one of the things with term limits, I prioritized everything low except for wording, there is that issue where someone is appointed to fill out a term, does that count towards the eight consecutive issues because I think that is a significant issue because if you are appointed halfway through, so with term limits, I agree. The voters have spoken but that other issue, I don't think it was worded properly.

Items to Clarify

4. Section 3.02, Q2 ó Acting Mayor ó Ms. Kory said based on Mr. Long and Mr. Schofield's notes, Ms. Johnson said for that one mine is low. Ms. Kory said there was one Law Director that was called up to active duty. Mr. Vyas said I think that sections 3.06 should go together with section 3.07. Ms. Kory said so in Section 3.06, Q3, we can combine this with incapacitated and called up for military duty? Maybe combine both and put in both sections. Ms. Walker said the word incapacitated covers a wide range of things. Ms. Kory said if you are trying to say you are incapacitated what is another word? Ms. Denton said all the things going on in Akron make me think this through again. Mr. Vyas said it looks like the acting Mayor does, under 3.06, come in when the

Mayor is unable for any cause or reason to perform the duties of the Mayor. Mr. Vyas said there is a separate section for vacancy under the Law Director. Ms. Kory said I think that with more veterans returning we should have something into this Charter regarding military and how to handle it when the situation arises. Will combine 4, 5, and 7 and put with 3.07.

5. Section 3.06, Q3 ó Acting Mayor ó Combine with 3.07

6. Section 3.06, Q4 ó Acting Mayor ó Make this a new section.

7. Section 3.07, Q1 ó Vacancy ó Mayor ó Combine with 3.07.

8. Section 3.07, Q2 ó Vacancy ó Mayor ó Mr. Vyas said so if you pull a Councilman out of the position, then you have a 3/3 voting result. Ms. Kory said then you put in another Councilman. Mary will check with Amber to see if this can happen. Robin will make a note as this is very vague. Mr. Vyas said the öörö President of Council öörö. Mr. Vyas said you almost want to rewrite this section to make it clearer. We will double check with Amber to make sure we can never have that situation before we do anything (3/3 vote). Do six Council vote and new Mayor?

33. Section 9.02 Q1 ó Qualifications ó Ms. Kory said if you look at the Mayor's qualifications. Mayor's office should be in the City Hall and the Mayor should devote full time and effort. I think the main point was she would be full time and that was the driver behind the Law Director without saying öBuilding A, cubicle 2ö, saying that you shall not be doing other work on City time. Mr. Vyas said I do like that the Mayor should be in City Hall but not so much the Law Director having to be. It seems a lot of people are interpreting this differently so it would be a good thing to clean this up.

34. Section 9.05, Q1 ó Vacancy ó Ms. Kory asked should this be reworded? öWhere such vacancy occurs less than 31 days prior to filing petitionö. Ms. Kory asked is this the one that has to do with the 8 years? How do we feel about that? Mr. Vyas said if we clarify the other provisions of term limits that you are allowed to serve, then I think this one would be okay. Right now it just says 8 consecutive years in the same office. Ms. Kory said we will defer this thinking that we are going to clean up #54 and #52. Mr. Vyas said it is more with #52. Everyone was in agreement.

36. Section 10.01, Q1 ó Planning Commission ó This was a question on how members were chosen. This will be removed as it was just a question and low on the priority list.

37. Section 10.02, Q2 ó Planning Commission ó Organization ó Mr. Vyas said I made this a high priority because with the digital age, we should change this.

38. Section 10.05, Q1 ó Public Hearing ó This also should be changed on where things are posted in this digital age. Ask Amber if we can combine 37, 38 and 18. It is three different sections or can it be one item? Mr. Vyas said maybe we can have that any items advertised shall be posted online or we can change all three. Ms. Kory said I don't really want three different changes to vote on. Mr. Vyas said then maybe we should add a separate provision for this.

39. Section 11.01, Q1 ó Comp & Term ó This was also a question from the Commission. This has low priority and will be taken off the table.

40. Section 11.03, Q1 ó Jurisdiction ó This was also a question from the Commission and was answered. This has low priority and will be taken off the table.

53. Section 21.08, Q3 ó Term Limits ó Ms. Kory said I think this one is important to all of us. Mr. Vyas said I had this as a high priority to visit and reword. Look at rewording Section 21.08. I think that Amber raised that and it is a big concern. We want to get rid of this first sentence, should be streamlined. I am a little worried on how the voters will look at this. We are not changing it and if it is not really a problem right now. Ms. Kory said I think it was a problem with us when we were trying to decipher this. It is still eight years for anybody. The wording is very confusing. No one that we elect can last more than eight consecutive years. That is the entire point. Then they have to sit out two years before they can rerun. Mr. Vyas said it was voted down five years ago by a majority so maybe we should not revisit this. Ms. Kory said is this important enough to change or leave it how it is? We are not asking to change the rules but to just clarify this. Ms. Johnson said I think we should leave it off. Is this worth bringing to the voters and confusing them even more? Is this something Amber can clear up on her own? Ms. Denton read 2010 ballot results regarding term limits which stated almost 75% of the voters voted for. Mr. Vyas said I think that is pretty clear. Ms. Denton said the same for the Finance and Law Director. Mr. Vyas said I believe the people have spoken. I believe Section 52 should be looked at.

10. Section 4.02, Q1 ó Composition and Term ó Maybe changing Council to a 4 year term. Two seems too short. Ms. Denton and Ms. Kory think they need more than two years. Ms. Johnson would like to keep at two years. Ms. Walker said it is very stressful running every two years. This will be tabled until next meeting.

11. Section 4.02 Q2 - Composition and Term - Has anyone compared our terms to Hudson? Hudson Ward 1/2/3/4 expires one a year. Will put together with 10, 11, and 12.

12. Section 4.02, Q3 ó Composition and Term ó ðEach ward councilperson shall be elected for a term of 2 years, which term. Will put together with 10, 11, and 12. We will see how we feel about this. Ms. Denton asked with the people turning in their stuff to run now for two years, so if this would go to the voters, then it would be a whole council term later than it started because these guys are running for two years.

Motion to adjourn by Andrea Denton, seconded by Robin Kory. Meeting adjourned 6:34 p.m.

Mary Botts, Secretary

Robin Kory, Chairperson