



Charter Review Commission
August 30, 2018 Organizational Meeting Minutes
Village Hall

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Clerk Jennifer Mason at 4:00 p.m.

Swearing In of New Members:

Council Member Shull swore in the all appointed members together. The typed oath had the wrong organization and Clerk Mason stated she would replace those at the next regular meeting.

Roll Call:

Bill Carleton	P
Andy Cooke	P
Johnna Evans	P
Mary Fee	P
Debra Lowery	P
Glenn Redick	P
Patrick Weyers	P

Council/Staff members present: Council Member Shull, *Council Liaison*, Mitch Banchefsky, Law Director, and Jennifer Mason, Clerk of Council.

Members and staff present introduced and gave a brief background of themselves.

Annual Organizational Meeting:

Elect Chairperson:

Mary Fee moved to elect Andy Cooke as Chairperson. Debra Lowery seconded and all members voted in favor of electing Andy Cooke as Chairperson.

Elect Vice-Chairperson

Mary Fee moved to appoint Patrick Weyers as Vice-Chair. Andy Cook seconded and all members voted in favor of electing Patrick Weyers as Vice-Chair.

Elect Secretary:

Patrick Weyers moved to appoint Debra Lowery. Mary Fee seconded and all members voted in favor appointing Debra Lowery as Secretary.

Establish date, time, and location for 2018 meetings:

The members agreed to meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 4 pm as their regular meeting.

Clerk Mason reviewed the Standard Rules of Procedure for New Albany Boards and Commissions regarding attendance requirements as set forth on the August 30, 2018 agenda.

Approval of the Agenda:

Chair Cooke asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda as provided. Member Redick moved to approve the agenda. Vice-Chair Weyers seconded and all members voted to approve the agenda.

Charter History and Overview:

Law Director Mitch Banchefsky told the members that statutory-based villages and cities were possible pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 7, however, those entities were rigidly described and that chapter was difficult to interpret. There were many procedural requirements in ORC Chapter 7 which, with a charter, municipalities could chose to opt-out. Home Rule authority was provided for under the Ohio Constitution. Home Rule meant that any area of law the state hadn't pre-empted, the city could self-govern.

Law Director Banchefsky told members that the New Albany Charter served as the city's constitution. It set forth procedures and policies like how the city spent money, how it handled personnel matters, and many other items. Law Director Banchefsky told members that the Charter Review Commission (CRC) could conceivably recommend a change in the form of government. Currently, New Albany had a mayor, council, and city manager, and the city manager was in charge of the daily operations. A "strong mayor" would constitute a different format where the mayor ran daily business. The CRC could choose to divide the city in wards and have council members elected from each ward. A mayor selected by council would be another format. New Albany had a "weak mayor" form of government where the mayor presided over mayor's court, attended to ceremonial duties, and functioned as a council member.

The CRC would provide a recommendation of charter changes to council. Council would decide which recommendations they would accept and put on the November 2019 ballot. The CRC had about a year to complete its task.

The city's first charter was approved in 1993. It was basic and enabled the city to start exercising home rule and enacting ordinances. In 1999, the city started over with a new charter. Law Director Banchefsky described the process of having an entirely new document approved by the Board of Elections and city residents. The 1999 charter didn't contain many substantive changes, but was significantly better organized. The city next updated its charter in 2010. That charter added, among other items, a new

provision for council to go into executive session for discussion of economic development. Later, the State of Ohio created a similar provision in the ORC.

Returning to the CRC process, Law Director Banchefsky stated that the CRC would make a recommendation to council to update, make revisions, and propose changes. The CRC would address certain charter sections at each meeting. Law Director Banchefsky would send out a memo with the section to be covered, a summary of the purpose of that section, and any suggestions that he, as Law Director, had. When the CRC came to sections involving city staff, such as finance or planning and zoning, the CRC would invite staff to provide their input. The CRC could have a staff member attend the meeting and talk about what changes they felt were necessary and why. Once the CRC reached a consensus, Law Director Banchefsky would create a new memo with the formal recommendation which the CRC would then vote on.

Law Director Banchefsky anticipated talking more about Home Rule specifics at the next CRC. He would be providing a memo on Home Rule for the CRC's review. CRC and staff discussed who used the charter and would want input in this process. Law Director Banchefsky noted that the CRC meetings were open to the public. CRC and staff talked about the CRC's schedule. Law Director Banchefsky stated that they would receive a memo with proposed dates. Council Member Shull and Clerk Mason would be updating council on the CRCs topics and progress.

Other Business:

Clerk Mason asked CRC members to think about residents who would be willing to serve as an alternate on the CRC board in case the CRC were to lose a member for any reason. CRC appointees could only serve on the CRC, and not on other city boards concurrently. She encouraged members to forward the names of qualified persons. Member Lowery added that the 2010 alternate fully participated in discussions and signed the charter, they simply didn't vote on CRC matters.

Poll members for comment:

Chair Cooke asked and Law Director Banchefsky answered that meetings were expected to last about an hour. Chair Cooke offered to try to keep meetings to an hour for the sake of everyone's schedule.

Adjournment:

Member Fee moved to adjourn. Member Redick seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Signed:



Andrew Cooke, Chair



Debra Lowery, Secretary

9/25/18
Date