

Charter Revision Commission Minutes

Meeting Date: May 30, 2019

6:30 p.m. - call to order by Chairman Granfield

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call present: Brunetti, Clifford, Smith, Carrano, Granfield

Absent: Bolt, Apicella, Diaz Riccio

Q & A: There was no Q & A with city or state officials

Discussion: Suggested topics to review by Corporation Council included revisiting the tax collectors position along with establishing professional credentials within the charter for department heads and defining "shall vs. may!"

Chairman Granfield presented an example of a more generic job description to be considered for all department heads based upon industry standards for each position rather than outlining specific requirements such as education and work experience.

Commissioner Brunetti raised concern about watering down qualifications and specific job requirements. This sentiment was echoed by the entire commission with multiple arguments in favor of strong credential requirements within the charter, allowing for a few adjustments in order to simplify and make clearer those requirements. The consensus of the commission at the conclusion of the discussion was to keep the department credentials as originally drafted with a few minor adjustments agreed to by the group.

Chairman Granfield also raised the concerns by the Corp Council Office regarding the Tax Collector's Office. CC concerns were based upon the conflict of having a tax manager and a tax collector, state statutes outline specific guidelines for each which could create confusion. Multiple conversations developed between the members, with the focus on reducing political influence within city departments. Carrano and Smith concurred the Tax Office is a critical city department that requires competent and qualified leadership. Granfield pointed out elected officials cannot be "credentialed" so the consensus opinion was to remove the tax collector from the elected process, like the Treasurer and City Clerk and add credential requirements, and make the Tax Collector a full time appointed position as allowed by state statute. Each commissioner agreed with change without much follow up debate to which the Chairman replied "wow"!

A discussion took place regarding concerns of Corp Council regarding multiple changes of the use of "shall" to "may." Chairman Granfield pointed out that both the Mayor and City Council Chairman requested more flexibility be introduced to the charter. The concerns of CC were based upon circumstances where state statute currently require something that the commission

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changed from shall to may. Granfield and Carrano debated the validity of the concerns with Granfield claiming while state statutes take priority over a city charter, statutes change meaning requirements change. Carrano raises the issue of legality of the language we are adding to the charter must take precedent over the wishes of flexibility by the Mayor's Office. The group agreed to make adjustments where deemed necessary by current statute.

New Business: Chairman Granfield informed the commission members that the legal review was not complete. With the July 6th deadline looming, the commissioners need to be as flexible as possible this month as additional meetings may be required to complete our work.

Motion to adjourn 8:00 p.m. by multiple commissioners
Seconded by multiple commissioners