



**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION 2017 - JOSEPH BIZJAK
TUESDAY APRIL 25, 2017**

MEETING: IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**PLACE: COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
7232 E. MAIN STREET, 1ST FLOOR, REYNOLDSBURG, OH 43068**

Call to Order

PRESENT: Wallace, King, Bizjak, Saylor
ABSENT: Johns

Approval of Agenda

Agenda stands approved.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Charter Review Commission 2017 – Meeting – April 13, 2017

Minutes stand approved.

Discussion

Public Suggestion- Connie Turner

Mr. Saylor stated that he pulled up Charter examples from Columbus, Bexley and Hilliard and noted that none of these communities have qualification requirements for Auditor. They did state requirements for City Attorney. He said that he personally didn't know if the group wanted to get into this arena. He said he welcomed her suggestion but didn't have anything to say about it.

Mr. Bizjak said he felt that it deserved more discussion before the final report but had no feeling about it at this point in time.

Mr. Saylor responded that Mr. Johns provided an email suggestion.

Ms. Wallace said that having a degree doesn't necessarily make a person qualified that experience says a lot and needs to be considered. She stated that she did have a thought in regards to bankruptcy, that if someone had filed bankruptcy and holding the position of Auditor, she felt it was something that should be discussed. However, as far the degree option, the City generally has other people with degrees to serve as a resource when it pertains to the financial decisions of the city.

Mr. Bizjak asked the City Attorney if the Charter requires a CPA in any capacity.

Mr. Hood responded that the Charter doesn't require it, but that the City does employ one and that it is a Civil Service position. He went on to state that there are outside Auditors and Accountants that advise us on an annual basis and that the CAFR is an example of what outside Accountants prepare for the City. Also yearly, state Auditors are in annually. Mr. Hood stated that the current Auditor, Mr. Harris would be happy to come in and explain his job function to the Commission.

Ms. Wallace asked if there is information as to how many past Auditors had financial degrees.

Mr. Bizjak pointed out that the Auditor or State didn't have its first CPA in until Mary Taylor was Auditor.

Mr. King stated that the only other verbage that he could think of was "or equivalent in function or experience" so if they were to not have a degree, a certain amount of experience would be requested in that function rather it be personally or professionally.

Ms. Wallace said she was comfortable as it remained knowing that there are CPAs available and outside neutral parties overseeing the office also.

Mrs. Beggerow pointed out that the Charter currently had a line stating that the City Auditor shall be qualified for office by reason of training or experience in matters pertaining to accounting, financial reporting, and other fiscal matters.

Mr. Bizjak asked for any more discussion on this matter. Seeing none, the Commission moved on to Other Business.

Other Business

The Commission discussed a proposal to change Charter section 4.14 Public Notice. Mr. Bizjak asked for clarification on the "as determined by Council". He asked if it would be required to be changed by Resolution.

Mr. Hood stated that should a change be requested and approved by the voters, Council would establish a rule in the Council Rules that would dictate how the Charter section would be applied.

Mr. Bizjak felt that the proposal made sense in that it embraces changes in technology and gives Council the flexibility to make the changes.

Mr. Hood pointed out that the reason that This Week News was designated as the newspaper of general circulation was that it was sent only to residents of the city. But that many of the suburban newspapers are leaving circulation and going to an online only format. He stated to the Commission that they need to consider the residents ability to obtain the information vs. the cost as a whole to publish.

Ms. Wallace stated that the elderly population would benefit with a physical copy at the library.

Mrs. Beggerow stated that perhaps at the Senior Center would also be an option to reach the older population.

Mr. Hood said if it just stated in the Charter, whatever Council deems appropriate, Council can say where those postings will occur and they can be adjusted as needed. He stated the rules are more specific whereas the Charter is generally broader.

Ms. Wallace felt that it would be a good idea and could potentially save money in publication costs as well.

Mr. Hood agreed because it is already posted via other means already.

Mr. Bizjak asked if there was any more information to come before the Commission.

Mr. Hood said he just wanted to thank the members for their participation and that it is a very important job and that he was available to them as needed because their work is important to him and the residents. He stated that he has been working with the Finance Chairman Mr. Cotner on changes to Section 8.04 and if the Commission was willing to discuss that issue he would prepare materials and present them to the Commission. He stated that it isn't just a matter of what the dollar figures were in 1992 but that the procedure in which the City purchases items is not an economic and efficient one and if you take a moment to look at 8.04 you will see that it is really designed for major construction projects and not designed for paying for the fireworks display, paying the AEP bill or buying a truck. He stated that he can provide the Commission with the information he has obtained on this topic and offered to share his work with the Commission so that they can take a look at the process and consider making alterations to it.

Mr. Saylor asked when Mr. Hood would be available to make a presentation on this topic to which Mr. Hood responded at your convenience. The Commission scheduled their next meeting for Wednesday, May 3 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Hood stated that in brief, it is the same concept as what was discussed by the Commission. It would be an easy and broad topic that the public would understand with details that say "As Council deems appropriate". Then Council can pass an ordinance as recommended to create a process to handle these projects.

Mr. Saylor stated that the flexibility is appealing.

Mr. Hood said that there has been frustration in the past pertaining to the competitive bidding because the time constraints are rough especially with the recent change in recent meeting times. He said that the point was to make things more streamlined and efficient and allow for a better way to spend money and purchase goods with the appropriate checks and balances in place.

Mr. Saylor said it definitely warranted further discussion.

Ms. Wallace said that when you have a minimum dollar amount set 25 years ago it is ridiculous that those are the guidelines we have to use.

Mr. Hood said that if you want a list of the things we can't buy... \$10,000 is a lot of money to everyone in the room individually, but is not a lot of money to a city as a whole. You can't fix waterlines for that. The things that Cities do to provide for residents is more than \$10,000. Xerox leases, the electronics in police cruisers...

Mr. King said that even \$20,000 is low. That a cruiser can be \$50,000 alone.

Mr. Hood said that his opinion was that focusing solely on the dollar amount was short sighted and doesn't really fix the problem. He said the comprehensive change would be something general in the Charter and Council can pass the ordinance that will tell the Mayor when to bid, when to not.

Mr. Bizjak stated that this all needs to be discussed further.

Mr. Saylor asked if the Commission was looking at rewriting the entirety of Section 8.04.

Mr. Hood said it depends on how the Commission feels. It may not be just 8.04 in which case the other things would be codified by Council. Council would be under a mandate to pass a procedure to give to the administration on how to buy commodities. That is the prevalent things to do things with other municipalities.

Mr. Bizjak asked for other business before the Commission. Seeing none, the meeting was adjourned.