

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
January 26, 2009
City Conference Room 5A

Present:

City Council

Al French – Chair
Steve Corker

Administration:

Citizens

Hal Ellis – CA
Sherrie Bryant
Mike Dalessi
Dr. Joseph Albert
Greg Sweeney

Staff:

Karen Corkins
Mike Piccolo
Todd Babcock

Visitors:

Absent:

Administration:

Dorothy Webster
Ted Danek
Leroy Eadie

Citizens:

Staff:

City Council:

Michael Allen

There was a motion to approve the December 8th and January 12th meeting minutes. They were approved unanimously.

A brief review of the ordinance process and timeline was given by Chairman Al French. It was pointed out by Mike Piccolo that the City Council and the Charter Review Committee need to make sure that they only educate the public about the ordinance.

The cover letter that Todd created was given to members and their input was taken. A few minor changes were made. It was decided to send these out with a copy of the ordinance to the list of people created at the last meeting.

The committee next discussed whether or not the entire ordinance needed to be printed in the newspaper. Mike Piccolo will look into this and also to see if a website address can be given to access the entire ordinance.

The idea of a community presentation was discussed. It would be purely educational. It was stressed that city resources can't be used to campaign for something on the ballot. The question was asked if testimony would be taken by the public at this time as well. This was discussed and decided that public hearings were already held and this was not the place for that. The group decided to table this idea.

Next, it was asked if a special report to the Council could be made. It was decided that this would be a better route to go.

Chairman French again brought forward the question about the committee looking at the section of the Charter concerning councilmanic bonds and whether the restriction of limits on them should be removed from the Charter. Discussion followed. It was decided that it goes beyond harmonizing the Charter and therefore out of the scope of this committee. The committee feels that the Council can move it forward independently if they so choose.

From this discussion, the question was raised about how to deal with the topics that are beyond the scope of this committee. Mr. Sweeney pointed out that he believes, based on the resolution that established the committee, it is not our job to open a funnel and review outside Charter amendment issues. Our job is only to look at our own. If the council wants to add this to the committee's responsibilities, then a new resolution needs to be created. This could be a third phase after the minor and major changes discussed by the committee have gone to the ballot.

The next steps for this committee are: to perfect the language on the major housekeeping changes, take it to the public, and then put it on the ballot. These changes will not go out to the public until after March 10 and the current ballot changes are voted on.

Important dates:

Feb. 9th – Next meeting at 11:00am in Conference room 5A