

Charter Review Commission Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2018

Chair Farber called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Roll Call

Members present were: Karen Farber, Dave Goldberg, Ned Kitchel, Bill Lunt, Sean Mahoney, Richard Olson, Rachel Reed. Staff present were: Amy Lamontagne, Nathan Poore.

Members absent were: Dave McConnell, Mary Nelson

Item 1 – Approve minutes of July 31 meeting

Sean motioned to accept and Dave G. seconded. All in favor.

Item 2 – Public Comment (3 minutes per person)

No public comment.

Item 3 – Review Charter Article II, Section 211 (skipping Section 213) – Article IV, with additional sections (time permitting)

It was determined that this Commission will allow for formal public comment on August 14 and 21, 2018. Nathan and Amy will ensure that proper notice is published in the paper.

Sec. 201 follow-up from last week: Nathan reported that after thorough research it was determined certification is not needed, this is no longer of concern.

Review work continued from where the Commission left off last meeting:

- Sec. 211. Vacancies in Council. After discussion, it was determined that this section will not require change.
- Sec. 212. No recommendations
- Sec. 213 was skipped as this is being researched by the Staff Attorney.
- Sec. 214. No recommendations
- Sec. 215. No recommendations
- Sec. 216. Due to concerns surrounding protection of the Town and proper documentation, the Commission discussed the potential for changing the verbiage of this section to require an employment contract for the Town Manager. The word “may” could be recommended to be changed to, “shall.”
- Sec. 217 was repealed in 2009.
- Sec. 218. It was suggested that the word “employee” should be added to the title.

- Additionally, due to concerns about the restrictions (as it currently stands) for Council to be able to access the Town Manager's subordinates only as part of an annual evaluation of the Town Manager, it could be recommended that "and" be changed to "or;" and/or that the word "annual" could be removed; and/or that the words, "Except for the purpose of inquiry or investigation" could be removed. It was determined that the Commission should go back to the language that was present prior to 2009. After doing so, it was determined that the language that would be best is, "Except for the purposes of inquiry, investigation, or as part of an evaluation..."
- Sec. 219. No recommendations
- Sec. 301. No recommendations
- Sec. 302. No recommendations
- Sec. 303. Due to concerns about extenuating circumstances, it was suggested that the phrase, "Notwithstanding the above," be inserted to replace the first clause. In event of failure of the Town Manager to make such designation."
- Sec. 304. Reserved
- Sec. 305. It was suggested that the language "State Commissioner of Human Services" be updated to the current job title, "State Commissioner of the Division of Health and Human Services."

Article IV. Department of Education will be reviewed next session after informing the Superintendent of Schools that he is welcome to be in attendance.

Item 4 – Other Business

No Other Business at this time.

Item 5 – Adjourn

Chair Farber adjourned the meeting at 7:56 pm.