

MINUTES
Charter Revision Commission
February 16, 2023
Municipal Center — Room 302

Present: Quinn Christopher, Dan Ciesielski, John Gasparini, Patrick Kilby, Jo Rosinski, Dayna Snell, Anthony Tarascio

Staff Present: Michael Paulhus, Town Manager, Andy Cirioli, Assistant Town Manager

1. Call to Order

The public hearing was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Chairman Gasparini.

2. Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve meeting minutes of the February 2, 2023, Public Hearing: Commissioner Ciesielski Second by: Commissioner Rosinski

All in Favor 7, All Opposed 0, Motion Passes Unanimously

3. Discussion & Review of Charter Chapters 1-4

Chairman Gasparini questioned the commission if they had questions or comments pertaining to each chapter described below:

Chapter 1 – Incorporation and General Powers

All commissioners responded with a “no.”, no changes were suggested at this time.

Chapter 2 – Officers and Elections

Section 1. Nomination of candidates, general municipal elections, minority representation Paragraph “B”, Municipal Elections. Commissioner Ciesielski asked whether there is a recall procedure in place. Chairperson Gasparini suggested tabling this to the next meeting when the Town Attorney is in attendance.

Paragraph “C”, Bare Majority, meaning. The Town Manager responded with Bare Majority, as Simple Majority, vs. Super Majority.

Paragraph “F”, Why is the library part of the political process and not appointed members?

Section 2. Unaffiliated voters.

Section 3. Breaking a tie

Section 4. Eligibility

Section 5. Vacancies

Section 6. Voting Districts

Discussion was held, no changes were suggested to these sections at this time.

Commissioners’ questions whether Registrar of Voters are an elected position vs. appointed position. Justices of the Peace are appointed by political parties and the Town Clerk, how is the number for each political party determined? The Commission will check with the Town staff to determine how the number of Justices of the Peace is calculated for each municipality.

Chapter 3 – Town Council

Section 1. Powers

Discussion was held, no changes were suggested to these sections at this time.

(Town Manager Paulhus left the meeting at this time.)

Section 2. Composition

Section 3. Compensation

2-year term to a four-year term table to the next meeting.

Discussion was held. It was decided to table these items to the next meeting.

Section 4. Organization

Section 5. Procedure

Section 6. Other Offices

Section 7. Introduction of ordinances and resolutions

Section 8. Public hearings and passage of ordinances

Discussion was held, no changes were suggested to these sections at this time.

Section 9. Referendum on ordinances and resolutions

Section 10. Emergency Ordinance

Discussion was held. Commission suggested a change in language “the Town Council by an affirmative vote of no fewer than five of its members may appropriate, notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter.”

It was decided to table these items to the next meeting, until the commission can receive clarification from the Town Attorney.

Section 11. Obligatory referendum on bond issues and appropriation in excess of 1% of the annual budget

Section 12. Initiative

Section 13. Removals

Section 14. Investigation

Discussion was held, no changes were suggested to these sections at this time.

Chapter 4 – Manager

Section 1. Qualifications, appointment, and tenure

Discussion was held. The commission is recommending four options:

- a. Leave language as is
- b. Remove this section completely
- c. Town Council render a decision for Town Manager residency at time of hire
- d. Town Council to decide for newly hired Town Manager a reasonable distance for residence away from Plainville

*Motion to remove the residency requirement of the Town Manager: Commissioner Ciesielski
Second by: Commissioner Tarascio.*

*Commissioner Ciesielski moved to amend the motion to have Town Council be allowed to
waive the residency requirement for the Town Manager.*

Second by: Commissioner Tarascio.

All in Favor 7, All Opposed 0, Motion Passes Unanimously

Commissioners tabled this item to next meeting for further discussion with the Town Attorney.

4. Chapters 4 – Chapters 9 to be discussed at next meeting on March 2, 2023.

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Commissioner Ciesielski

Second by: Mr. Tarascio

All those in favor 7, all those in opposed 0, Motion passed unanimously Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cindy A. Porrini". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Cindy A. Porrini, Town Clerk