



RAVENNA CITY COUNCIL

Telephone: 330-297-2155 • Fax: 330-297-2164
210 Park Way, Ravenna, OH 44266

RAVENNA CHARTER COMMISSION MINUTES

Ravenna City Council Chambers
Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 6:00pm

The Charter Review Commission Meeting was held in person and was called to order at 6:05pm.

Roll Call

The following Commission Members were present: Chairperson Dirk Remley, Vice Chair Mark E. Smith, Antoinette Austin, Carmen Laudato, Denna Tannert, Gail Jones-Nemeth, Jonathan P. Jennings, Mike Bogo, Octavia Jones, Rory R. Becker, Sharon Spencer, Steven Farhat, Michael Smith II.

Absent: Suzanne Hoffman

Also in attendance: Mayor Frank Seman; Clerk of Council, Chelsea Gregor; Councilperson Paul Moskun; Kalie Roberts; Jazzmyn Mitchell

Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the February 2, 2022, meeting minutes by Mark E. Smith, 2nd by Carmen Laudato- **All Ayes**

Approval of the Meeting Schedule

- Motion to approve the Charter Review Commission meeting schedule by Mark E. Smith, 2nd by Deena Tannert- **All Ayes**

Approval of the Agenda

- Motion to approve the February 2, 2022, meeting minutes by Steve Farhat, 2nd by Mark E. Smith- **All Ayes**

Charter Reading

- Dirk Remley asked the Commission if they had any questions and began doing the preliminary Charter overview by article section. Suggestions for review are as follows.
- Article II- To discuss Council form of government.
- Article IV- To discuss the position of Mayor.
- Article V- Gail Jones-Nemeth would like to look at a list of people who report to the Mayor and their qualifications.
- Article VI- To discuss Article VI because it relates to Article V.
- Article VII- Mark E. Smith would like to interview the Police and Fire Chiefs to discuss suggestions and clarity.
- Article VIII- To discuss changing the Law Director to an appointed position and to discuss a possible Assistant Law Director.
- Article IX- It does not exist due to previous Charter amendments. The Council Clerk will renumber the Charter.

- Article X- To discuss the merits of running separately for Council President.
 - Article XI- Mike Boggo has some items that he will address with the Law Director.
 - Article XIII- To discuss Section XIII-1 since it relates to Article X.
 - Article XVI- To discuss how amendments to the Charter are forwarded and the procedure.
 - Article XVIII- To discuss suggestions and to clarify commission roles and chairperson.
 - Article XIX- To discuss City employees seeking office and where to place it.
- After Charter articles were reviewed and noted for future discussion, the topic of public comment was addressed. A time limit for public comment was suggested and Mark E. Smith created a comment form and suggested a 2-minute time limit. Carmen Laudato suggested to open public comment sooner and after each agenda topic.
 - Motion to allow public comment after each agenda item by Mark E. Smith, 2nd by Michael Smith II-
 - The motion was discussed by the Commission and then Mark E. Smith rescinded the motion after it was decided to address the issue of public comment as it presents itself moving forward.

Mayor Seman Interview

- Mayor Seman was asked what he thought the advantages and disadvantages were of having a strong Mayor versus a City Manager. He stated that he currently makes approximately \$65,000 as Mayor, with an additional \$12,000 as the Safety Director. In Kent, the Mayor makes approximately \$8,000, while the City Manager makes \$140,000. He said that it could be hard to find a good City Manager under \$100,000 and that they may be underqualified. If the City goes with the City Manager model, then there will be no Council President and the Mayor would run the Council meetings. He likes the current City model because of the checks and balances, but if the City went to the City Manager model then Council would have all the power.
- Deena Tannert asked what the Mayor would recommend for Mayoral qualifications and he stated that additional qualifications may be restricting and could be an issue. The current qualifications are that a person must be at least 21 years old, a registered voter and have lived in the city for 3 years. The Mayor added that it is important to have good help as a Mayor.
- It was decided to continue interviews with Mayor Seman and the Law Director.

Public Comment: None

New Agenda Items:

- Articles 2, 4, 5 & 6 will be discussed
- Mayor Seman
- Law Director, Frank Cimino
- Motion to adjourn at 7:05pm by Dirk Remley, 2nd by Mark E. Smith- **All Ayes**