



Charter Review Commission
Regular Commission Minutes
January 28, 2025

Members Present: Amy Berger, Nancy Crawford, Kris Heller, Matt Hochberg, Randy Rentz, Shannon Stark, Joey Thomas

Staff Present: Kaitlin Grafmiller, David Brehm, Rebecca Princehorn (Bricker Graydon)

Others Present: Mayor St. John, Cindi Cooper, Daryl Hennessy

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Chairperson Randy Rentz** . Roll call was taken by **Kaitlin Grafmiller** , confirming all members were present.

Approval of Minutes

- **Motioned:** Joey Thomas
- **Seconded:** Nancy Crawford
- **Approval:** Unanimous (7-0)

Public Comments

No public comments were received.

Review of Work Plan

Ms. Princehorn presented the proposed work plan, structured to review the Charter document sequentially to ensure a solid foundational understanding before addressing more complex topics.

She noted a scheduling conflict for both herself and Mr. Brehm on February 25, 2025. Mr. Rentz also indicated he would be unavailable. The commission agreed to cancel the February 25th meeting, and Ms. Princehorn will provide an updated work plan.

Discussion of Article I - Name, Boundaries, Form of Government

Ms. Princehorn shared historical documents used by the original Charter Commission to provide context for the current document.

- **City Status Update:**
Mr. Rentz inquired about updating the “Village” language to reflect Sunbury’s city status.
 - **Motioned:** Nancy Crawford
 - **Seconded:** Amy Berger
 - **Approval:** Unanimous (7-0)
- **Annexations:**
Mr. Brehm explained that annexations are automatically incorporated into the Charter’s boundaries section and do not require a formal charter amendment.
- **Forms of Government Overview:**
Ms. Princehorn provided an overview of different government structures in preparation for discussions on Articles V and VI in future meetings.
- **Mayor’s Perspective:**
Mayor St. John addressed the commission regarding his role and responsibilities. He emphasized the need to focus on the structure of the Mayor and City Administrator roles rather than the individuals currently holding those positions.

Given the increasing demands of the Mayor’s role, particularly overseeing the Police Division, he strongly recommended transitioning to a Manager-Council form of government. He referenced New Albany, which adopted its charter at the same time as Sunbury but has since transitioned to a Manager-Council model. The Mayor will provide New Albany’s charter for reference.

- **Clarification on Mayor’s Role in a Manager-Council Government:**
Ms. Berger inquired about how the Mayor’s role would change under a Manager-Council system. Mr. Brehm explained that the Mayor would still exist, but authority would be redistributed to allow the City to function more efficiently.

Discussion of Article II - City Powers

Ms. Princehorn reviewed Article II, highlighting that this section:

- Grants home rule authority in accordance with the Ohio Constitution.
- Allows Sunbury to collaborate with other local governments.
- Primarily requires updates to align with state law changes.

Good of the Order

- **Workload Ahead:**
Ms. Princehorn noted that while much of the review will involve technical language cleanup, Articles V and VI will require significant discussion and decision-making.
- **External Insights:**
Ms. Stark suggested inviting the Mayor of New Albany to discuss their city's transition to a Manager-Council system. Ms. Princehorn will reach out to facilitate this and will pass along any comments he shares.
- **Review Order:**
The commission confirmed they would follow the chronological order of the Charter as outlined in the work plan.
- **Preparation Reminder:**
Mr. Rentz reminded commission members that pre-meeting preparation is essential to ensure productive discussions.

Adjournment

- **Motioned:** Joey Thomas
- **Seconded:** Nancy Crawford
- **Approval:** Unanimous (7-0)

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: March 11, 2025