

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
MARCH 21, 2018 – 2:30 P.M.
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS/AUDITORIUM

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers/Auditorium. Meeting notice and agenda were posted on the City Hall bulletin board as required by State Law.

1. Roll Call:

PRESENT: George Moses, Edward Stiles, Lynda Walters, John Purcell, Jr., Amanda Brewer, Wyonna Alberty, Jo Peters, Toni Walker

ABSENT: Ward 7 Representative

ALSO PRESENT: Frank V. Jensen - City Attorney, Tiffani Burk – Deputy City Clerk

2. Approve minutes of March 16, 2018

MOTION by Moses, SECOND by Stiles to approve the minutes of March 16, 2018 with a revision adding a comment from Council Member Dwight Tanner. AYE: Moses, Stiles, Walters, Purcell, Alberty, Brewer, Peters NAY: None MOTION CARRIED

3. Receive and discuss input from City Council/committee members regarding proposed amendments to the City Charter and take action as deemed appropriate.

No Council Members were present to submit any proposals. Stiles said he may be proposing some changes but one involves the proposal that Council Member Tanner has submitted and he would rather wait until Council Member Tanner submits his revision.

4. Receive and discuss input from citizens regarding proposed amendments to the City Charter and take action as deemed appropriate.

Carolyn Steinig, Ward 6:

- Believes the charter does not need to be changed
- Believes it is far more important to have the best qualified applicant, rather than their residency.
- Believes there should be meetings held earlier than April 2nd.

Tom Leon, Ward 8:

- Believes the charter needs to be changed

- He agrees that there should be residency requirements.
- He supports living within a certain radius of Lawton

Mayor Fred Fitch

- Explained how much it could possibly cost the City to have the Charter changes put on a ballot.
- Explained the situation regarding the former Finance Directors and where they lived and the hiring of Finance Directors and City Managers.
- Gave the Committee information regarding the Fire and Police Chief and where they live and the percentages of police officers and firefighters that live outside the city limits. He explained that there has never been an issue in regards to response time.
- The Mayor said if the committee decides to recommend that the residency requirement be put on a ballot then he wants the committee to look into criminal and financial background checks on Council and Mayor Candidates. He also said that he believes the Mayor and Council Members should own property within the city limits because it keeps getting brought up that employees should be committed to this community. He believes the Council Members and Mayor should also be committed to this community and be required to own property. He would only make this proposal if the committee recommends changes be made to the charter; he will not make the proposal if it were to be the only change made.

Rosemary Bellino Hall, Ward 3

- Believes that the Residency Requirement change is ridiculous.
- She would leave the charter exactly the way it is.

Toni Walker, Ward 2

- Spoke as a Citizen to express that she does not agree with changing the charter. She stated that there is not an issue but the citizens would believe that there is a big issue or the City wouldn't want to change the charter. During her comments, she stated that she was asked by Council Member Jackson to be the Ward 2 Charter Review Committee Member and this was her first meeting. Vice Chairman Purcell asked Ms. Walker to come up and join the rest of the committee.

The Committee agreed to meet on a March 26th at 5:30 pm at the City Hall Council Chambers/Auditorium

5. Adjournment

There was no further business to consider and upon a MOTION by Moses, SECOND by Stiles, and roll call vote the committee adjourned at 3:45 pm.