

GRAND LEDGE CHARTER COMMISSION
310 GREENWOOD ST.
GRAND LEDGE MI 48837
(517) 627-2149

CHARTER COMMISSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2016
5:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
310 GREENWOOD ST.

- I. ROLL CALL** – Chair Robert Doty; and Commissioners Jason Barclay, Lyle Clark, Michael Coll, Sheila Deming, Sandra Keller, Lynne MacDowell, Alan Miller, and Michael Moyes
OTHERS PRESENT – Kalmin Smith, Mayor; Gregory Newman, City Clerk;

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner MacDowell led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A. Motion** – To approve the Wednesday, 16 November 2016 Charter Commission agenda.

COMMISSIONER MOYES MOVED, COMMISSIONER DEMING SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE WEDNESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2016 CHARTER COMMISSION AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Motion** – To approve the Wednesday, 02 November 2016 Charter Commission minutes.

COMMISSIONER MILLER MOVED, COMMISSIONER COLL SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE WEDNESDAY, 02 NOVEMBER 2016 CHARTER COMMISSION MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Public Hearing** – On Sections 1.3 and 3.4.

CHAIR DOTY OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING ON SECTIONS 1.3 AND 3.4, AT 5:35 P.M.

Kalmin Smith, Mayor, mentioned there are pros and cons for both two-year and four-year terms, and expressed his preference for ward representation on City Council and his opposition to term limits.

CHAIR DOTY CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING ON SECTIONS 1.3 AND 3.4, AT 5:42 P.M.

- B. Chapter 6**

The Commission discussed the references to State law in Sections 6.2 and 6.4.

COMMISSIONER DEMING MOVED, COMMISSIONER MOYES SECONDED, TO USE "OPEN MEETINGS ACT, 1976 PA 267, AS AMENDED" IN SECTIONS 6.2 AND 6.4. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Commission discussed Section 6.7.

COMMISSIONER COLL MOVED, COMMISSIONER BARCLAY SECONDED, STRIKE SECTION 6.7(A), USE SECTION 6.7(B), DIRECT COMMISSIONER DEMING TO PROVIDE THE CITY CLERK WITH THE CORRECT PUBLIC ACT REFERENCE FOR SECTION 6.7(C), USE SECTION 6.7(D), STRIKE SECTION 6.7(E), AND USE SECTION 6.7(F).

The Commission discussed Section 6.7(f).

MOTION STRIKE SECTION 6.7(A), USE SECTION 6.7(B), DIRECT COMMISSIONER DEMING TO PROVIDE THE CITY CLERK WITH THE CORRECT PUBLIC ACT REFERENCE FOR SECTION 6.7(C), USE SECTION 6.7(D), STRIKE SECTION 6.7(E), AND USE SECTION 6.7(F), CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Commission discussed Section 6.8.

COMMISSIONER MILLER MOVED, COMMISSIONER MOYES SECONDED, TO POSTPONE SECTION 6.8 UNTIL DECEMBER 2016 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Commission discussed Sections 6.9 and 6.10.

COMMISSIONER CLARK MOVED, COMMISSIONER DEMING SECONDED, TO MOVE SECTION 6.9 TO SECTION 6.9(B) AND USE SECTION 6.10. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Sections 1.3 and 3.4.

COMMISSIONER MOYES MOVED, COMMISSIONER MACDOWELL SECONDED, TO POSTPONE SECTIONS 1.3 AND 3.4 TO THE 07 DECEMBER 2016 CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING.

The Commission discussed electing the City Council by ward and at-large, and term lengths.

MOTION TO POSTPONE SECTIONS 1.3 AND 3.4 TO THE 07 DECEMBER 2016 CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Chapter 4.

The Commission discussed Chapter 4 and the City Clerk's recommendations and the Election Commission membership.

COMMISSIONER DEMING MOVED, COMMISSIONER MACDOWELL SECONDED, TO ESTABLISH THE ELECTION COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP AS THE CITY CLERK, ONE COUNCIL MEMBER WHOSE NAME SHALL NOT APPEAR ON THE BALLOT DURING THE YEAR THEY SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION, AND ONE QUALIFIED REGISTERED ELECTOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMISSIONER MILLER MOVED, COMMISSIONER MOYES SECONDED, TO USE CHAPTER 4, AS AMENDED AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY RENAMING SECTION 4.2 "NON-PARTISAN ELECTIONS" AND STRIKING THE LANGUAGE AND INSERTING "THE ELECTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL SHALL BE ON A NON-PARTISAN BASIS," BY STRIKING SECTION 4.3, BY STRIKING THE LANGUAGE IN SECTION 4.4 AND INSERTING "A REGULAR CITY ELECTION SHALL BE HELD ON THE

FIRST TUESDAY FOLLOWING THE FIRST MONDAY OF NOVEMBER OF EVEN NUMBERED YEARS. A CITY PRIMARY ELECTION, WHEN REQUIRED, SHALL BE HELD ON THE TUESDAY FOLLOWING THE FIRST MONDAY OF AUGUST OF EVEN NUMBERED YEARS,” BY STRIKING SECTIONS 4.5, 4.6, AND 4.7, BY RENAMING SECTION 4.8 “NOMINATIONS” AND STRIKING THE LANGUAGE AND INSERTING “THE METHOD OF NOMINATIONS FOR ALL CANDIDATES FOR CITY ELECTIONS SHALL BE BY PETITION OR BY A CANDIDATE SUBMITTING A FILING FEE. A PETITION FOR EACH CANDIDATE SHALL BE SIGNED BY NOT LESS THAN TWENTY-FIVE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OR WARD. NO PERSON SHALL SIGN THEIR NAME TO A GREATER NUMBER OF PETITIONS FOR ANY ONE OFFICE THAN THERE ARE PERSONS TO BE ELECTED TO SAID OFFICE AT SAID ELECTION. WHEN THE SIGNATURE OF ANY ONE INDIVIDUAL APPEARS ON MORE PETITIONS THAN THERE ARE CANDIDATES TO BE ELECTED TO SAID OFFICE AT SAID ELECTION, THE SIGNATURE OF SUCH INDIVIDUAL ON ALL SUCH PETITIONS SHALL BE INVALIDATED, EXCEPT THAT THE SIGNATURE DATED EARLIEST SHALL BE VALID. IN LIEU OF SUBMITTING NOMINATING PETITIONS, A CANDIDATE MAY SUBMIT A NONREFUNDABLE FILING FEE OF ONE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$100.00). THE CITY CLERK SHALL PUBLISH NOTICE OF THE LAST DAY, TIME, AND PLACE PERMITTED FOR FILING NOMINATION PETITIONS AND FILING FEES AT LEAST ONE WEEK AND NOT MORE THAN THREE WEEKS BEFORE SUCH DAY,” BY STRIKING SECTIONS 4.9, 4.10, 4.11, AND 4.12, BY RENAMING SECTION 4.13 “ELECTION COMMISSION” AND STRIKING THE LANGUAGE AND INSERTING “AN ELECTION COMMISSION IS HEREBY CREATED, CONSISTING OF THE CITY CLERK, AND ONE COUNCIL MEMBER WHOSE NAME SHALL NOT APPEAR ON THE BALLOT DURING THE YEAR THEY SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION AND ONE QUALIFIED REGISTERED ELECTOR, BOTH TO BE APPOINTED BY CITY COUNCIL AT ITS FIRST REGULAR MEETING AFTER EVERY REGULAR CITY ELECTION. THE ELECTION COMMISSION SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION. THE CITY CLERK SHALL BE THE CHAIRPERSON AND TWO (2) MEMBERS OF SUCH BOARD SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM,” BY STRIKING SECTIONS 4.14, 4.15, 4.16, 4.17, AND 4.18, AND BY STRIKING SECTIONS 4.20 AND 4.21. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSENSUS TO POSTPONE SECTIONS 4.19 AND 5.1(A) TO THE 07 DECEMBER 2016 CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING.

VIII. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The Commission discussed the items for the next meeting.

CONSENSUS TO ESTABLISH SECTIONS 1.3, 3.4, 4.9, 5.1(A), AND 6.8, AND CHAPTER 7 FOR THE 07 DECEMBER 2016 CHARTER COMMISSION AGENDA.

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Kalmin Smith, Mayor, commented on the public’s strong interest in Oakwood Cemetery.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Coll commented on the efforts and extended time-frame to obtain approval for the Korean War memorial in Oakwood Cemetery.

Commissioner Clark reported on general public interest in the Charter revision.

Chair Doty expressed a desire for more public input.

X. ADJOURNMENT

CHAIR DOTY ADJOURNED THE WEDNESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2016, CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING,
AT 6:55 P.M.

Gregory L. Newman, City Clerk

Robert Doty, Chair

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