



**Legislative Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.
Franklin Public Library, Upstairs**

Attendees: Councilor Leigh Webb (Chair) and Councilor Olivia Zink

Absent: Councilor Tim Johnston

Others in Attendance: Mayor Desiree McLaughlin, Councilor George Dzujna, City Manager Judie Milner, and members of the public.

Chair, Councilor Webb, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Salute to the Flag.

Agenda:

I. City Charter Review

The committee discussed the following chapters in the charter. They agreed that no more than three changes should be recommended, to ensure the voters thoroughly understand each change and can cast an informed vote.

C-2, Wards: The committee discussed removing this from the charter and making it an ordinance in 2031, which would need to be approved by the voters. It was noted that the Council voted this down the last time it was presented to them. It was also noted that while being an ordinance would make the process simpler, it is in the charter so that the voters can decide on the district boundaries. The residents would have a voice but no vote if it becomes an ordinance. They discussed the ramifications, if a vote on redistricting failed. They agreed not to make any decisions at this time, as only two members of the committee were present.

C-3, Administration: They agreed that "Councilmen" should be "Councilors." Councilor Zink shared that she has received suggestions to reduce the number of councilors, to be more efficient.

C-7, Annual Meeting: They agreed to align with the state and national elections, and change the date of the meeting from October to November. There was a motion made during the 8-1-24 meeting to recommend this. This would appear on the 2025 ballot.

C-13, Board of Education: The committee agreed that all occurrences of "Board of Education" should be changed to "School Board."

C-16, Canvass of votes; contested elections; tie votes: Councilor Webb noted an ordinance was passed on how the City deals with disputed elections and calling for a recount. A segment of that ordinance dealt with ties, which echoed the RSAs.

C-17, When effective; duties of Supervisors: The committee discussed when the City's Supervisors of the Checklist meet, and if those dates coincide with what is listed in this chapter. They also noted that the language is outdated and might need to be updated. Michelle will look into this.

C-32, Budget procedure: Mayor McLaughlin proposed any change to this chapter should be brought by petition of the voters; the Council should not bring any change to the ballot. They discussed how the tax cap could be reset or adjusted. They also discussed what form a default budget would take, if they chose to change it in the charter. Councilor Webb noted that education might be needed so that the public understands their role in making such changes.

C-38, Deposit of funds: This chapter was explained and clarified.

C-53, Conflict of interest: Councilor Webb shared new language that was proposed for this chapter, which the committee discussed. They agreed that this change should be brought by petition of the voters.

The committee discussed the need to change all instances of "he" to "she/he" in the charter.

Councilor Dzujna said the voters need to understand how prices increasing affects the budget.

A resident noted the need to bring back the essence of integrity into the management of the City. There is too much ambiguity and an air of impropriety in the City, and an air of openness is needed.

Mayor McLaughlin cited an example where a councilor pointed out a conflict of interest of another councilor during a meeting. She noted elections resolve problems, and pointed out the importance of the public attending meetings.

II. Other Business.

Councilor Webb asked what changes the Council and/or School Board will need to make as a result of SB 383 being signed into law, and how it will affect tax cap communities. Milner provided a brief explanation, but will research this.

Councilor Webb asked for an update on the status of the Planning & Zoning Director position. Milner stated that a temp from the Lakes Region Planning Commission will be working eight hours/week and possibly more, if an application needs more attention. She might contact MRI, if more hours are needed. She is reviewing resumes and setting up interviews. The Code Enforcement staff is handling Building Department issues.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Zink. Seconded by Councilor Webb.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Jones
Executive Secretary