

The meeting of the Charter Review Committee was called to order on 6/22/2022 at 6:30p.m. by Chair Phil Reed. All members were present.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rev. Ames and seconded by Dr. Stafford. They were approved unanimously.

A letter from District 4 Councilman Lenny Pheffer was read to the Committee concerning his suggestions for Charter changes. He would like to see the residency requirement removed from the Charter because he believes it limits applications. He also would like to see a super majority in removing a Council member.

The Committee voted to keep the residency requirement with a motion by Dr. Stafford and a second by Rev. Ames. It passed with a 5-1 with Mr. Coulson against.

The Committee voted for a super majority (at least 4 votes) to remove a Council member with a motion by Ms. Dukes and a second by Dr. Stafford. The motion passed with Mr. Coulson and Mr. Reed against and Ms. Henry abstaining.

The Committee voted for a super majority vote of the Council to remove a Department Head with a motion by Dr. Stafford and a second by Ms. Dukes. Mr. Reed and Mr. Coulson voted against.

The Committee voted for a super majority vote of the Council in order to terminate the County Manager with a motion by Dr. Stafford and a second by Ms. Dukes. All voted for except for Mr. Coulson who was against.

The Committee discussed creating a process to remove the County Manager, including a chance to correct whatever issue is causing the problems, a written statement explaining the issues and a personnel hearing prior to any termination. The motion was made by Mr. Reed and seconded by Dr. Stafford with a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

The Committee would like to see a contract for both County Manager and all Department Heads. A motion was made by Mr. Reed and seconded by Ms. Henry with a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

The Committee voted to tentatively (changes can still be made) accept the wording in the Harford County Charter section 216 to "Act as a Body" with a motion by Rev. Ames and a second by Dr. Stafford. It was unanimous in favor.

The Committee voted to add wording to section 212 of the Charter with a motion by Ms. Henry and a second by Ms. Dukes. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee discussed other items they would like to see in the charter. These include:

Rewording of the piece submitted by Mr. Reed on Redistricting section 213. Need to add "within 30 days"

Non Interference: Article 4 Add "no public or private direction to any subordinate of the County Manager."
Add to section 44 as (b).

Qualifications of the County Manager: look at petition to see how they wrote it up.

Compare our list with the petition to see what if anything we can pull from it or if we would like to use it as a whole.

Abstain from applying for County Manager position for any County Council member until 2 years removed from Council.

Section 603: Charter Review: Word this section in the same manner as Redistricting.

We were informed that when the County Manager position is filled there will be an executive assistant. The Committee thinks we should also add that to the Charter to make sure it will be followed.

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 on June 29. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Dukes