

**Charter Review Commission Meeting**  
**Regular Session**  
**October 4, 2023**

The Charter Review Commission for Dorchester County convened in Open Session in Room 110 of the County Office Building at 6:10 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023. A roll call of the members was conducted. Present in Room 110 were: William Layton, Chair; Glenn Bramble; Linda Henry; Susan Dukes; and, Robert Murphy. Also present in Room 110 was Donna F. Lane, Chief of Staff. George “Phillip” Reed, joined the meeting by telephone. Allen Nelson, Vice Chair, joined the meeting late.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Commission approved the minutes of September 20, 2023.

**OTHER**

The Members approved a proposed page on the County’s website for the Charter Review Commission. Pursuant to comments from Commission members, Ms. Lane said: 1) a link to Town Hall Streams can be placed on the webpage; 2) meeting notices will be sent to the Departments who have a Facebook page, to post; and, 3) links to information regarding items the Commission is considering can be added.

**REVIEW OF SECTIONS OF CURRENT COUNTY CHARTER**

The Commission Members discussed the below Articles/Sections of the current County Charter. They agreed that once they have identified all of the potential amendments they will develop a list of priorities. Mr. Nelson joined the meeting during this discussion.

Article 2, County Council, Section 213. Redistricting

Discussed adding language to state that within 90 days of the Redistricting Commission’s presentation of the plan, the County Council has to vote on the plan in open session.

Article 3, Section 303, Legislative Procedure, Part D

Agreed to continue discussions regarding proposed changes to the method by which the Council votes (do they have to be present, can participate by phone, etc.) after receipt of copies of the resolutions adopted by the Council regarding voting methods.

Article 3, Section 304, Enactment of Legislation, Part D

Discussed adding language that after a bill is introduced the copy of the bill and notice of date, time and place of public hearing, it should be placed on the County website and bulletin board which is the current procedure.

Discussed potentially changing the newspaper of general circulation language to require an online posting. Acknowledged that pursuant to State law, the County is required to advertise in newspaper of general circulation for which a legislative amendment is being sought by the Council.

Article 4, Section 405, County Manager

Discussed replacing this Section in its entirety with the language utilizes in the Dorchester Citizens for Better Government's Dorchester County Charter Amendment Petition.

Article 4, Section 406, County Manager

Agreed to view the petition language for this section and discuss at next meeting

Article 4, Section 409, Review of Administrative Structure

Discussed amending this section to state that the review of the administrative structure must be within the first fiscal year of each new Council.

Article 5, Section 501, Establishment of Position of Director of Finance

A consensus was reached to amend this residency requirement.

Article 5, Section 504, Preparation of the County Budget and Article 5, Section 507, Action on the Budget by the Council, Part B

Discussed changing the date for preparation of budget, currently May 1 of each year and the adoption date of no later than May 31. Requested input from the County Council and Jeff Powell, Interim County Manager.

Article 6, Section 603, Charter Review Commission, Part C

Reached a consensus to add language that requires the Council to vote on the Charter Review Commission's report, one section at a time, within 30 days of the public hearing.

Article 6, Miscellaneous – Add a new Section 606, Governmental Transparency

Agreed to review Petition language.

Article 7

Agreed that there are no items to address in this Section.

Mr. Murphy said he wants to provide language to the current Council regarding the establishment of term limits for their review. Mr. Bramble expressed that he strongly feels that term limits should be established.

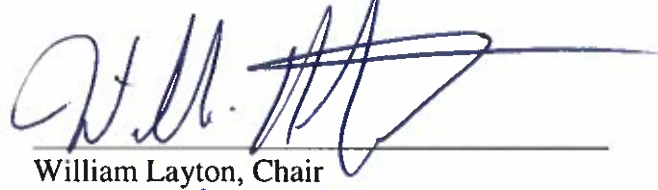
**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

  
Donna F. Lane  
Chief of Staff/Staff Liaison


CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION


  
William Layton, Chair

*absent*  
Allen Nelson, Vice Chair

  
George "Phillip" Reed

  
Susan Dukes

  
Robert Murphy

  
Glenn Bramble

  
Linda Henry

Approved the 18th day of October 2023.