

Charter Review Commission Meeting  
Regular Session  
October 18, 2023

The Charter Review Commission for Dorchester County convened in Open Session in Room 110 of the County Office Building at 6:00 p.m. on the 18<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; George “Phillip” Reed and, Robert Murphy. Also present in Room 110 was Irene Barnes, Executive Administrative Specialist.

REGULAR SESSION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission approved the minutes of October 4, 2023.

REVIEW OF SECTIONS OF CURRENT COUNTY CHARTER

Article 4, Section 405, County Manager

A discussion ensued regarding the items the Charter Review Commission identified at its October 4, 2023 meeting as proposed changes to Article 4 of the County Charter.

Ms. Henry provided the changes she made to the language the Dorchester Citizens for Better Government (DCBG) prepared as proposed Charter changes to the Commission Members. She expressed her opinion that some of the proposed language by the Dorchester Citizens for Better Government regarding Article 4 should be revised and condensed for readability. Ms. Dukes concurred. Pursuant to a question from Mr. Murphy, Ms. Henry said she was aware that an attorney reviewed DCBG’s language, noting that the Commission’s legal counsel can review the language she is proposing.

The Commission discussed amending the DCBG language to change the amount of time to fill a County Manager vacancy. The Commission agreed to: 1) amend the language as follows: “If the County Manager position is not filled within six months, the Council must hire and pay for the expenses of a recruitment company to fill the position;” and, 2) to utilize the remaining language prepared by DCBG for Section 405 and, 3) to provide the language to the Commission’s attorney for review.

Article 4, Section 406, County Manager

The Commission agreed to remove the residency requirement of the County Manager.

Article 5, Section 501, Finance Director Residency

The Commission agreed to remove the residency requirement of the Director of Finance.

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

The Commission agreed to replace May 1<sup>st</sup> with “no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>” for the preparation of the County Budget and replace May 31<sup>st</sup> with “no later than June 15<sup>th</sup>” for action on the budget by the Council.

Article 6, Section 603 (C), Charter Review Commission

The Commission agreed to add to Section 603-C the requirement that the Council vote on the Charter Review Commission’s recommendations in an open meeting, one item at a time within 30 days of public hearing.

Article 6, Section 606 Government Transparency

The Commission agreed to not pursue Section 606.

Term limits

The Commission agreed, with Commissioner Reed and Commissioner Bramble opposing, to drop the term limit discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

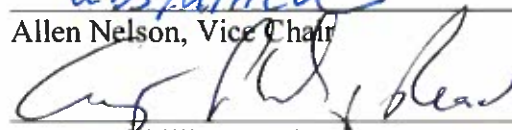
ATTEST:




CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William Layton, Chair

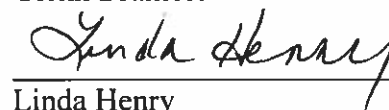
*abstained*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Allen Nelson, Vice Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George “Phillip” Reed

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Dukes

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Murphy

*absent*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Glenn Bramble

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Henry