

**GEORGETOWN CHARTER COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020, 7:00 PM
Mary P. Shelton Library Meeting Room**

Meeting Called to Order: Patrick Hornschemeier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Anderson, Amber Becraft-Johnan, Andrew Dunn, John Paul Durham, Brian Faught, Kelly Heslar, Michelle Hopkins, Greg Housh, Patrick Hornschemeier, Arthur Owens, Gary Potter, Matt Staggs, Zach Triplett, Jeremy Varner, Barb Virost

Members Absent: None

Guests Present: Four

I. Approval of minutes of previous meeting

December 11, 2019, meeting minutes were approved as emailed.

II. Discussion of Preamble, Boundaries, Form, General Powers of the Village

The template for charter was not yet received by Jeremy Varner (Scribe), but he was prepared to move forward with digital copies of other charters as well as the model charter and would edit as we discussed each section.

PREAMBLE: Discussion held regarding what was wanted/needed to personalize the preamble; i.e.: our history, highlight Georgetown, what we represent. It was suggested by Amber Becraft-Johnan that the words protect and preserve should be used. Andrew Dunn had already written a preamble.

“We, the people of the Village of Georgetown, in the County of Brown, State of Ohio, in order to secure home rule and preserve the present character of the Village of Georgetown do adopt this charter as a self-governing body of our municipality.”

After discussion, this was adopted as a first draft, but he, Matt Staggs, Kelly Heslar and Jeremy Varner would work on a second draft to be submitted at the meeting of January 22nd.

ARTICLE I: Discussion held regarding noting ORC when necessary, but determined anything not stated in charter defaults to ORC.

After some discussion of other sample charters, it was determined that Archbold’s charter would be used as our template due to having a similar government to ours and the simplicity of their charter. There was also discussion regarding the placement of articles and sections, and decided we would continue as it is in Archbold’s.

Section 1.01 – Changes made:

...County of Fulton changed to County of Brown...

...Village of Archbold changed to Village of Georgetown...

When the Municipality changed to If the Municipality...

Remove the comma after the word Village in the last sentence.

No other changes made to Section 1.01

Section 1.02 – Changes made:
...of Archbold to of Georgetown
No other changes made to Section 1.02.

Section 1.03 – Changes made:
Discussed that the heading under Article I indicates “Names, Boundaries and Function of Government” yet Section 1.03 entitled “Form of Government”. Determined “Function” would be changed and remain as “Form”.

...among the municipality, its citizens... changed to ...among its citizens, the Municipality...
...as provided in the charter changed to ...as provided in this charter (and this charter to be used throughout the remainder of the document”

Discussion held regarding retaining what is changed, strikethroughs, when and where will it be posted. Determined that because the Archbold is unfamiliar to our public, this is a new document and only what we decide upon should be posted. Brian Faught indicated once changes have been presented and agreed upon it will be posted on the website and posted in stages as changes are made. Mr. Thompson, Town Administrator, can post on facebook that there is a new iteration of the charter on the website for viewing. Postings will be a couple weeks behind the meetings.

Question regarding use of Village of Whitehouse (which wasn't one of our samples), specifically the charter statement under “Boundaries”, should we add: No territory shall be detached therefrom nor shall the Municipality be annexed to any other Municipality or legal governmental body nor shall the corporate existence of a Municipality be terminated without the consent of its counsel and electives of the Municipality voting on such proposal at any election held and conducted in the manner provided by law. After discussion it was determine that Section 2.01 covers this and it is not necessary to include it.

Questions for Joe Braun, Solicitor:

Section 1.01: Can we still be called a village of Georgetown if we should happen to become a city?
Can we state ground rules if someone tries to dissolve the Village of Georgetown?

Commentary from the model charter on Page 4, Section 1.03 states:

The City may participate by contract or otherwise with any governmental entity of this state or any other state or states in the United States in the performance of any activity which one or more such entities has the authority to undertake. Should this be inserted into our charter? If so, should it be inserted as 2.04 or 2.05? Does this revert to ORC? Is this even necessary to be noted?

No other changes or additions were made to Article 1.

ARTICLE II

Section 2.01 – NOTE: It was stated on record that Archbold should be changed to Georgetown; however, Archbold is not noted in this section; therefore, no changes made to Section 2.01.

Section 2.02 – No changes made to Section 2.02.

Section 2.03 - ...State of Ohio until the Council shall provide...changed to ...State of Ohio unless the Council provides...

No other changes made to Section 2.03.

Section 2.04 - ...powers in the charter...changed to ...powers in this charter...

The phrase “words of one gender include the other gender” is to be removed.

No other changes to Section 2.04.

No other changes/additions to Article II.

III. Confirm schedule of topics for meetings and general way of proceeding

From this point forward and until the second meeting in May, we will discuss two articles per meeting.

It was also suggested and agreed that each meeting begin with any changes/additions to the previous meetings’ notations. Jeremy Varner will forward a copy of all changes discussed at each meeting so these can be reviewed before the next meeting.

IV. Public Information: what is envisioned so far; what else should we do if anything?

Once we have a penultimate draft it will be posted on the website. Discussion held as to whether we should do facebook live for the public who cannot attend the meeting. This was decided against due to technical issues, i.e., lower quality of streaming, difficult to hear, etc. Meeting minutes and current draft version of the document will be posted after approval.

V. Participation by the public

A. Topics discussed at tonight’s meeting

Terry & Wilma Fizer (spelling??) in attendance. Stated they were at a loss because they didn’t attend the first meeting. It was explained that the first meeting was basically swearing in of members, assignment of positions, etc.

Tyler Thompson, Village Administrator, indicated instead of submitting certain questions to Joe Braun, Solicitor, that we submit section by section and let him address our concerns/questions at that time. He will also receive the meeting minutes and would be able to address any possible legalities. Mr. Thompson also reminded us that the model charter provided (not Archbold’s) is not a legal document, only an example. Mr. Thompson also reminded us about properly handling of emails and also that subcommittees are also subjected to the Sunshine Law. Any open meetings are to be given public notice.

B. In general

Discussed notification process for the January 22nd meeting and all subsequent meetings. Brian Faught will be handling this by sending a letter to the editor about the website. Notification for dates, place, and times of meetings has already occurred. He will ensure to update the place where meetings will occur.

C. Future meeting locations

Proposed meeting places:

Brown County Educational Service Center (next door to Southern Hills Career Center) – although no cost, this area must be scheduled ahead of time, someone has to be there to let us in, and a janitor has to be there.

Georgetown Elementary School – large room available at no cost and provides a projector. The GPD has a key to the school and we have been given permission by Superintendent Winterod to access the room/building.

Georgetown Church of Christ – our request is on the agenda for their board meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 15th; however, since we've decided upon GES, we will ask that they be considered a backup to GES room.

VI. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.