

**GEORGETOWN CHARTER COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020, 7:00 PM
Georgetown Elementary School Library**

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Arthur Owens

Guests Present: Joe Braun, Dale Cahall, Nancy Montgomery, Sally Mount, Tyler Thompson

I. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Changes to previous minutes:

Note that Andrew Dunn was present.

3.05 Section E: The language in new Section E covers the issues in former Section F.

Article 3.06 Removal: ... provided by public notice (print or online media). The phrase in the parentheses was: which will be defined in a later article, 13.07?

Mark Anderson suggested changing City of Loveland in Section 11.05 noted on the draft charter, but we haven't discussed that article yet so it is tabled until we discuss it.

In Section 13.04, Mark Anderson questioned the use of ...at least every ten years... and suggested it should state: ...at least once every ten years.. It was agreed to make this change.

Mark Anderson suggested the use of electorate instead of electors in 13.03 and 13.04. This was discussed and determined no change would be made.

The minutes stand approved as amended and can be published.

Approval of text discussed at previous meeting

Changes to previous text:

In Section 3.06 Removal, Mark Anderson suggested we have an Ethics Committee comprised of three council members and two Georgetown citizens indicating the Ethics Committee would establish guidelines for the council members and the mayor to follow and having total transparency. Discussion was held and determined because there is a State Ethics Board with stringent rules and guidelines this was unnecessary. Mark Anderson made a motion that we create an ethics committee, no second was made, motion failed.

In Section 3.02 Quorum: Add language from Westerville's Article 3.08 to the end of the first sentence of our 3.02 to read: A quorum for Council and for any of its committees and any board

established by this Charter shall consist of a majority of the members of that body, but a lesser number may adjourn the meeting from time to time and compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as may be prescribed by the rules, regulations and bylaws of the Council. The term “by majority vote” shall mean a majority of the quorum present.

All text considered approved with changes noted and the cumulative text can now be promulgated to the public as product to date.

II. Continued Discussion of “Legislative” (Article III)

Article 3.08 Qualifications

Discussion held regarding residency. ORC indicates one year. Motion made by Brian Faught to change to one year, second by Matt Staggs; all in favor, motion carried.

...for at least two years... Changed to: ...for at least one year.

...four (4) consecutive regular meetings... Changed to: ...four regular meetings per year, except where a majority of the members present at that meeting or of the other members present at a subsequent meeting have excused the absence.

There was discussion regarding term limits and it was determined not to include this.

Mark Anderson brought up the issue of council members cannot have direct family working for the town, because he considers this a conflict of interest even though the council member wouldn't directly supervise the family member. Discussion was held regarding this and other issues such as raises, favoritism, etc., and determined that because the State Ethics Board has stringent guidelines, it was unnecessary to add this.

...political party position... Added: ...position, being a notary public, or a member of the National Guard, or a member of the reserve armed forces of the United States. Andrew Dunn made a motion that the sentence “Absence due to military service shall always be excused.” be added at the end of the previous sentence; second by Brian Faught; all in favor, motion passed.

No other changes to Article 3.08.

Article 3.09 Rules and Journal

...set forth in the Charter... Changed to: ...set forth in this Charter...

No other changes to Article 3.09.

Article 3.10 Clerk of Council

...two-thirds (2/3) of... Changed to: two-thirds of...

... Charter or by ordinance. Add sentence: The Clerk may be a person having employment or appointment with the municipality.

No other changes to Article 3.10.

No other changes to Article 3.

II. Discussion of “Executive”

Article 4.01 Election and Term of Office

...November 1995... Changed to: ...November 2019...

...December 31, 1999... Changed to: ...December 31, 2023...

...elections beginning 1999,... Changed to: ...elections beginning 2023,...

Mark Anderson mentioned the verbiage “general statutory plan of government for villages” isn’t worded correctly. Discussion determined no change needed.

Jeremy Varner asked if there were residency requirements for the mayor. Noted in the second paragraph of 4.01 are the words “qualified elector” which implies the residency requirements and it is also noted in 4.03.

No other changes to Article 4.01.

Article 4.02 Powers and Duties

(A) Executive Powers:

(1) No changes

(2) ...Police, Fire and Law departments. Discussion held regarding the “law department” and determined this section will be changed to: Police and Fire Departments. **(NOTE: Section 5.05 will need to be consistent with this.)**

(3) No changes.

(4) No changes.

(5) No changes.

(6) No changes. **(NOTE: Section 5.05 will need to be consistent with this.)**

(7) ...or by any ordinance... was duplicated. Deleted the duplication.

(B) Legislative Powers:

...of two-thirds (2/3) of Council... Changed to: ...of two-thirds of Council...

Barb Virost suggested a section (C) Judicial Powers be created regarding Mayor’s Court. After discussion was no objection and thus was added as:

(C) Judicial Powers: The Mayor shall appoint the magistrate for Mayor’s Court. **(NOTE: Section 5.05 needs to make sure this is NOT approved by the majority of council.)**

Barb Virost indicated her notes for 3.05 (E) that the mayor would have the power to initiate investigations before taking it to council first. Discussion held regarding whether we should add this or not. Discussion was held to create a new 4.02 (A) (7) regarding initiating investigations. Motion was made by Mark Anderson to include this, second by Jeremy Varner; however, after discussion, Jeremy Varner withdrew his second, and with no second the motion failed. No new 4.02(A) (7).

No other changes to Article 4.02.

Discussion of Article 4 ended at this point and will resume at the next scheduled meeting with Article 4.03 Qualifications and Articles 5, 6, and 7.

III. PARTICIPATION BY PUBLIC

A. Topics discussed at tonight's meeting

None regarding tonight's discussion.

B. In general

Sally Mount voiced her concerns regarding public involvement/participation, notification of dates, times, and location, seating at the meeting, opportunity to speak or offer suggestions or input regarding the changes in articles of the Charter. Lengthy discussion was held and explained the efforts the Commission has made to keep the public informed and involved.

Nancy Montgomery stated that the meeting information is not well advertised and should keep posting this on a routine basis.

We discussed other efforts to include the posting information on the digital boards at the fairgrounds and the bank, as well as speaking at the council meetings, posting on the Georgetown Ohio Special Events facebook page, and also press releases after each meeting.

Nancy Montgomery also brought up Article 3.08; she stated if and when we become a city council positions become partisan and voting is done by wards, so she suggested it say that these positions will always be non-partisan and all of the council positions will be at large. Zach Triplett and Patrick Hornschemeier indicated this was already covered in Article 3.01 noting that the council positions are at large and non-partisan.

IV. Adjourn

Motion was made by Michelle Hopkins to adjourn; second by Mark Anderson. Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.