

Meeting Minutes
CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS 2015 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
Monday, July 27, 2015
Willoughby Hills Community Center, O’Ryan Room

Call to order by Chairman Andy Gardner at 7:07 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Dr. Stephen Atkins, Chairman Andy Gardner, Mrs. Joyce Grady, Mrs. Jennifer Greer, Mrs. Judy Shrefler, Mrs. Sandy Taddeo, Mrs. Tanya Taylor-Draper, Vice Chairman Jim Walsh and Mr. Jerry Wolanin

Nine members are present for a quorum.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Charter Review Commission minutes of 07/13/15:

Motion to approve the minutes by Vice Chairman Jim Walsh.

Seconded by Joyce Grady.

Vote: 8 AYES/0 NAYS/1 ABSTENTION (Greer).

MOTION PASSES to approve 07/13/15 CRC minutes.

Public Portion #1:

Section 107.08 – Public Meetings of Municipal Bodies of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Willoughby Hills: (a) All meetings of any municipal body are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times. All meetings shall provide a reasonable opportunity to hear public opinion. Pursuant to a Resolution of the Commission adopted on February 17, 2015, Public Portion is limited to 3 minutes per speaker and will occur at the Beginning and End of Commission meetings.

Public Portion opened at 7:08 p.m.

- 1) Christopher Hallum, 2937 Lamplight Lane, Willoughby Hills, OH 44094
Councilman Hallum spoke about the 9.4 Civil Service proposal. He inquired if there is a procedure outlining “e) Law Director mediation.”

Public Portion closed at 7:09 p.m.

Old Business:

Chairman Gardner offered Vice Chairman Walsh an opportunity to speak on his recent proposal to the group on 9.4 Civil Service:

Vice Chairman Walsh thanked Joyce Grady and Tanya Taylor-Draper for their assistance with the proposal preparation. The basic proposal does the following:

- Changes “City Council shall” to “City Council may” as related to approval after three presentations of a classification assignment by Civil Service Commission.
- Adds a process whereby the Law Director (since it is an interpretation of the law) is given a chance to break a stalemate.

Vice Chairman Walsh further added that:

- Law Director Lobe had originally requested the CRC to make changes to 9.4
- Our current approach (all are “unclassified” unless we say differently) is contrary to ORC
- He believes that this Charter change serves to help with nepotism. It is based on qualifications and there are three people (CSC) who are appointed to review credentials.
- Law Director Lobe had reviewed his proposal and was “OK” with the wording.

Steve Atkins asked for a re-write of “(e)” by “two successive revisions and three successive no votes.” He also offered the thought of a time period, such as “if a proposed Classification Plan has not been adopted by Council by a certain number of days, upon request of the CSC, the Law Director will...”

Jennifer Greer had questions regarding the role of the Civil Service Commission. She was also concerned about taking away responsibilities of the Chiefs. Steve Atkins was concerned about time to get this proposal done and ready for ballot. Vice Chairman Walsh said, “as per all of the three Tom’s, it IS broken. ORC is going in one direction and we are going in another.” He attempted to clarify the purpose of the Civil Service Commission and the Classification Plan.

Joyce Grady expressed her desire for the assurance of vetting both full and part-time employees. All seemed to agree that vetting is a good thing for part-timers because many become our future full-timers. Tanya Taylor-Draper agreed that an extra set of eyes would not hurt and could prevent a nepotism issue.

Judy Shrefler said that she understands the point of ambiguity with the current language and the time crunch we are under to come up with something palatable, but has some concerns about taking away the privilege from voters to determine who is Classified and Unclassified. Yet, she offered, she sees the problems but is not sure of the solutions.

Chairman Andy Gardner took a straw poll as follows:

- Should we work our way through validating the language of 9.4 to include vetting all new employees? (Note: this could be done in 9.4 or 5.52) VOTE: 8 AYES/0 NAYS/1 ABSTENTION (Shrefler)

- Are we in favor of giving Civil Service Commission authority to make all positions Classified or Unclassified (as per Jim's proposal with Council voting) (Assume vetting is included in this as well).
VOTE: 4 AYES/3 NAYS (Shrefler/Taddeo/Greer)/2 ABSTENTIONS (Atkins/Gardner)

Conclusion: Chairman Gardner asked Vice Chairman Jim Walsh to work on the vetting language. He will also be given about 5 minutes at the next meeting if he wishes to re-word his proposal for 9.4 to cover some of the gaps (i.e. procedure for Council tabling a decision) that were brought up.

New Business:

Jerry Wolanin had previously emailed the group his proposal for 4.21 Director of Finance. He wanted to re-visit this item to evaluate the qualifications for this position. He explained his proposal and his desire to require the candidate to have a CPA degree or CGFM.

Mayor Weger brought up concerns about "artificial requirements" being put on a Finance Director. He is concerned about wages that would have to be paid for a specific degree. Mayor Weger is not sure that you can get the best candidate, even by requiring a degree. (Current Finance Director is a good example in that he would not qualify to be Finance Director based on the criteria of maintaining continuing education credits). He reminded them that even after the Mayor chooses a candidate, Council must vote on for approval.

Jerry Wolanin agreed that there is good and bad in each profession and you are taking a leap of faith by hiring. He felt that the continuing education credits are important, as well as some of the government classes that are offered.

Vice Chairman Walsh offered that we could consider a certain number of years' experience in a government accounting capacity. Jerry said it is hard to compare apples to apples for cities because of variation in population and responsibilities.

Jennifer Greer said that with a part-time position, it may be hard to staff and we should be concerned about restrictions on candidates. She brought up about paying for the time needed to take the continuing education credits and fees for any licensure to be maintained.

A straw poll was taken:

"Would you support Jerry's proposal with modifications?"

Vote: 5 AYES/4 NAYS

Conclusion: Jerry will rewrite language to present at next meeting.

Chairman Gardner then asked if any other member had any other items they would like to discuss for ballot inclusion. Seeing none, he stated that no other items will

be put on the agenda and we will finalize all items for ballot at the next meeting on Monday, August 3, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

Public Portion #2: opened at 8:48 p.m.

1) **Frank Cihula, 35060 Dixon Road, Willoughby Hills, OH 44094**

Mr. Cihula had the following comments:

- 9.42 approves changing “shall” to “may” – gets Council involved.
- 9.42 proposal – change “resolution” to “ordinance” – (so noted)
- 5.81 Records Commission – suggests “until replaced” for term of years
- 4.21 Finance Director – agrees with Mayor regarding PT Finance Director. We may want to consider adding a third category such as “employed by the State Auditor’s Office for a certain number of years.” All these restrictions, however, he feels tends to “tie the Mayor’s hands.”

Public Portion #2 closed at 8:52 p.m.

For the Good of the Order

YMCA Dream House – tickets on sale/tours being given noon to 8 pm

Home meeting with W-E School Superintendent Steve Thompson – all welcome to come to learn about the upcoming school facility issue on the November ballot. It will be held at Judy Shrefler’s house on Thursday, July 30, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment

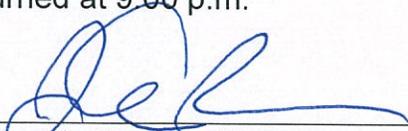
Motion to adjourn made by Joyce Grady.

Seconded by Judy Shrefler

Vote: 9 AYES/0 NAYS; MOTION PASSES to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

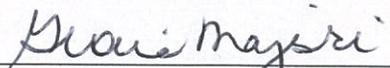


Andy Gardner, Chairman

8/3/15

Date

ATTEST:



Gloria Majeski