

Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes
HELD ON
May 18, 2022
6:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Charter Review Committee was held at the Mechanicville Senior Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday May 18, 2022.

Mark Seber: Called the meeting to order 6:00 P.M.
Mark Seber led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call:	Mark Seber -Chairman	Present
	Matt Maiello	Present
	Jim Peluso	Present
	Ed Morcone	Present
	Ann Cerone	Present
	Tony Accetta- Vice Chairman	Present
	Greg Mansfield	Present
	Nick Rinaldi	Present
	Bob Murphy-Secretary	Present

Mark Seber stated the committee has done some additional work in that past few weeks and added that Gregg and Ann were able to meet with Jim Horner who is an employee at the waterplant and President of the CSEA union and the committee also met with the remainder of the City Hall staff.

Gregg Mansfield read a report to be submitted to the minutes, it is attached to these minutes. He went on to say that hopefully as the process continues they will be able to provide a charter that is revised to make it more efficient and create a new form of City Government that people can work within.

Mark Seber added that the employees at the waterplant do a terrific job and it is an amazing operation up there and until you see it you can't really appreciate the magnitude of what they do. There was a discussion about the different projects at the waterplant. Mark Seber stated the mission in terms of the charter is not impacted by these but it gives an idea of the obstacles the different departments are faced with.

Ann Cerone added that they are finding that things that are in the charter are not being followed and asked if they make changes to the charter will they be followed.

Bob Murphy stated that he thinks that once the charter is updated you may see people responded to it differently as now everyone knows it is out of date so they really don't pay attention as much.

Ann Cerone asked when it was updated last.

Mark Seber stated it was in 2017 but at that time it was more about updating the codes and not the charter as a whole.

Ed Morcone stated that after speaking with the employees are not averse to going to a different form of government if it is more streamline and if it is decided to stay with the current form of government they want it cleaned up. He added they have had a lot of feedback as to how to combine things and save money; and that human resource and cross training were big concerns that they heard.

Mark Seber stated that he agrees cross training is important and depending how things move forward if there is a situation where the form of government is changed in some situations you would be combining some departments and then there would be more people able to be cross trained. He added he thinks the process is working out well as people are opening up and the committee is getting a sense of what needs to be done.

Jim Peluso stated he is wondering how they committee can have a dialogue with the Council about some of the issues that need to be looked at.

Mark Seber stated he does not think any of the Commissioners would object and that would also provide the committee with a different view. He went on to say that if the form of government were to change chances are the employees would all remain there but it might be a different outcome for the Commissioners.

Ann Cerone stated they already spoke with the Mayor and Commissioner Hosley.

Jim Peluso stated he thought it would be a good idea for the committee to meet with them as a group even if it is just one (1) or two (2) Commissioners at a time so that the information that is being collected could be shared with them and see what they think then possibly follow that up with what the public thinks.

Mark Seber stated that the problem with meeting with the Commissioner as a committee is there they cannot have three (3) or more Commissioners and there cannot be more than four (4) committee members so it would have to be a public meeting.

The committee agreed they don't mind doing it in a public forum.

Tony Acetta stated there are two Council Members currently that have only been in office for five (5) months so he suggested it be opened up to current Council Members and a few past Council Members.

Jim Peluso stated that is a great idea and the former Commissioners could be invited into a public meeting to get some feedback.

The Committee agreed with that.

Mark Seber stated the only concern he may have is sometimes in a public setting is people aren't as candid as when there is a smaller group meeting. Mark stated he will reach out and invite them to come to the next meeting.

Tony Accetta suggested having for example the current and former Mayor's coming at the same time so they can discuss the department at once and possibly do two (2) departments at once.

Greg Mansfield stated maybe it could be part of the agenda and spread it over the next few meetings.

Bob Murphy asked if the Committee was still meeting with the Chamber at 12:00 pm on June 7th.

Mark Seber confirmed the date. He went on to say he put together a rough spreadsheet on what the current costs are with the current Council Members with a potential costs of a new form of Government. This is attached to the minutes. Mark added a new form of government is going to cost some more money regardless of which way you go but if everyone took the maximum amount they could spend it would be a wash.

Jim Peluso asked if in Governments that had the Mayor led administrator did they have any kind of administrator assistants.

Mark Seber said they did not which surprised him. He stated one of the questions that need to be discussed eventually is the administrator verse strong Mayor is if Mechanicville has a big enough pool of people interested in running for Mayor.

Mark Seber stated he will reach out to the Mayor, Commissioners, previous Commissioners and Mayor to see if they are interested in participating and hopes they can finish this part of the process over the next couple of meetings and start moving in whatever direction they decide to move in and get the public involved.

Ann Cerone asked if the Committee would be going towards getting emails set up and having he public reach out to them.

Mark Seber stated they are having a tough time put a comment section on the Charter Review Committee page but what needs to be done is put the Committee's City emails on the page and people can communicate that way.

Greg Mansfield stated he received from Marylou Cebula at his home and he submitted a letter of response to her and it is attached to the minutes.

They discussed the next meeting date which they decided to be June 22, 2022, @ 6:00 and is hoping it will be held at the Mechanicville Public Library but would let everyone know when that is confirmed.

Motion to Adjourn: Tony Accetta

Seconded by: Greg Mansfield

Meeting Adjourned: 8:03 pm