

**Minutes of the Charter Review Commission Meeting
May 16, 2012**

Meeting start time 6:00 pm

Present: Janet Young, Judy Bennett , Nick Dudek, Rev. Keith Jones,
Anita Luttrell, Maria Mastromatteo, Barbara Niemiller, Annette Petranic,
Marc Resnik, Orlando Reyes,

Absent: Chip Cipriano, Donna Swigart

Minutes were approved with one correction.

Moved by Orlando Reyes and seconded by Judy Bennett

Motion carried (9 yes and 0 no)

Meeting began with a review of previously made decisions by the Charter Commission. Below is a summary of changes made. Reasons for the changes were discussed and are written in the **Charter Review Commission Board Recommendations 2012**.

The following issues were unchanged from the May 9 copy of the Recommendations:

- **p. 6 Article IV – Mayor**
- **p. 11 Article VI – Mayoral Appointments; Section 2—City Engineer**
- **p. 11 Article VI –Mayoral Appointments; Section 5 – Safety Forces**
- **p. 13 Article IX – Mayoral Appointments: Section 1 – Powers and Duties of Finance Director**
- **p. 16 Article X – The Council; Section 6 Special Meetings**
- **p. 17 Article X – The Council; Section 9 Salaries**
- **p. 17 Article X – The Council; Section 10 Organizational Meeting**
- **p. 17 Article 10 – The Council; Section 11 Fixing of Salaries and Bonds**
- **p. 18 Article XI – Ordinances and Resolutions; Section 6 Publications**
- **p. 20 Article XIV – Special Provisions; Section 3 Continuance in Office**
- **p. 21 Article XVIII – Charter Review Commission; Section 1 Composition and Term**
- **p. 23 Article XXV – Nominations and Elections; Section 1 Primary Elections**

First Issue Discussed –Current wording

p. 10: Article VI –Mayoral Appointments; Section 3 – Boards and Commissions

Add as paragraph 2

Qualifications of Appointment to Boards and Commissions

Members and alternates of all appointed boards and commissions shall be qualified electors of the Municipality who hold no other office or appointments in the Municipality. Members and alternates of appointed boards and commissions may not be an immediate family member of any elected official or department

head, with full disclosure of family members otherwise employed by the City of Ravenna prior to appointment. For purposes of clarification of this section, immediate family members shall be defined as spouse, domestic partner, child, step-child, sibling, half-brother, half-sister, parent, step-father, step-mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, grandparent, or grand child. *(New text) Exceptions to this section may only be made as required by ordinance, resolution or law.*

*Change moved by Maria Mastromatteo and seconded by Annette Petranic
Motion carried (9 yes and 0 no)*

Second Issue Discussed—This wording to replace current wording in Charter

p. 17 Article X – The Council; Section 8 Elections

~~The Legislative Powers of the city, except as otherwise provided by this Charter and by the State of Ohio, shall be vested in a Council of eight (8) members, one of whom shall be elected by the people as the President of Council. (This conflicts with the numbers elsewhere in the Charter.)~~

There are four (4) Ward council positions within Ravenna City Government. The individuals holding these offices are elected by voters in their respective Ward to four year terms. Ward Councilpersons are responsible to constituents living in their Ward only. ~~At-Large Councilpersons serve as additional representatives or “backups” to Ward Councilpersons when needed. (This sentence to be removed)~~

There are three Council “At-Large” positions within Ravenna City Government. The individuals holding these offices are elected by voters in all four Wards to four (4) year terms. At-Large Council persons are responsible to constituents living in all four (4) City Wards. At-Large Councilpersons share all of the roles and responsibilities as do normal Ward Councilpersons and serve as backups to the various Ward Councilpersons as well as to the other two At-Large Councilpersons.

~~The President of Council is elected to a four (4) year term by residents in all four City Wards. The President of Council presides at all regular and special meetings of Council, but he or she shall not vote therein except in the event of a tie. The Council President is also responsible for appointing chair persons to the various committees of Council. (Is listed in the President of Council section.)~~

Two (2) At-Large Council positions and Wards 1 & 2 will be elected for a four year term *commencing* (added) in 2014. The candidates for the two (2) At-Large position, the candidates that receives the most votes will become the At-Large Council member. One (1) At-Large Council position and Wards 3 & 4 will be elected for a four year term *commencing* (added) in 2016. *(changed the order of the sentences to put the first date first.)*

Current Councilpersons will continue in office until the end of their term.

*Change moved by Marc Resnik and seconded by Judy Bennett
Motion carried (9 yes and 0 no)*

Third Issue Discussed

p. 17 Article X – The Council; Section 9 Salaries

Council shall have the power to establish the salaries of Councilpersons by ordinance, but no increase shall become effective unless adopted at least thirty (30) days prior to the *filing deadline of nominating petitions for the primary election for the terms beginning in the next succeeding year*, and in no case shall an increase be paid to any person who is a member at the time of its adoption, unless he or she be re-elected, and no ordinance fixing salary shall be passed as an emergency measure.

*Change moved by Marc Resnik and seconded by Judy Bennett
Motion carried (9 yes and 0 no)*

Fourth Issue Discussed

p. 23 Article XXV – Nominations and Elections; Section 1 Primary Elections

(Replace first paragraph)

There shall be a primary election for the selection of candidates for any elective office of this Municipality to be held on the day established by the *Ohio Board of Elections (changed wording)* for primary elections of officers of municipal corporations each year in which a regular Municipal election is held.

*Change moved by Annette Petranic and seconded by ?
Motion carried (9 yes and 0 no)*

Fifth Issue Discussed

p. 12 Article VII - Police and Fire Forces; Section 2 – Fire Force

The city shall maintain a fire force and ~~EMS~~ consisting of a Chief in charge thereof and of such number of other officers, firemen and employees as may be fixed by ordinance.

*Motion to remove EMS and return issue to the way it was in the Charter moved by Marc Resnik and seconded by Orlando Reyes
Motion Carried (9 yes, 0 no)*

Sixth Issue Discussed

p. 23 Article XXIV – Removal of Elected or Appointed Officials of the City;

(Wording at the end of the sentence changed to mimic Article 10; Section 3 Removal)

The decision of Council to remove the elected or appointed official shall be made only upon concurrence of two-thirds of members of Council, after public hearings upon the charge or charges brought, provided that the elected or appointed official shall have been notified, in writing, of the charge or charges at least fifteen days in advance of such public hearing, and provided further, that the elected or appointed official and the elected or appointed official's council shall have been given the opportunity to *present evidence and examine witnesses appearing in support of the charge.*

*Change moved by Orlando Reyes and seconded by Barb Niemiller
Motion carried (9 yes and 0 no)*

Meeting with Frank Cimino. Made the following comments:

- In Article X –The Council; Section 3 Removal—The wording “sole and final judge” applies to election and qualifications of council members. Does NOT conflict with the concept of recall.
- We would currently be using the ORC statement on recall if necessary. It's up to the Charter Commission if they would like to recommend changes to the charter.
- Citizens can recall if they follow the ORC.
- On other issues, said it would be good to keep the timing of filings consistent throughout the document.
- Asked about adding EMS to the Charter language and suggested we reconsider that decision.
- Janet Young suggested we rearrange to sections of the Charter in a more orderly fashion. It was also suggest that the contents page have page numbers listed. Cimino suggested we talk to the Clerk of Council about this.

Annette Petranic suggested we consider changing the following items on a recall proposal: percentage of people required to sign a petition for a recall. That it be in a general or primary election time (not a special election).

Orlando Reyes motioned to adjourn and Rev. Keith Jones seconded. Motion carried.