

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Suzie Johnston, Chair Eric Cooley, Vice-Chair Rick Belhumeur, Commissioners Jane Mealy, James Sherman and Scott Spradley, City Attorney D. Andrew Smith, III, City Manager Dale L. Martin, and City Clerk Penny Overstreet.

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER: Chair Cooley called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Johnston led the pledge to the flag.
3. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE MAYOR'S ROLE, AND TERMS OF OFFICE: Chair Cooley spoke of how this discussion/meeting came about, and then read from the Charter the Duties of the Mayor and the composition and terms of the office of the Officials. Chair Cooley deferred from the original question of having a voting Mayor to retaining the non-voting position of the Mayor and proposed a Charter amendment to allow the Mayor to have veto power on action items (including consensus). Mayor Johnston interjected this is not something that would be on our next election ballot in March, if consensus to approve it would be an ordinance and then likely on next year's ballot for consideration by the voters. Discussion ensued and included: advice from the City Attorney regarding decisions where a veto option was inappropriate such as quasi-judicial votes and the potential for non-compliance if the budget were vetoed against TRIM deadlines. The discussion continued and included: if approved requirement for a statement of why a veto was enacted, and trying to fix something that isn't broken. Chair Cooley opened public comments. Don Deal spoke against taking the veto power from the Mayor and changing of the terms. John Feind was thrown off as Commissioner Cooley has changed his proposal and now is just expanding veto power to administrative items; he feels it is very important the officials maintain the balance of power and keep the Mayor not voting and retaining the veto power. Cathy Feind does not understand, it's the group vote, she does not see how that would help. Mrs. Feind continued stating the veto is vital, it's the check and balance. Joe Bachman asked why would you want to do this. Paul Mykytka feels the veto is important and likes the idea of expanding her veto power. He continued stating he does not think we need term limits, and he likes the three -year term, adding four (4) years is too much, and two (2) is not enough. Patti King stated as Mayor Elect, she has thought a lot about this, not voting allows the role to speak their opinion and get the voting members thinking. She felt the loss of the Veto power would be devastating. Bob Cunningham thinks we should have a voting Mayor, and pare down the board to four (4) commissioners, adding a three (3) year term is fine and thinks there should be term limits. Angela Smith feels this is bad timing. Paul Eik spoke in favor of having the Mayor vote, and suggested it go to referendum. BB Moody asked who represents the various projects. Teri Pruden stated consolidation into a smaller group of people is dangerous, and feels this is bad timing, she likes the form of government where the chair changes annually, and thinks the three-year term is just right. Tony Roy thinks expanding the veto is a good idea, and thinks the three-year term is ideal, he added he is in favor of term limits. Mike Archer thinks the veto power is extremely important for the Mayor to have. Former Mayor Linda Provencher stated she

was a commissioner and then ran for Mayor because she wanted to speak for both sides. Ms. Provencher suggested reviewing the Charter. Chair Cooley closed public comments.

The discussion turned to term limits and the length of term and included: term limits you might throw off a good leader, not having the population to support term limits, three-year terms being ideal, term limits not being practical, and in favor of the idea of a charter review. The Commission reached a consensus to have an agenda item for the discussion of enacting a charter review.

4. ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Sherman put forth a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

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Eric Cooley, Chair

Attest:

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Penny Overstreet, City Clerk