

Willowick Charter Review Commission meeting

5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 18, 2024

Willowick City Hall

Present: Natalie Antosh, Jodi Di Domenico, Mark Lasmanis, Patrick Mohorcic, Nicole Monaco, Tom Ott, David Phares, Bob Reho. Keith Beck had an excused absence.

Old Business

Natalie Antosh clarified how the transition to staggered City Council terms would be accomplished should the issue be placed on the ballot and gain voter approval. Changes would take place in 2027, when all council members complete their current four-year terms. In the 2027 election, candidates for one council seat per ward would run a four-year term while candidates for the other seat would seek a one-time, two-year term. At the conclusion of the two-year terms, candidates for that seat would run for a four-year term. The council would determine the process for selecting which seats would temporarily carry a two-year term. The discussion will continue.

New Business

The commission resumed discussion of the law director's proposal that the Board of Zoning Appeals be final. Currently, the BZA's decisions are recommendations that the City Council decides to confirm or reject. Bob Reho questioned whether the change, which would streamline the process and follow the lead of other cities, was necessary. Antosh noted that the council and BZA have disagreed on occasion and said the change might be acceptable if there was a guarantee that BZA members would visit locations involved in the matters they decide. Mark Lasmanis asked how that could be ensured. Antosh said the volunteer members could not be forced to make site visits. The commission voted and decided, 8-0 with one member absent, to reject the proposed amendment.

The commission then began reviewing the remaining articles of the charter:

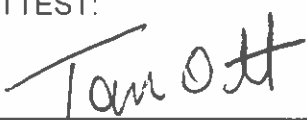
Article VIII Finances; Article IX Taxation; Article X Nominations and Elections; Article XI Initiative, Referendum and Recall; Article XII Miscellaneous; Article XIII Effect of Charter.

The commission considered all the above articles and their sections and decided that no changes were needed.



Commission Chair, Bob Reho

ATTEST:



Secretary, Tom Ott