

Charter Review Commission
Monday, January 7, 2019
Council Chambers

Name	Present	Absent
Brooks Boliek	X	
Cameron Thurston	X	
Dan Alpert		X
John Krouse	X	
Nathan Rickard	X	
Nora Eidelman	X	
Normand Bernache		X
Peter King	X	
Ray Ranker		X
Virdina Gibbs	X	

Guests: Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Sheryl DeWalt, Contract Secretary

Ms. Miller called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

1. Members of the committee and guests introduced themselves.
2. Ms. Miller reviewed the Resolution 18-R-23, adopted by the City Council on November 20, 2018. The basic premise of the resolution is to evaluate the pros and cons of lengthening terms of office from two years to four years and if elections for council seats should be staggered or concurrent. She explained that the committee is on a short time period and a report outlining the pros and cons is due to Mayor and Council by May 31, 2019.
3. General “Housekeeping” rules were explained:
 - a. A contract secretary will be at each meeting to take minutes and the meetings will be audio recorded.
 - b. The meetings are open meetings which means the public can attend, but cannot participate in the meeting, unless invited by the Commission.
 - c. The public will be able to express their thoughts and opinions at one of the two open forums held by the committee – one in Council Chambers and one in Davis Hall, per the resolution. Public forums will be audio recorded and have the capability of being televised, if the committee desires.
 - d. Janeen Miller, City Clerk, is the staff liaison for the committee.
 - e. A Chair and Vice Chair will need to be elected.
4. General Discussion (not in any particular order)
 - a. Information requested of Ms. Miller:

- i. Survey of other Maryland Municipalities on term lengths
 - ii. Minutes of Council meetings/Worksessions/Retreat where this topic was discussed, including the meeting that Rockville Mayor Newton attended.
 - iii. Follow up to see if the ad-hoc subcommittee referenced in the Diamondback article ever met or reported out.
 - iv. Provide election statistics for analysis by the Commission to determine average length of service of elected officials.
- b. The City Communications Coordinator will advertise the public forum through official city channels:
 - i. Constant Contact
 - ii. City Website
 - iii. Twitter
 - iv. Facebook
 - v. Weekly Bulletin
 - vi. Municipal Scene
 - vii. Announcements at Mayor and Council meetings
 - viii. Civic Associations listservs
 - ix. Email address set up just for this topic
- c. Mr. Boliek has done a bit of research and will share his information with the groups including any internet links.
- d. Once report is in a final draft form, send out to public for comments. Looking towards end of April for this final draft report. Committee will review any final comments and make final revisions to ensure report is delivered to Mayor and Council by May 31, 2019.
- e. Take into consideration that students would only be able to vote one time if the City goes to four year elections. Ms. Miller did state that there is a student liaison, appointed by the SGA, to City Council. This is a paid position of \$1650 per year.
- f. Identify types of issues/"themes" to be relevant for research:
 - i. Continuity of council to work on issues and see to conclusion
 - ii. Amount of time it takes to on-board new council members
 - iii. Accountability of elected officials
 - iv. Cost of elections. Right now elections are budgeted at about \$15K. Will probably go up to \$20K for the November election with the additional polling site and early voting.
 - v. Staff work load associated with elections
 - vi. How the change, if any, will affect the citizens
 - vii. How the change, if any, will affect relations with the University of Maryland

5. Mr. King made a motion to nominate Cameron Thurston as Chair. Mr. Boliek seconded. All in favor; no opposed. Motion carries 7-0-0.
6. Mr. King made a motion to defer the selection of a Vice Chair. Mr. Boliek seconded. All in favor; no opposed. The motion carries 7-0-0.
7. Mr. Thurston made a motion to hold the first of two public forums on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 7:30pm with a business meeting to follow, if time permits. Mr. Boliek seconded. All in favor; no opposed. The motion carries 7-0-0. Ms. Miller explained that the normal standard for a public forum is to have a sign-in sheet; call each person up to the podium with “Mr. Smith is up, Mr. Jones is on deck”; state name and either address or neighborhood; limit comments to three minutes with a timekeeper.

Mr. Thurston made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Krouse seconded. All in favor; no opposed. The motion carries 7-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm.