

**CITY OF BLUE SPRINGS, MISSOURI
MINUTES OF CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 13, 2018**

A meeting of the Charter Review Commission was held on Thursday, September 18, 2018, 6:00 p.m. in the Parks Administration Conference Room of the Blue Springs Fieldhouse, 425 NE Mock Avenue, Blue Springs, MO.

COMMISSION MEMBERS	Jeanie Lauer	James Wallace
	Kelli Montgomery	Jason Bonney
	Bryan Pratt	Kynette Campbell
	Maureen Johnson	Traci Via
	Becky Nace	

Also present were Assistant City Administrator Christine Cates, City Attorney Jacqueline Sommer, and City Clerk Sheryl Morgan. Councilmen Culpepper, Kaylor and Carter were present.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Co-Chairs Pratt and Lauer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

Co-Chairmen Pratt and Lauer stated the meetings would be held in a very informal fashion and welcomed participation and input from everyone, including those in the audience. Co-Chair Pratt stated he did not anticipate any changes being made this week and hoped that all recommendations would be by unanimous vote. Next week decisions will be made on Articles I, II, and III.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Co-Chair Lauer moved to approve the Minutes of the July 19, 2018 Charter Review Commission meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Nace and was approved unanimously.

ARTICLE I – INCORPORATION, NAMES AND BOUNDARIES

No changes were recommended.

ARTICLE II - POWERS

No changes were recommended.

ARTICLE III – CITY COUNCIL

Section 3.1 – No changes were recommended.

Section 3.2 – Co-Chair Pratt reviewed the changes made to this Section of the Charter during the last Charter Review in 2014. The Commission requested Staff to forward the redlined changes (Ordinances) made in the 2014 review.

Section 3.3 – Co-Chair Pratt asked if the Commission wanted to consider adding registered sex offenders and other offenses.

Section 3.4 – Commissioner Via questioned adding term limits. Commissioner Nace questioned changing Council terms to be four years to be consistent with the Mayor's term and to minimize expense. The Commission requested Staff to conduct a comparison of expenses with changing the term to four years, as well as the current three-year term.

Section 3.5 – The title outlines “Expenses” but expenses are not included in the section. This section is also inconsistent with the verbiage with Section 4.5 regarding the Mayor’s Compensation, Allowance and Expenses – review these sections for consistency. The Commission requested Staff to outline what allowances and expenses (vehicle, travel and training, etc.) are available to the Council.

Section 3.6 – No changes were recommended.

Section 3.7.A – The Commission discussed having a Council member serve as a voting member on each of the City’s boards and commissions.

Section 3.7.B – No discussion of this Section.

Section 3.7.C – Co-Chair Pratt outlined the changes made in 2014; City Attorney Jackie Sommer indicated Section 4.4.F stated the Mayor shall not interfere with the day-to-day administration of City affairs. Commissioner Via requested the language be similar from Section 3.7.C and Section 4.4.F.

Section 3.8 – No changes were recommended.

Section 3.9 – No changes were recommended.

Section 3.10 – District 3 Councilman Susan Culpepper requested that the Commission review the wording to state more clearly. The Commission would need to determine the preference of (1) let appointed Councilmember serve the remaining term; or (2) have a seat at the earliest opportunity. Staff is requested to draft verbiage to consider.

Section 3.11 – The Commission discussed removing the words “on demand” relating to the timing of a public hearing and replace with the words “within 30 days.”

Section 3.12.A – No changes were recommended.

Section 3.12.B – No changes were recommended.

Section 3.12.C – No changes were recommended.

Section 3.12.D – The Council is not currently conducting all votes by a roll call vote; Resolutions and first readings on Ordinances are done by voice vote. The Commission preferred to leave the roll call vote for all votes.

Section 3.12.E – No discussion of this Section.

Section 3.12.F – No discussion of this Section.

Section 3.12.G – The Commission reviewed this section, as well as Section 4.4.G (Mayor’s Powers and Duties – Execution of Documents). These are duplicated, and Section 3.12.G should be repealed.

Section 3.12.H – The Commission discussed Section 110.150 of the Code allowing a person to speak before the Council upon a majority vote.

Section 3.12.I – No discussion of this Section.

Section 3.12.J – No discussion of this Section.

Section 3.12.K – No discussion of this Section.

Section 3.13 – The Commission recommended removing “Mayor and” in the first sentence consenting to the appointment of the City Clerk.

Section 3.14 – District 1 Councilman Dale Carter reviewed his concerns relating to Sections 3.14 and 3.15 allowing the Mayor to appoint the City Attorney and City Prosecutor without Council oversight, removal only upon initiation by the Mayor, and the discrepancies between the 2014 Charter Review Commission’s recommendations, ballot language, and Code amendments. Suggested language to include any Mayoral appointment should receive the advice and consent of a majority of the City Council, and the appointed position be removed by the Mayor with the majority of the City Council, or by a 2/3 majority vote of the City Council acting on its own initiative. The Commission would like this language to be consistent in both Sections 3.14 and 3.15. The Commission discussed a formal review process for the positions, the reporting structure for the City Attorney, as well as how any conflicts would be handled. Commissioner Nace recommended the City Council be included in the annual performance review and salary determination until the City Attorney is relieved of duty or replaced. The Commission discussed adding a section relating to performance review that is consistent with Section 5.5 and include input from the City Administrator.

Section 3.15 – The Commission discussed the ability to appoint the City Prosecutor as a contractor.

General changes:


- Consider global change from “his” to “their” throughout the Charter.
- Consider global change from “Councilman” to “Councilmember.” Staff to determine if this affects the rest of the Code.

Due to the length of the meeting, the Commission did not discuss the remainder of Article III. The next meeting on September 27th will pick up with continued discussion of Section 3.13.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:05 p.m., there was no further business to come before the Council, Co-Chair Pratt adjourned the meeting.

CITY OF BLUE SPRINGS – CHARTER
REVIEW COMMISSION



Jeanie Lawer, Co-Chairman



Sheryl Morgan, City Clerk