

MINUTES OF MEETING  
2020 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION  
APRIL 23, 2020

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Members Present: John Urban, Pat Roberts, Linda Bartolozzi, Michael Coyne, Trevor McAleer, Bill Brink, Tony Bucaro, Steve Polly, John Lanning

Presence Noted: Andrew Bemer, Law Director

Administration: Mayor Pamela Bobst

Council Members Present: Jim Moran, Rocky River City Council President  
Thomas Hunt, Ward 1 Council Member  
Michael O'Donnell, Ward 3 Council Member  
Dave Furry, At-Large Council Member  
Christopher Klym, At-Large Council Member  
Christina Morris, At-Large Council Member

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Mr. Urban began by welcoming the Mayor and City Council members to the meeting and thanked them for attending. One of the privileges of serving on the Charter Review Commission is that they get to meet the leaders of the City and they appreciate their time and input. Tonight they will be discussing Article II – The Mayor and Article III – The Council.

Mr. Urban asked if the Commission members have any changes to the minutes of the April 16, 2020 meeting. Mr. Lanning moved to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Brink seconded. Motion passed by unanimous acclamation.

Mr. McAleer, today's discussion leader, began by explaining that these Articles lay out the executive powers bestowed on the Mayor and the legislative powers of the City Council. Council includes 4 Ward Council members and 3 At-Large members. He believes there are 6 sections of Articles II and III that warrant further discussion.

Beginning with Article II, Section 1, the term of the Mayor, Mr. McAleer said that this topic has been discussed by previous Charter Review Commissions and they know where Mayor Bobst stands on this issue. Nearly every city in northeast Ohio has 4 year terms for their elected officials. The voters of Rocky River believe our leaders have done a great job, as they have continued to re-elect Mayor Bobst for 7 terms. Allowing for 4 year terms will create greater stability for the City for longer term projects, such as Bradstreet's Landing and other long term development projects like the Center Ridge Rd. Master Plan. There is a chance that all new Council members and a new Mayor could be elected and all take office at the same time. This situation would allow them less than 2 years to learn the City and to be able to properly govern before he or she has to run again for office. He noted that our School Board members are elected for longer than our elected officials. Mr. McAleer said that having 4 year terms will also save the City resources. The Board of Elections charges approximately \$2,200 to \$2,500 per precinct for each election. If we moved to elections every 4 years, it could save the City as much as \$50,000 per year for each election. He believes this discussion should be continued and ultimately give the voters a chance to have a say on this issue.

Mr. McAleer said that the second topic for discussion is Article III, Section 2, which is the term for the Council members. For the reasons he just explained regarding the term of the Mayor, he believes all those hold true for the term of Council members. There are 2 members of the current Council who have been elected to at least 8 terms, 2 members who have been elected to at least 7 terms, 2 members with 5 terms, and there is 1 newly elected Council member. This shows that the voters of Rocky River believe that their elected officials are doing a great job and have made decisions when to change elected officials when they feel it is necessary.

The next topic Mr. McAleer believes is important to discuss is Article III, Section 4, Organization. This requires that the Council have its organizational meeting after each election within 3 days of the Council members taking their oath of office. This takes place within a day or two of New Year's Day, every other year. He would like the Council members to comment about whether having this bump into a holiday is an important enough discussion to potentially allow for 7 or 10 days to have an organizational meeting.

Mr. McAleer said that the next topic that is important to discuss is Article II, Section 7, which deals with vacancies of Council members. Currently, if the Mayor's seat becomes vacant, the Council has 60 days to fill the vacancy. However, if a Council member's seat becomes vacant, the Council only has 30 days to act to fill the vacancy. He would like to hear what the Council members and Mayor think about this, and whether the Commission should consider suggesting a change to allow 60 days for the Council to fill a vacancy.

Mr. McAleer would also like to hear from Council members relating to Article III, Section 9. This section outlines how often Council members must publicly meet, which is twice per month. Considering the public health concerns around COVID-19, he would like the Commission to discuss perhaps amending this section to allow for flexibility to the Council in case of emergencies such as the one they are facing today. He would recommend they include language such as if there is a State, County or City declared emergency, then Council members, or at the discretion of the Council President, could waive the 2 meetings per month requirement, if necessary.

Mr. McAleer said that the final topic for discussion is Article III, Section 15(h), which requires that documents such as ordinances, resolutions proclamations, etc., be posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of City Hall. This was last amended in 1978 and he wonders if they should consider amending this section to allow the postings to be online or made available at City Hall, but not require the bulletin board posting.

Mr. McAleer said that some of those 6 topics are more important than others and that the Commission knows they should not be placing too many Charter amendments on the ballot. He said that he heard from a Council member regarding the use of "he" or "his" throughout the Charter and whether they should consider changing the gender terms. In Article X, Section 5, it covers the use of gender words in the Charter.

He asked if there are any other Sections or topics that the Charter Review Members would like to include for further discussion. Mr. Lanning said that Article I, Section 2 calls out specifically that the Mayor cannot be the Director of Finance or hold any other paid position, but the language is different under the Council members and he wonders what the reason is for that. Mr. Bucaro agreed and said that Section III, Section 13(2) requires that a public hearing be published in a newspaper and he is wondering if they should update that for modern media.

Mr. McAleer asked Mayor Bobst to present her thoughts and address some of the questions that he posed. Mayor Bobst thanked Mr. McAleer for his excellent detailing of those two Articles of the Charter. She said that it is no secret if the members have read some of the minutes from prior Charter Reviews that civic engagement is extremely important to her and engaging our community is also extremely important. Many times she has referenced the book, "Bowling Alone," which was written by a Robert Putnam, a Harvard professor. He talks about the fact that the best predictor of a community's success is civic engagement and she believes that 2 year terms speak precisely to civic engagement and she believes that it is foundational to a successful community. Mr. Putnam also wrote an article called, "The Prosperous Community" wherein he says that a prosperous community has nothing to do with the wealth of a community, but the vitality and prosperity of its organizations and its connections – the City's ability to connect with its residents and for residents to connect with one another. When there are 2 year terms, it gives our residents a voice every 2 years and it engages them on the important issues that our community faces. We receive a lot of good dialogue and feedback and she thinks that 2 year terms speak to accountability, transparency and, above all, momentum. As elected officials, they understand that they have 2 years to make a difference because you don't make promises you can't keep. People ask her about Rocky River's amazing City government that functions at such a high level and what she attributes that to. She attributes it to the fact that they are all focused in the same direction. They don't always agree on everything, but they do have a commitment to the process and they look forward to accomplishing things because they know that is the expectation of the residents. She is not sure how residents will view this proposal and whether they will see voting every 2 years as part of the great success and momentum of the City. Civic engagement, social infrastructure and making sure that our community is involved in the work that they do is important. The vision of the community outlined in the stakeholder's process for the Master Plan, Detroit Rd., Bradstreet's Landing and Center Ridge Rd. are some of the most exciting things they do, and Mayor Bobst believes that voting every 2 years relates to that high level of engagement.

Mr. Urban commented that he used to work for a Congressman and it seemed to him as if the Congressman was constantly running for re-election and he could not do his job at times because of that. He asked Mayor Bobst whether she finds that to be an issue for her. Mayor Bobst responded that it is not an issue for her, and she believes that they run for election every day by being responsive elected officials and public servants. The

campaigning must be kept absolutely separate from the offices that they hold, but one could maybe make a case that perhaps someone in office would make decisions that are based on the fact that they are running for re-election. However, she thinks that the accountability, transparency and engagement really assist with that. They have put policies in place, such as the fact that she does not ask for one campaign contributions from anyone who works in the City. She believes that this community educates itself so well on the candidates and the issues. The results that they achieve while working together in one direction, is vital to their success.

Mr. Brink asked Mayor Bobst her opinion about why the public office holders in Rocky River experience such longevity. Mayor Bobst responded that those who hold public office are also involved in the schools, churches, Little League, Chamber of Commerce and a number of other organizations. They have a great love for the community and they are engaged in it. When the community doesn't feel that is the case, then there is some turnover. Mr. Brink said that it is interesting that they have had 16 Mayors since 1903, which is an average of about 7 years per Mayor. This issue of 4 year terms was last on the ballot in 2002 and it was resoundingly defeated. It's now 18 years later, and social media has a big influence now. He thinks that whether they agree or not on 2 or 4 years, he thinks that they should give the residents another chance to vote on it since it has been 18 years since they have done it. He said that perhaps some will find that 2 years may cause things to move too fast. Mayor Bobst has been in office for 14 years, which is nice because she has had the continuity. However, if they were to change Mayors every 2 years like is possible, he does not think they would get a whole lot done in the City. Mayor Bobst responded that the City has been tested in real ways and they had to do some significant things to cut the budget back in 2009 through into 2014. At that time, she said that the measure of their success would be that not one resident knows that they cut the budget in the ways that they did, and they were extremely successful. They are being challenged right now financially and programmatically in terms of services. She has never been encumbered by 2 year terms and she does not believe that things move too quickly. She feels that they progress very deliberately and in a very educated way and it has served the community well.

Mr. Lanning asked Mayor Bobst if she sees a downside to 4 year terms and Mayor Bobst responded that she wonders if they would feel the same urgency that they do now. She said that if she served for 4 years with the Council she has today, there would be very little difference because they are all committed and work to accomplish things. She said that 4 years can be a very long time in the life of a local community, and she thinks that there are checks and balances within the community that could be helpful with that. She wonders who would campaign for a ballot issue that, in essence, denies people a voting privilege that they have had in the past. It would certainly appear self-serving if elected officials campaigned for it and, as a practical matter, she is not sure who would carry that campaign.

Mr. Lanning said that he noticed that the Finance Director as well as any school board positions are called out for the Mayor but not for the Council members and he wonders why. Law Director Bemer said that when the Charter was adopted, there were a lot of overlaps and in many cities the Mayor is also the Safety Director. In many instances, the Mayor and Finance Director work hand in hand. They sign the same documents and the checks and balances between Finance Director and the Mayor would not be in place if a Mayor was allowed to serve in both positions. Law Director Bemer added that for some reason, the former Charter Review Commissions chose not to address the issue of inconsistency between that restriction for the Mayor and for City Council. Mr. Bucaro said that he has a hard time thinking that the public would accept removing this restriction from the Charter. Mr. Lanning added that the Finance Director and the Mayor both sit on the Finance Committee, so you can't have one person hold two positions.

Commission member, Pat Roberts said that the Mayor and Council have all done a great job because they are engaged, motivated and out there in the community. When she looks at documents, she looks at it in the totality of what is good for the City as a whole. There was a survey done in 2006 by the Municipal Government City Council Management Association and it showed that 55% of cities have 4 year terms, and it is probably more now. The International Executive Fellowships for CEOs and Administrators have an average of a 4.4 year contract, which is across all big business. The reason they have this is because the issues that are out there now, are much more complex than they were even 10 years ago. That is why she thinks that they need to provide a captain of the ship who has a 4 year plan. She said that the times and the complexity of things have changed and she feels that 4 years is necessary to get all of the players in place and work together for permanent, positive outcomes. She feels that a Mayor is the Captain of the ship and more time will help handle the complex problems that cities are now faced with.

Mrs. Bartolozzi said that since the Charter was passed in 1961, the terms have always been 2 years. Nobody has ever felt the urge to make a change and it failed in 2002 when it was on the ballot. They discussed it during Charter Review when she was a member in 2008. She said the only people that benefit from a 4 year term is the Council members and the Mayor because they don't have to go through the time and expense of running every 2 years. She thinks that the beauty of 2 year terms is that it engages the Council members and the Mayor to collect the names on their petitions, and the residents have more awareness of who their representatives are. She said that many residents may not know who their representatives are because everything is working so well. Because they are satisfied, they may not feel the need to find out who their Council people are. The only benefit she can see would be the savings of not having to have an election every 2 years. She thinks things are working well and Rocky River has been blessed with quality Council people and quality Mayors. She asked what would happen if someone was elected who turned out not to be as good as you thought they would be, and then you are stuck with them for 4 years.

Mayor Bobst said that regarding the cost savings of elections, it would not necessarily be absolute because they still pay for other issues that are on the ballot, such as with the Schools, the County, the Metroparks or the Port Authority. It does not mean that there is an absolute savings of close to \$50,000 because it's not like there wouldn't be an election in the alternating years. She said that the Charter needs to serve the community and the residents and not somebody who doesn't want to run every 2 years. Mr. Brink said that he really does not think that they are thinking of this change for the convenience of the Mayor or Council. We have been fortunate of having the continuity without a lot of change but the way the Charter is, it allows for quick change.

Council President Moran said he wonders why nobody questions the qualification of the Mayor is that the resident must be living in Rocky River for only 1 year. He wonders if the term is something that should be increased. Mr. Urban said that the 1 year residency requirement for the Mayor and City Council members was added to the Charter as a result of their review 6 years ago. Ms. Roberts said that she agrees with Council President Moran because people wouldn't usually pick someone who has been out of college for 1 year over someone who is more knowledgeable about and has seen some of the way things function in the City and would be better able to make assessments about the needs of the City.

Mr. McAleer asked Council President Moran what his thoughts are on the items he and the other members brought up relative to Article III – The Council. Mr. Moran said that the term of office is something that has been discussed a lot. When he considers this, he tries to take himself or the current Council members out of the question of the term. He looks at the possible cost savings and, although he likes to save every dollar that he can, he is not sure the savings would be enough to make the difference. He feels that the terms have worked well so far, but he would have no problem with changing to 4 year terms for the Mayor and for City Council members. The total experience among this current Council has approximately 275 years of residency. He said that the City Council Members are people who want to give back to the City and he feels that everyone on City Council have been living in the City for a long time and they enjoy it and they want to continue to. They have a commitment to the City and the longer they are involved, the more they love it and want to continue. The term of office does not matter to him, but he feels that the residents will probably say that 2 years has worked well and they will probably want to keep it that way.

At-Large Council Member, Dave Furry said that he just started his 7<sup>th</sup> term. He has gone back and forth on the issue of term of office and he feels like the cost of running an election should not have anything to do with it because that is just the cost of a democracy. He enjoys his public servant portion of his position and he equally detests the campaigning portion of it. He has pretty much self-funded his campaigns because he feels dirty asking people for money. He is not advocating for going to 4 year terms but they could technically have 7 new Council Members, a new Mayor and a new Law Director every 2 years. He remembers he had a learning curve when he first was elected

to Council, and he thinks it's amazing that there are a lot of people who don't know who their Council member is. He is not sure if that is a good or a bad thing, just like the fact that not many people show up for City Council meetings. Rocky River is a strong Mayor form of government but Rocky River has been a very well run City. He said that if they do propose a 4 year term, then staggering terms to take out the possibility that there may be 7 new Council members at one time, would be a good thing.

Mr. Lanning asked about what was meant by the strong Mayor government. Law Director Bemer said that there are some cities where City Council chooses who the City Manager is and the Mayor position is somewhat ceremonial, which would be considered a strong Council form of Government. Our Charter does a good job of balancing the delegation of power and authority. A distinguishing point compared to some of the other Cities, the Council does not have any checks and balances over any of the Directorship appointments. He agrees with Mr. Furry that the City has a strong Mayor form of government and he thinks that they should want to relieve as much politicizing of City government as they can. In his 15 years as Law Director, he has never seen a Council member engage in any kind of political power plays at all in Rocky River like he has seen in so many other communities. It brings complications to getting things done, and it creates hard feelings and alliances among Council members. He said that one of the reasons we have never had that here is because of the large amount of trust and respect each has for the separate responsibilities among the Mayor and Council members. It is not a matter of whether they agree with everything, but that they have respect for the different power structures and authorities, which makes it work so well. Mr. Furry said that if the Council members have differences, they don't go to the news. They talk out their grievances between each other and none of them have the need to grandstand or get headlines. They are all in this out of a passion for their City.

At-Large Council Member Christopher Klym, said that he has been elected 4 times and was appointed 1 time. He explained that he was on the Charter Review Commission in 1996 and they had very similar conversations about 2 year versus 4 year terms, and those discussions have probably gone on every 6 year since. He said that it was his understanding that before Rocky River was a Charter City, we were using the State Ordinances, which were for 2 year terms. He thinks that if he were creating a Charter from scratch right now, he would definitely be looking at 4 year terms for the Mayor, the Law Director and City Council members, and they would have staggered terms to avoid the possibility of electing an entirely new City Council every 2 years. A complete turnover of all elected officials at one time would be a very difficult thing for the City to experience and he feels momentum would be lost. He thinks they have worked well as a government together and the Mayor is doing a really great job. He feels that ideally, 4 year terms are better and he agrees with the Mayor that nobody would campaign for that. The purpose of the Charter Review is to look at how the community and society have changed and decide what is best for us as we move forward. In 1996, they started to add qualifications for Finance Director very much in response to what was going on within the Community at that time. The County had a Finance Director who had done some

things he shouldn't have done and there were some real corruption issues. The Charter Review Commission looked at that situation and was able to take that information and place them on the ballot. He thinks 4 years is better and it gives the Mayor and City Council members a longer period of time to establish a track record but he thinks it is best in conjunction with staggered terms so the residents have the ability to respond and make changes when they need to. We should rely on the residents to make good decisions. It is up to the voters to decide whether City Council members, the Mayor and the Law Director should stay or not.

Regarding the 1 year qualification for Mayor and City Council members, Mr. Klym does not have a problem with that because there are some very qualified people who come into the City and should be able to run. As an example, he said that State Representative David Greenspan was not living in the area for very long before he ran for County Council. He is a very experienced person who served on a similar body in Atlanta and he brought a lot of experience to his new position very quickly. He does not feel that any longer than 1 year of residency is necessary. He thanked the Charter Commission members for doing this review because it is a very important process and it is important to our success as a City.

Michael O'Donnell, Ward 3 Council Member said that he agrees with much of what is being said. He thinks that Council Members, Law Director and the Mayor want to be very careful not to be pushing this as some kind of benefit for them. He served on the Charter Review Commission in 2008 with John Urban and they debated the issue back then but then ultimately decided not to put it on the ballot. He said that Council Members continually get re-elected and all of the other communities seem to be very successful with 4 year terms. It seems to him that all of that evidence is clearly pushing them to at least allow the voters the opportunity to have a say, and he thinks they can be successful doing that because it makes the most sense. He added that with staggering the terms there would still be an election every 2 years and there would not be the benefit of any financial savings. He is not sure if the public would truly understand why they would stagger the terms and they may have to take baby steps by having to go to 4 year terms and then stagger them later. If you look at the terms of the Council, Mayor and Law Director, he does not think they will lose anything by going to 4 years because most people stay in office for at least 4 years.

Ms. Roberts said that as she reads through the Charter, her mind is always geared toward where they want to be 10 years from now and what kinds of things should they start to think about and initiate for efficient management of a City.

Christina Morris, At-Large Council Member, said that she does not have a preference of 2 year terms or 4 year terms, but she thinks that a staggered election would solve the issue of keeping civic engagement. It would be great if there would be a cost savings, but she does not have a huge issue either way. However, she does have an issue with the

gender references and thinks that the Council President should be changed from being referred to as “him” to “them.”

Thomas Hunt, Ward 1 Council Member, thanked the Charter Review Commission for their time, and he does not have anything new to discuss. He agrees that the concept of potentially having numerous new members of Council, Mayor and Law Director is something he has thought about. He believes that a 4 year term would serve the community just as well. As active as he and other members of Council have been in the community, whether a term is 2 years or 4 years is not going to make any difference. When he looks at the positions of Council member or Mayor, he believes that 4 years is more appropriate because 2 years comes around quickly. There is a slight learning curve and it takes some time before you feel comfortable in the process. His input is that they should at least have the electorate consider a 4 year term for City Council.

Mr. McAleer said that the remaining topics of changing the 3 day requirement for the organizational meeting, changing the number of days Council has to fill a vacancy seat, having the flexibility to cancel Council meetings in cases of emergencies, as opposed to having to meet twice each month are still up for discussion, as well as posting the agendas on the bulletin board in the lobby of City Hall.

Council President Moran said that 3 days is a little short for them to make the decision of making the appointment for Council President, although it is not a critical point. He said that they have gone through the process to fill a vacancy and 30 days is very short, especially when there are a lot of people applying for the position. He would not have a problem extending the time period to fill a vacancy to 60 days. Regarding the number of meetings they are required to have each month, Mr. Moran said that they have never had a problem with it. They actually have 4 meetings per month, with 2 meetings of the whole and two legislative meetings. Except for at a specific holiday or around Christmas, those would be the only time it has put a squeeze on things. What they are experiencing now with COVID-19 is really an exception to the rule, so he has no problem with two legislative meetings and the only time they ever pose a slight problem would be around the holidays. He is not sure that it is something that they need to bring before the electorate for a vote.

Mayor Bobst said that it is important to identify that the Charter says that if Council does not appoint within 30 days, then the Mayor is the appointing authority to council. She said that appointing authority should really be Council for a Council position. If they extended it by another 30 days, it would give them some needed time when they have a great number of interested applicants for a vacancy. Mayor Bobst added that it makes a lot of sense and she had not thought about it before.

Mr. O'Donnell said that they have had to replace a few Council members over the years and 30 days is a little tight, so more time would be helpful. He said he is not sure if it is so important to go to the voters with a change. He is also not sure that it is important

enough to go to them with a change for the 3 days for the organizational meeting. With respect to the 2 meetings a month, he sent Law Director Bemer an email back when the very rare COVID-19 issue came up and he was told that Strongsville and some other communities have language in their Charter that Council may adjourn its meetings until a safe time. Mr. O'Donnell said that he thinks it is archaic and obsolete language to say that they must post their notices on a bulletin board in the hallway of City Hall, but the Charter says they can use other ways to notify the public. If they want to go to the voters with it, it is the Commission's choice, but we certainly don't need that language in our Charter. Mr. O'Donnell thanked Mr. McAleer for his very detailed review of these Articles, because it does effect what the Council does day to day and year to year.

Mr. Furry said he agrees with the issue of the 30-day time limit, especially since 6 to 8 years ago when there seemed to be a lot of appointments they needed to make. It was difficult to get the best candidate available in the short amount of time while giving everyone their fair time for a first and second round of interviews. Regarding the 2 meetings each month, it has been fine, and they have moved the second legislative meeting in the past, and they always post a change.

Mr. Klym said that of the 4 issues that are up for discussion, the only one that he feels is a little more crucial is the 30 day time period to replace a Council member if they left. It is not a lot of time to advertise the position and let people know that the position is even open and how it will be filled. To him, 60 days makes more sense. Regarding the 2 meetings per month, he absolutely agrees that there ought to be 2 meetings. With what is happening now, it is not difficult to try to get these meetings in. Regarding the bulletin Board, there are other means of notifying people. For election of the President of Council and President pro-tem, it has not been a problem because they have been doing that on the same night that they are sworn in.

Ms. Morris said she would like to ask Law Director Bemer about the revisions to the law with allowing the public to have access to electronic meetings. She wonders if that would cover Council to meet electronically in case of an emergency. Mayor Bobst said that in addition to the Charter, City Council just amended the Administrative rules a few weeks ago regarding their meetings, which they can modify from time to time if need be to provide flexibility, as well as what the State has recently done that will hopefully stay in place going forward. Law Director said that the revisions to the Open Meetings Law is only effective through December 1, 2020, so it appears that in the case of another similar type of health crisis, they would have to pass legislation to allow electronic meetings to occur again.

Law Director Bemer said that there is case law that provides that the Charter provisions supersede the open meetings law and there were 2 of those cases included in their packets they received before the meeting last week. One had to do with committee meetings not having to be recorded and the proponent said that it violates open meetings law and our Court of Appeals say that it is a Charter provision and they are not finding the open

meetings law to be of great general concern. The other instance was that there one particular Charter did not allow for executive session. The Court of Appeals decided that since that City had a Charter which did not allow for executive sessions, they have to follow their Charter.

Regarding Mr. Bucaro's question about the newspaper requirement, Law Director Bemer agrees that communities are getting away from that and are allowing for some type of electronic notice. He would not advocate to eliminate posting these things on the bulletin board at City Hall. He is not sure if anyone reads the agendas or the ordinances that were passed and are posted. We don't have a requirement to post anything on the City's website, but they certainly can in addition to the bulletin board. Ms. Morris said that in Article X, Section 8, there is a section about deleting obsolete language and she wonders if changing to electronic bulletin board would be covered by that. Mr. O'Donnell said that he was on the Commission that suggested that change, and it related to delete mistakes and scrivener's errors. However, he thinks that something related to posting is more substantive and Law Director Bemer agreed.

Mr. Urban thanked the Mayor and Council for their contribution. The Commission has already decided to bring up 8 issues for further discussion and they will now create the Master List of Items for Further Discussion. Ms. Morris thanked the Charter Review Commission for inviting them to the meeting and for the good work that they are doing.

The Commission reviewed tonight's discussion and agreed to include the following items on the Master List of Items for Further Discussion:

1. **ARTICLE II – MAYOR, Section 1, Term**, to increase the term of office for the Mayor from 2 years to 4 years.
2. **ARTICLE III – THE COUNCIL, Section 2, Term of Office**, to increase the term of office for Council members from 2 years to 4 years, and add staggered terms.
3. **ARTICLE III – THE COUNCIL, Section 4, Organization**, to increase the period of time currently allowing three (3) days for City Council to meet for the purpose of organization.
4. **ARTICLE III – THE COUNCIL, Section 7. Vacancies**, to modify the thirty (30) day requirement for Council to fill a vacancy to sixty (60) days.
5. **ARTICLE III – THE COUNCIL, Section 15(h)**, to include some sort of electronic media as a method of posting all ordinances, resolutions, statements, orders, proclamations and reports.
6. **ARTICLE III – THE COUNCIL, Section 9 Meetings**, to add electronic meetings if necessary in an emergency. (Note: The Commission will look to Law Director Bemer to

clarify whether there is a State statute that covers this or whether they will need to make a revision to the Charter to provide for this.)

7. **ARTICLE III – THE COUNCIL, Section 13(2) ENACTMENT OF ZONING REQUIREMENTS**, to eliminate or change the provision for notice of the time and place of such public hearing by publishing notice of such hearing once a week and on the same day of each week for two (2) consecutive weeks a newspaper determined by Council to be of general circulation within the City.

The Commission agreed that the only issue they considered putting forward for further discussion is the 1 year residency requirement for the Mayor, and they collectively decided not to move that to the list for further discussion.

Discussion of the next agenda was had and it was revised from their proposed agenda schedule at the last meeting. The April 30, 2020 discussion was determined to be as follows:

**ARTICLE IV – ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS**

Section 3. Department of Finance

Discussion Leader: Tony Bucaro

Invited Guest: Mike Thomas, Director of Finance

**ARTICLE VII – FINANCES**

Discussion Leader: Tony Bucaro

Invited Guest: Mike Thomas, Director of Finance

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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Date

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John Urban, Chairman

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Trevor McAleer, Vice Chairman

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Kate Straub, Recording Secretary