

APPROVED: 9/9/15

Charter Review Committee
Town of Jamestown, Rhode Island
Minutes of the August 26, 2015 Meeting

The meeting of the Jamestown Charter Review Committee was held at the Jamestown Town Hall, in the Rosamond A. Tefft Council Chambers, 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, RI. The Committee Chairman, Arlene Petit called the meeting to order at 3:36 PM.

I. ROLL CALL

The Chairman called the roll and noted the following members were present:

Arlene D. Petit, Chairman
James Rugh, Co-Chairman
Anthony Antine
Blake A. Dickinson
John Pagano
Mary Lou Sanborn
Edward Gromada, Secretary

Mary E. Meagher (Ex Officio Member)

Also present: Andrew Nota

II. MINUTES

Minutes from the meeting of August 11, 2015 were accepted. There was no vote taken.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. There was a review of the Meeting Guidelines. The Chairman indicated that the Committee's responsibility was to review all Articles and Sections of the Town Charter and determine their relevance in ~~the~~^{the} Jamestown of 2015. The Committee could accept, change or reject any Sections within the Charter. There was further discussion on the Guidelines and general agreement on the overall review process.

A quorum was established as 4 voting members of the Committee. The Committee also agreed to defer voting for two weeks on specific Sections of the Charter. The two week hiatus would allow member to better understand the impact of specific Sections.

- B. The Committee agreed to assign one Committee person, when necessary, to perform specific research on issues associated with certain Sections of the Charter. The researcher would have 30-days to complete the task before an action or vote is taken.
- C. The following Sections were reviewed by the Committee:
- a. Sections 101 to 104: discussion ensued, ~~but no action or vote was taken~~ *NO REVISIONS NECESSARY ay*
 - b. Section 105. Conflict of interest and ethics: Edward Gromada questioned whether the reference in the Section to G.L. 1956, Para. 36-14-1 supported the intent of this Section. Andy Nota indicated that references to all G.L. paragraphs noted in the Charter would be investigated by the Town Solicitor.
 - c. Section 201. (The Town Council) Number, selection, term: Mary Meagher suggested the Committee discuss the Town Council's term of office. Edward Gromada proposed the Town Council's term be changed to 4-years with alternating elections every two years. A reworded Section proposal will be forwarded to all Committee members prior to the next meeting.

Jim Rugh proposed a change in wording to this Section as follows: "The town council shall consist of five members elected from the town at large, each to serve for a term of two years or until a successor is elected and qualified. The regular election of council members shall be held on the first Monday of November in even-numbered years, beginning November 2012. The names of all candidates for town council who shall have qualified to appear on the ballot shall be listed ~~under their respective party designations~~ (in the order determined by the board of canvassers by the drawing of lots). Each elector shall vote for no more than five candidates for town council, and the five receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected."

Mary Lou Sanborn is researching the length of Town Council terms that other towns are currently using. She will report back her finding at the September 23rd Charter meeting.

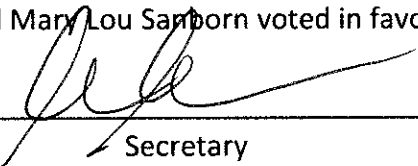
- d. Sections 202 to 205: discussion ensued but no action or vote was taken
- e. Section 206. Special meeting: Jim Rugh proposed a reworded section, as follow: ~~"The town council may convene a special meeting only by majority consent of the town council. The town council may meet sooner than 48 hours after each member has been notified of a special meeting, but only by unanimous consent of the town council. Any member may waive the requirement of notice of a special meeting, and such waiver shall be entered in the record of the proceedings of such special meeting. Special Meetings shall be subject to and comply with the Open Meetings legislation of the State as set forth in Title 42, Chapter 42-46 of the Rhode Island General Laws. The town council may by a majority vote convene an Emergency Meeting as set forth in § 42-46-6 to~~

address only an unexpected occurrence that requires immediate action to protect the public.”

- f. Sections 207 to 211: discussion ensued but no action or vote was taken
- D. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on September 9, 2015.
- E. For the next meeting, the Committee will consider:
 - a. Voting on Sections 101-105 and Sections 201-211
 - b. Reviewing Sections 212-225 and Sections 301-305

IV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by John Pagano, and seconded by Mary Lou Sanborn to adjourn the meeting. Anthony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Edward Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh, Arlene Petit and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:04 PM.



Secretary