



Charter Commission
September 19, 2014
APPROVED September 26, 2014

The Charter Commission met in the Claremont City Hall Council Chambers on Friday, September 19, 2014. Chairman George Caccavaro called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

The following members were present: Russell Fowler; Raymond Gagnon; Ronald Gilbert; Cynthia Howard; Paul LaCasse; Philip Osgood; Robert Porter; and George Caccavaro, Chairman. Absent was: Nicholas Koloski.

The Pledge of Allegiance, led by Raymond Gagnon, was recited in unison by those present.

Minute Approval

On MOTION by Cynthia Howard, SECONDED by Philip Osgood, the August 22, 2014 Minutes were APPROVED as written.

Chairman's Notes

The Chairman explained that the purpose of tonight's meeting and next Friday's meeting was to educate the public on the differences between the current City Charter and the charter being proposed by the Commission. There will be no debate by those in favor or those against the proposed charter.

Educational PowerPoint Presentation

The Chairman conducted a PowerPoint presentation (attached) which outlined the main differences in the proposed charter.

At the conclusion of the PowerPoint presentation, the Chairman opened the meeting for comment from the Commission.

Cynthia Howard said she felt Sections 7.07 (Non-Binding Initiative) and 7.08 (Citizen's Binding Initiative) will appeal to those who wanted a town form of government.

Russell Fowler asked where citizens could find the proposed charter. The Chairman responded copies were available in the Manager's and City Clerk's offices, the

Community Center, and the Library. He encourages citizens to get copies to read and understand the differences between the two charters.

Philip Osgood asked if it would be possible to post the current City Charter, the proposed City Charter and the PowerPoint on the Charter's Webpage Site. The Secretary said she would be sure to send those documents to Doree Russell in the City Manager's office.

Raymond Gagnon asked the Chairman to confirm that the required vote was a simple majority vote, not a two-thirds vote. The Chairman confirmed this was correct.

Robert Porter asked if this would be part of the State election or a separate election. The Chairman said there would only be one election and the citizens would be voting for State representatives and on the charter at that election.

Public Question & Answer

The meeting was then opened for public input.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3. He understood he would be voting on the charter Tuesday, November 4, and at the same time, he will be voting for the Governor, State Senators, and State Representatives, etc., his question is will there be only one ballot or two ballots? He noted some voters don't turn the page. Claremont has voting machines; will there be separate machines - one for the charter and one for state elections? Are the machines programed to do local and State elections on the same ballot?

The Chairman explained he had been told the ballot will be ready Monday. The ballot is then sent to the company that programs the machines. The charter ballot has to show the major changes between the two charters. Jane is working on that now. He will talk to City Clerk on Monday and get back to the Commission regarding these questions.

Ronald Gilbert asked if a sample ballot would appear in the newspaper. He was told it would. Philip Osgood asked if the sample ballot for the charter could also be posted on the Commission's webpage. The Chairman said he would make that request.

The Chairman said he was disappointed that more people had not shown up for tonight's meeting. He felt people may have already made up their minds or may be watching the presentation on television. He encouraged citizens, if they have questions to please come to next week's presentation.

Phillip Osgood noted the CCTV broadcast of tonight's presentation will be rerun again many times before the election. If citizens have questions they can also call one of the Commission members.

Cynthia Howard felt the proposed charter brings accountability, transparency and oversight to the City.

A MOTION by Robert Porter, SECONDED by Paul LaCasse, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM was unanimously APPROVED.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Pope
Secretary
Charter Commission