

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION, VILLAGE OF WHITEHOUSE
MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 22, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

Attendance

Commission Members:

Robert Casaletta
Phillip Whaley
Larry Yunker
Dan Rauch - Absent

Others in attendance:

Richard Bingham, Mayor
Jordan Daugherty, Village Administrator
Josh Hartbarger, Deputy Administrator
Kevin Heban, Village Solicitor
Louann Artiaga, Councilwomen
Jason Fransis, Fire Chief
Karen Gerhardinger

Meeting minutes from March 21, 2023 reviewed and approved.

Election of Officers for 2024

Chairman – Rob Casaletta
Vice Chairman – Larry Yunker
Secretary – Phillip Whaley

Positions approved by unanimous vote.

Old Business

1. Opening Remarks

- a) Kevin Heban began the discussion by stating that the previous three years focused primarily on Charter issues for when Whitehouse becomes a City. Since that will not happen before 2030 when the US Census is done again, we need to look at more currently relevant issues.
- b) Kevin handed out copies of the current Charter with several suggested revisions identified by him that should be reviewed for the Commission's recommended 2024 revisions. A complete list prepared by Rob Casaletta after the meeting is attached as appendix.
- c) At that point Kevin went through a cursory review of the suggested revisions.
- d) The following are some of the highlighted articles in need of review as well as pertinent discussion points:

Section 3.01 - Deleted paragraph three.

- Original language not currently relevant.

Section 3.08 - Deleted paragraph three.

- Allows Council flexibility to announce meetings on the Village website, through social media, etc. and where the meetings are held.
- Larry Yunker suggested adding "By Council legislated ordinance and in accordance with Ohio Revised Code (ORC)."

Section 3.10 – Deleted second and third sentences in paragraph two.

- Eliminates the need to read the entire ordinance prior to Council vote.

Section 5.02 – Deleted sentence two.

- Allows Village Administrator to live outside Village limits.
- Rob Casaletta suggested adding other Employees to the list.

Section 5.05c – Delete "with the exception of Police Department and Fire Department."

Section 7.03 and 7.04 – Delete sections.

- We do not have a commissioner of taxation since going with regional income tax agency (RITA).

Sections 8.01 Director of Public Service

Section 9.01 Police Chief

Section 10.01 Fire Chief

- Delete these three sections as far as required duties but keep the following for each:
" _____ May be appointed by the Mayor subject to confirmation by four members of Council and subject to the terms and conditions set forth therein as adopted in the Whitehouse Municipal Code."
- Kevin explained that this will give Council latitude to allow the Village to become part of a Fire District for example and allows supervision by the Administrator in accordance with the new Village organization chart.
- Eliminating Section 10.04 also allows volunteer Firemen to be on Council even though they are legally considered Municipal employees for purposes of workman's compensation.

2. At this point Kevin suggested that the commission review the suggested revisions and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.
3. Additional discussion continued by members in attendance regarding whether to put the entire Charter with all Council approved revisions or just the individual items deemed most important. The issue was not voted on, but consensus appear to favor placing the entire revised Charter on the ballot this year.
4. Mayor Bingham stressed the need to remove the election primary language.
5. Councilwomen Artiaga stressed the need for changing the Charter to require the President of Council to vacate that position should they be required to assume the position of Mayor.
6. Administrator Daugherty stressed the need to eliminate the election primary, memorialize the new Village organization chart and eliminate Chartered staff position duty language.
7. Solicitor Heban stated that he would address these changes with revised language for review at the next meeting.

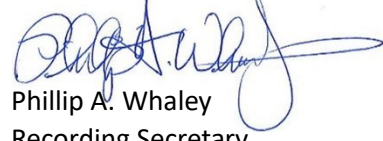
New Business

1. No new business was brought to the Commission for review.
2. The next Charter review commission meeting will be scheduled for March 7, 2024 at 3:00 pm at Village Hall.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the Chairman called for adjournment which was unanimously approved at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.



Phillip A. Whaley
Recording Secretary

Approved _____ by Charter Revision Commission

Appendix: Proposed Charter Changes

Proposed Charter Changes

March 7, 2024

Article III The Council

- Section 3.01 Delete paragraph 3.
- Section 3.08 Delete date (11-04-08) and paragraph 3.
- Section 3.10 Delete second and third sentences in paragraph 2.

Article V Administrator

- Section 5.01 Delete the language “and the Council.”
- Section 5.05 Delete the language “with the exception of the Police Department and Fire Department.”

Article VII Departments of Finance and Taxation

- Section 7.03 Delete Commissioner of Taxation

Article VIII Director of Public Service

- Section 8.02 Duties Delete

Article IX Police Department

- Section 9.01A Delete first sentence.
- Section 9.02 Delete Mayor and Council

Article X Fire Department

- Section 10.01A Delete first sentence.
- Section 10.04 Delete

Article XII Commissions and Boards

- Section 12.03 Delete Meetings
- Section 12.04 Delete Rules of Procedure
- Section 12.06 Delete Records Commission
- Section 12.07 Delete Fire Dependency Board
- Section 12.08 Municipal Planning Commission Delete language providing for exceptions.
- Section 12.09 Board of Zoning Appeals Delete language providing for exceptions.
- Section 12.10 Charter Revision Commission Delete language providing for exceptions.

Article XIII Nominations and Elections

- Section 13.03 Primary Elections Delete section.
- Section 13.04 Candidates at Regular Municipal Election Delete first sentence referencing primary election. Delete the entire second paragraph.

Article XV Transitional Provisions

- Section 15.01 Officers and Employees Change year to 2024.
- Section 15.04 Effective Date of Charter Change year to 2025