



City of South Lebanon
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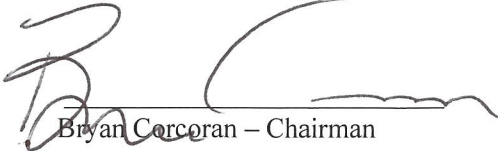
**Charter Commission Meeting
MEETING MINUTES**

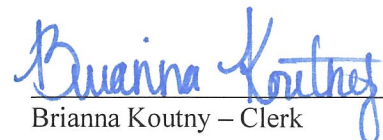
Wednesday, September 14, 2022 @ 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order by Chairman, Bryan Corcoran at 6:00pm.
2. Roll Call:
Present Members – Bryan Corcoran, Richard Bertagna, Donald Burke, Aubrey Corcoran, Peter Geraci, David Smith, Michael Wells, Angela Vick
Absent Members –David Frasure, Arthur McFarland, Clyde Adkins, Susanne Mason, Ginger Mandelstein, William Melzer, Bryan Payne
Staff – Andrew Meier, City Solicitor
Visitors – Tom Pannett, Kegler Brown, Hill & Ritter
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Review and Approval of Minutes of August 31, 2022, Meeting. Motion to approve is made by Aubrey Corcoran and seconded by Richard Bertagna.
VOTE TAKEN: All Yeas.
5. Chairman Corcoran opens the floor to discussion on the topic of Term Limits to the Commission:
 - A. Aubrey Corcoran states that she has had a change of heart from her previous stance on the topic. She states that after discussions had with members of the community, she believes that term limits would likely be harmful to the City currently. She suggests tabling the discussion to let future citizens revisit in ten years. She states that no other cities carry term limits for their Council members. She also states that there are some Council members that serve to help support their retirement efforts.
 - B. Richard Bertagna states that he is concerned about entrenchment and finding people to run. He states that it is often a beneficial idea to have new and fresh faces on Council. He states that a Council Member's reliance on their chair for retirement should not be a motivation to guide and serve the City, but that should rather come from a passion to do so.
 - C. Donald Burke and Angela Vick also state that they have spoken with members of the community who have expressed the same concern of finding candidates to run and are also for term limits.
 - D. David Smith asks the Commission if when they proposed term limits to the community, they asked those people if they would run under proposed term limits. Donald Burke states that he did not because that would be a loaded question, to ask voters.

- E. Peter Geraci states that he agrees with the idea of term limits with flexibility built in based on specific term lengths for each role.
 - F. Chairman Corcoran states this is the most controversial subject that the Commission faces. Considering attendance, Chairman Corcoran suggests this topic be tabled until a more substantial group is present to discuss and vote on.
 - G. Peter Geraci asks Andrew if term limits can later be changed by ordinance. Andrew states that it cannot be changed only by ordinance. It would have to be changed by an amendment that would then have to be put on the ballot, and then voted on by the public. He states it would have to go through another election process in order to be changed.
6. Chairman Corcoran opens the floor to Tom Pannett for review of revisions made to DRAFT Charter provisions relating to Article II Mayor:
- A. Tom begins with Section 2.01 of Article II. – No comments on Section A. Section B is tabled for a later date.
 - B. Tom continues to read Section 2.02 – No comments.
 - C. Tom continues to read Section 2.03 – No comments.
 - D. Chairman Corcoran asks for a motion to approve Sections 2.01, 2.02 and 2.03 as written. A motion is made by Richard Bertagna and seconded by David Smith.
VOTE TAKEN: All Yeas.
 - E. Tom goes on to read Section 2.04 – Donald Burke states that he agrees with the suggestion to strike the last paragraph of section A, as it is redundant. Peter Geraci states that the last paragraph is definitive and redundant and the Mayor should not be held to those Council rules. Donald Burke states this paragraph may cause more confusion than clarification. Tom asks Andrew what his thoughts are on line items a-f are. Andrew states that a-f are more for qualifications to being the mayor. He states those are adequate to explaining grounds for removal from office for the mayor. It is decided to keep the last paragraph with the phrase “persistent failure to abide by the rules of Council, or” removed due to redundancy and confusion. Michael Wells asks if the mayor could run again upon removal. Tom answers “yes”.
 - F. Tom reads Section 2.04 with decided amendments.
 - G. Chairman Corcoran asks if the provision to the mayor not posting bond would require removal. Donald Burke states the city would pay for an insurance policy to pay for the mayor. Chairman Corcoran states he does not understand why that would be grounds for removal for the mayor. Angela states it does not matter who purchases the bond, but the mayor must sign off on that paperwork, or it is a liability issue.
 - H. Chairman Corcoran asks for a motion to accept Section 2.04 with Amendments to Section A; and Section B as written. A motion is made by Bryan Corcoran and seconded by Donald Burke.
VOTE TAKEN: All Yeas.
 - I. Tom goes on to read Section 2.05 – No comments.
 - J. Tom goes on to read Section 2.06 – No comments.
 - K. Tom goes on to read Section 2.07 – No comments.
 - L. Chairman Corcoran asks for a motion to accept Sections 2.05, 2.06 and 2.07 as written. Motion is made by Peter Geraci and seconded by Michael Wells.
VOTE TAKEN: All Yeas.
7. Tom Pannett goes on to read Section 4.01 of the DRAFT Charter provision for Article IV – City Administrator – No comments.

8. Tom Pannett goes on to read Section 4.02 – No comments.
9. Tom Pannett goes on to read Section 4.03
 - A. Peter Geraci confirms that there is a duty for the Mayor to inform members of Council. Andrew states there is a process of everyone getting a line item to discuss issues or other necessary topics.
10. Tom Pannett goes on to read Section 4.04 – Chairman Corcoran asks for a more definitive term than “public official” in this section. Andrew states that the verbiage should read “city administrator” since it is specific to the administrator. Tom Pannett states that “public official” was used as a blanket term to not make it specific to only a city administrator in the event there is another administrator in the future. Chairman Corcoran asks if “public official” has been defined anywhere else in the charter to act as a reference for this section. Tom Pannett states no, but it reads any “appointed public official”, making the intent to be inclusive to any administrator or director. The Commission agrees that this section should read and be specific to “City Administrator”.
11. Chairman Corcoran asks for a motion to accept Sections 4.01, 4.02 and 4.03 as written. Angela Vick makes a motion and is seconded by Donald Burke.
VOTE TAKEN: All Yeas.
12. Tom Pannett rereads Section 4.04 – Peter Geraci asks if someone is still on payroll after suspension. Tom states they would remain on payroll until termination. Chairman Corcoran suggests that it should be clarified that the administrator will be suspended under such circumstances.
13. Tom Pannett goes on the read Section 4.05 – No comments
14. Tom Pannett goes on the read Section 4.06 – No comments
15. Chairman Corcoran asks for a motion to accept 4.04 Section A (Section B Tabled); 4.05 and 4.06 as written. Motion is made by David Smith and seconded by Angela Vick.
VOTE TAKEN: All Yeas
16. Tom Pannett goes on to introduce the draft Initiative and Referendum section. Chairman Corcoran asks if anyone ever deviates from that. Tom Pannett states “absolutely”.
17. Tom Pannett goes on the read Section 8.01 – No comments
18. Chairman Corcoran asks for a motion to accept Section 8.01 as written. Motion is made by Bryan Corcoran and seconded by Angela Vick.
VOTE TAKEN: All Yeas
19. Tom introduces the discussion into Administrative Departments of Law, Finance, Public Service and Public Safety. Andrew states this detailed discussion will continue at the next meeting when Tina, the Finance Director is present. Andrew states that there should be separate article for each department. Tom confirms if there should be a removal section specific to each role, or if a blanket removal section will suffice. Commission decides to wait to ask Tina.
20. Chairman Corcoran asks for a motion to adjourn. Motion is made by Michael Wells and seconded by Angela Vick.
VOTE TAKEN: All Yeas.


Bryan Corcoran – Chairman


Brianna Koutny – Clerk