



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

Wednesday, October 5, 2022 @ 6:00pm

1. Call to Order by Chairman, Bryan Corcoran at 6:00pm.
2. Roll Call:
Present Members – Bryan Corcoran, Aubrey Corcoran, Susanne Mason, Donald Burke, Peter Geraci, David Smith, Michael Wells, Bryan Payne, Arthur McFarland, William Melzer, Angela Vick 6:10pm)
Absent Members –David Frasure, Clyde Adkins, Ginger Mandelstein, Richard Bertagna
Staff – Andrew Meier, City Solicitor
Visitors – Catherine Cunningham, & Tom Pannett, Kegler Brown, Hill & Ritter
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Chairman, Bryan Corcoran asks for a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from September 28th, 2022. Motion made by Donald Burke and seconded by Peter Geraci.
VOTE TAKEN: All Yeas
5. Bryan Corcoran introduces the next item on the agenda: distribution of Approved Sections. Catherine Cunningham states that there was language added on Page 2 of section D to clarify expectation and consistency. Catherine asks for a motion to approve the changes/additions from the charter. Motion to approve made by Bryan Corcoran and seconded by David Smith.
VOTE TAKEN: All Yeas
6. Bryan Corcoran introduces the next agenda item: discussion and vote on term limits of elected officials.
 - a. Bryan reads an article in reference to the topic at hand and asks for further discussion from the Charter.
 - b. Donald Burke suggests the Charter first focus on the actual subject of the proposed term limits, and if they even pass before worrying about specific verbiage. Charter is in agreement.
 - c. Peter Geraci states that while term limits might be seen as limiting some candidates, it can also be seen as allowing opportunity to other possible candidates throughout the community. Peter suggests that should term limits should be imposed as 4 successive terms, as opposed to 3.
 - d. Aubrey Corcoran states that term limits belong in large elections like senators and congressmen, as there are competitors for those seats. Aubrey states that in a town around

5,000 people the city must look outwards to find a Fiscal Officer that is also a CPA to properly serve the community. She states that imposing term limits in a town this size would be shooting itself in the foot. She asks why anyone should be told they can't be voted in by the people if they are already running, able and interested. She states that the time is not right for term limits on Council, as well as the Mayor; and states it will be doing a disservice to the community.

- e. William Melzer states he agrees that he does not believe South Lebanon is a city large enough to have an interest in term limits. He states that his original view on term limits was to impose, based off the belief that our founders called for this position as an act of duty, not a career. He states that imposing term limits would hurt South Lebanon at the size it currently is.
- f. Michael Wells states he agrees. He says that professional politics is a place for term limits, and South Lebanon is not professional politics. Michael states this is also not something the surrounding communities impose either.
- g. Arthur McFarland states that imposing term limits will dampen anyone's motivation for their second term limit if they know they cannot get voted back in by the people.
- h. Hearing no other comments, Chairman Bryan Corcoran asks if anyone would like to make a motion to impose term limits. No motion made.
- i. Chairman Bryan Corcoran then asks for a motion that the commission recommends not imposing term limits. Motion is made by Williams Melzer and seconded by Aubrey Corcoran.

VOTE TAKEN: All Yeas

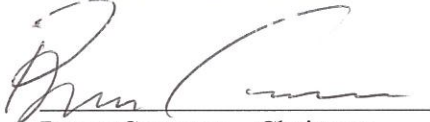
- 7. Chairman Bryan Corcoran introduces the next agenda item: Review of Draft Charter provisions relating Administrative Departments of Finance, and Public Service and Safety.
 - a. Catherine confirms with Charter where the placement of the duties of the Finance Director. Charter decides that for the sake of consistency, this paragraph should be moved to its own section under 5.03.
 - b. Tom Pannett goes on to read Section 5.03
 - i. Catherine asks for Charter input on allowing Administrator and Finance Director more power to reprimand/fire employees within their department.
 - ii. Donald Burke states that in the private sector, hiring and firing is not an administrative duty, and it is rare that a boss can fire an employee within the organization alone. He states there is a process. He asks what the protections are for the employees before giving that authority. Donald Burke states the handbook that currently exists does not pertain to those individuals having those powers. Andrew states there is a personnel committee which implements protections and processes for the employee. Donald Burke states he would need to more information about the Personnel Committee.
 - iii. Catherine suggests leaving the verbiage out of the Charter and allowing Council to decide via ordinance.
 - iv. Angela Vick states that there is verbiage written into other sections of the Charter that would not be consistent if we decided to leave the verbiage out.
 - v. Catherine states she will do some further research and draft something for the Charter to look at.
 - b. Tom Pannett goes on to read section 5.06, 5.07 and 5.08. – after discussion, the Charter decides that the time limit be removed, and the verbiage reads that the mayor must

appoint. Bryan Corcoran makes a motion to approve removal of the 45-day verbiage and is seconded by Michael Wells.

VOTE TAKEN: All Yeas

- c. Tom Pannett goes on to read section 5.09 – Peter Geraci asks why this section is included. Aubrey Corcoran asks if the term “property” is referring to real property or personal property. Andrew states that this is inclusive of police cruisers and other material that is not being used. Andrew states that there is a bidding process when a city wants to sell or get rid of real property, that is arguably extensive.
- d. Aubrey Corcoran suggests creating two subsections – one referencing personal property, and one referencing real property. She also suggests the language in section B include bidding, in a public format and on a public listing.
- e. Susanne Mason asks if there would be consideration for a non-profit to be targeted as opposed to public bidding. After discussion it is decided to follow the state statute.
8. Catherine starts general discussion on Boards and Commission to be established by Charter
9. Bryan Corcoran asks for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Aubrey Corcoran, and seconded by Angela Vick.

VOTE TAKEN: All Yeas.


Bryan Corcoran – Chairman


Brianna Koutny – Clerk