

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MINUTES**

October 2, 2023

**OPEN MEETING – Elk Room
6:32 P.M.**

NOTE: The recording and transcription of this meeting are available on the County website at www.ccgov.org/council.

PRESENT: Commission Members: Robert Gorman, J. Lloyd Sanders, Joe Zang, Robb Carey and Alice Crothers (alt); David Culver, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant.

Call to Order

Chairman Robert Gorman called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm and announced that there were five Commission Members present, which constitutes a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Robb Carey, seconded by Joe Zang, the Commission moved to approve the agenda of October 2, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Lloyd Sanders, seconded by Robb Carey, the Commission moved to approve the minutes of September 11, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

a. Discussion of Article 2

Chairman Gorman announced that the Commission did receive the proposed language on Section 213 from Mr. Sanders and that they should discuss this prior to beginning the discussion on Article 4.

Mr. Sanders recommended that Section 213 should be amended to include three sections and include language on Council hiring its own an attorney, Council Manager and support staff. Mr. Sanders noted that he added the requirement that the Council Manager be a resident of Cecil County within six months of appointment. Mr. Carey noted that the residency requirement is burdensome and could reduce the pool of applicants with little benefit to Cecil County. Chairman Gorman agreed this could reduce the applicant pool and this position serves at the pleasure of the Council and does not offer job security. Mr. Zang noted he believes you should live where you work and be vested in the community. Chairman Gorman noted that this should be noted as an option and let Council decide if the language is necessary if they choose to place this issue on the ballot. Ms. Crothers inquired what impact this would it have on the County applicants and what impact do appointed officials make in the decision-making process. She, along with Mr. Zang, both noted that this should be left to Council to decide if the issue is placed on the ballot. Mr. Carey noted that the positions should be offered to the best candidate regardless of residency because talent comes from all places. Mr. Zang noted the Cecil County has many talented residents and that citizens want government employees to be vested in the area and provide knowledgeable service. Mr. Sanders made a motion to recommend Section 213 be amended as part of the report,

seconded by Ms. Crothers and it passed unanimously. Chairman Gorman clarified that the residency option will be left to Council to decide.

Chairman Gorman noted that Section 214 on redistricting was discussed at the last meeting and he will hold this discussion on a future agenda.

b. Discussion on Article 4

Chairman Gorman began discussion on Article 4 and Ms. Crothers questioned if Section 402 should include dates for the annual audit. Council Manager Culver opined that the fiscal year in a date certain, July 1, and the audit date is due 6 months later so dates are probably not needed. Mr. Sanders discussed term limits in section 404 for the County Executive. He proposed language that would limit the County Executive to two consecutive terms. He also proposed that the term be defined as two years of service or more if the Executive is appointed to fill a vacancy. Mr. Carey clarified that if the County Executive sat out a term they could run again, and Mr. Sanders noted that was the intent. Mr. Carey made a motion to recommend the changes in Section 404, Mr. Zang seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Sanders also proposed that in Section 405 that a minimum age limit be added as well as time living in the County. Ms. Crothers made a motion to recommend the change on Section 405 to include a minimum residency of 5 years prior to running for County Executive, Mr. Zang seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Carey recommended that Section 405 and 406 be amended to clearly state the County Executive is entitled to all benefits of a full-time employee and that salary be tied a state position, such as a percentage of a judge. Council Manager Culver noted the legal opinion on the benefits, vacation and sick time are not accrued by an elected official and the function of the Compensation Committee that is formed every 4 years. Mr. Culver distributed the recommendation report from the last Compensation Committee and noted the increases were not adopted by Council. Mr. Carey noted the compensation for the County Executive should be comparative to the department heads and other elected officials in Maryland and the compensation rate should have automatic increases. Ms. Crothers agreed the compensation should be higher and that this may encourage more people to run for office if they have to give up other employment to serve. Mr. Zang also noted that compensation should reflect responsibilities but also noted civic duty. Chairman Gorman noted he would investigate the numbers and cost of living and report back.

Chairman Gorman recommended that that the Commission begin the next meeting reviewing the rest of Article 4 and 5.

New Business

Council Manager noted he would begin to formulate a draft report based on the issues discussed and the Commission can decide how to proceed.

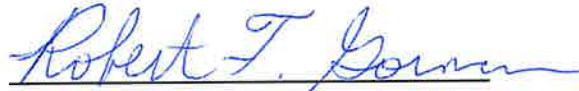
Chairman Gorman noted that the next meeting would be November 6. The Commission agreed to this schedule.

Adjournment

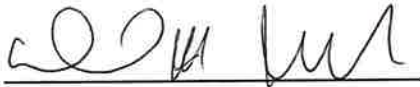
Mr. Zang made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Carey. Chairman Gorman adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm.

The next Commission meeting will be held on Monday, November 6, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building.

Approved:



Robert Gorman, Chair



David M. Culver
Council Manager