

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MINUTES**

March 4, 2024

**OPEN MEETING – Elk Room
6:30 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, Tom Wilson, Derek Howell, J. Lloyd Sanders, Barbara Cox, Robb Carey, Joe Zang and Alice Crothers; David Culver, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant.

Call to Order

Chairman Robert Gorman called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm and announced that there were seven Commission Members present plus the alternate, which constitutes a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Joe Zang, seconded by Barbara Cox, the Commission moved to approve the agenda of March 4, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Robb Carey, seconded by Joe Zang, the Commission moved to approve the minutes of February 5, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

a. Discussion of Final Report

Chairman Gorman announced that the Commission will begin with the review of the final report and asked if anybody had correction or concerns. Mr. Howell noted that he discussed Sections 213 and 411 with Council Manager Culver and noted that the language for the attorney's qualifications should be changed to "A member in good standing of the Bar of the Maryland Supreme Court." A motion was made by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mr. Sanders to change the language. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Wilson noted that the cover report should also note that the definitions should be changed to alphabetical order and the Commission agreed to add this comment. Mr. Wilson also discussed if the Central Committers should be defined, and Mr. Howell noted that it should not be added since this is defined in the State law.

Mr. Sanders noted that utilization of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the charter for elected officials may have a negative public reaction and thought the Compensation Review Commission should be continued. Mr. Carey noted that since previous Councils did not accept the Compensation Review Commission findings that other action may be needed to ensure proper compensation and qualified candidates. Ms. Crothers noted it may be better to recommend an increase in pay for elected officials now and then go back to the Compensation Review Commission in the future. Mr. Carey noted that the finding of the Compensation Review Commission should be

put to the voters instead of Council. Manager Culver reviewed the standards in Article 25A, Subsection 5(AA) of the Code of Maryland and what may be permissible. Mr. Howell also commented on this section of the State Code and how it sets the standards. Chairman Gorman again reviewed the CPI index and noted it has increased 30% since the last increase and Manager Culver noted that would take it to \$32,500. Ms. Crothers noted perhaps they should recommend the Charter be amended to increase the compensation to \$35,000. A motion was made by Mr. Carey, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to recommend that the Charter be amended to increase Council compensation to \$35,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Manager Culver noted the County Executive pay was in Section 406 and had the same charges as Council. Chairman Gorman inquired what would be the pay if the Commission used the same CPI formal as with Council and it was determined to be \$127,500. Mr. Howell reviewed what the Frederick County Executive was paid. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Carey, seconded by Mr. Zang to recommend the Charter be amended to increase the County Executive compensation to \$127,500. Ms. Crothers noted that, in her opinion, the pay recommendation should be rounded up to \$130,000 and offered that as a recommendation. Mr. Carey and Mr. Zang agreed to amend the motion to \$130,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Gorman requested any other comments and Mr. Wilson noted that Section 209 should be rewritten to be clearer, or at the very least, have items (b) and (c) inverted so that it is clearer. Manager Culver noted that he would add that to the cover memo.

Chairman Gorman requested a timeline from Manager Culver on when they could present to Council. Manager Culver noted that if the Commission concluded its review tonight, he would request Council that this be added to the March 26, 2024 Council Work Session. He noted that the Work Sessions in April and May are reserved for budget discussion and the primary election. Ms. Crothers noted she would be out of town on March 26 but hoped they would present that evening. Chairman Gorman noted that all members should try to attend the meeting with Council to help answer questions at this meeting or any subsequent meetings.

Adjournment

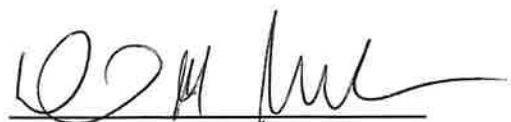
Mr. Zang made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Sanders. Chairman Gorman adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

The Commission will request to be on the Tuesday, March 26, 2024 Work Session of County Council at 4:30 pm in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building.

Approved:



Robert Gorman, Chair



David M. Culver
Council Manager