

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO  
COUNCIL MINUTES

April 25, 2016

Special Meeting

The special meeting of Council was called to order by President Schottke at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 4035 Broadway.

After a moment of silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, roll was called and the following members were present:

*Laura Lanese          Steve Bennett          Roby Schottke          Ted Berry*

1. Council moved into Committee of the Whole to review the City Charter.

Council started with a review of the 2009 Charter Task Force report.

Mr. Schottke suggested going through the report and pick off the low hanging fruit and if there are any issues that need more conversation, perhaps they can convene a new committee.

Mr. Berry suggested making a list of items that we want to address and have the public comment. Ms. Lanese suggested having public comments at a regular meeting of Council. Mr. Schottke said they could put something under new business.

As Council reviewed the items within the Charter Task Force Report, Mr. Berry suggested changing the At-Large seat to a four year term. It was also suggested that all Council seats become at-large seats; and perhaps adding seats to Council. Discussion over changing the provision that "all Council meetings shall be open to the public" took place and a consensus was reached that a change to allow for executive session per State Law should be forwarded to the voters.

*\*Editor's Note: Mr. Davis arrived at 6:16 p.m.*

Mayor Stage asked if they were not going to create a Charter Commission. Council said they don't think so right now. Mayor Stage said a Commission provides a buffer for Council and a group to help educate the public on any changes. Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, said they assist other municipalities with this and a Committee is usually established to assist with getting the word out and being a buffer for Council. Some Council Members felt that there was no need for a buffer.

Mr. Schottke asked what the timeframe was to get issues on the ballot. Ms. Kelly explained that ordinances must be approved and sent to the Franklin County Board of Elections 90 days prior to the election date. For the November election, that would be August 2.

Mr. Smith explained that a Charter Commission is required by State Law to create the first charter but not required after that. Mr. Schottke said he liked the idea of a Commission. Council discussed the pro's and con's of forming a Commission. Since the Charter requires all appointments to a Commission be done by the Mayor, it was decided to form a Committee/Task Force. It was suggested that the makeup of a Committee/Task Force be 2 residents from each

Ward & At-Large seat, appointed by each member, and 3 from the Mayor. Since the Mayor stepped out to attend the School Board meeting, Mr. Schottke said he would confirm this with Mayor Stage before proceeding.

2. After comments from Council and Administrative staff members, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Council adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

  
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Tami K. Kelly, MMC  
Clerk of Council

  
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Roby Schottke  
Chair