

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Minutes – Meeting # 12
February 14, 2022 - 7:15 P.M.
Virtual

The meeting convened at 7:15 P.M. with the following members present:

Steven Waddy
Andrea Mansfield
David Kauffman
Larry Talford
Torrey Snow
Ashley Hangliter

Thomas Fleckenstein was absent.

Also present were:

Laura Corby, Administrative Officer to the County Council
Lori Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney, Office of Law
Michelle Bohlayer, Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mansfield called the meeting to order and explained the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Telford, the minutes of January 24, 2022 were approved.

CHARTER MATTERS

Ms. Corby gave a review of Article I and Article II of the County Charter.

Mr. Kauffman clarified the Council compensation amount.

Ms. Corby explained the compensation and how it was set.

Mr. Kauffman expressed his desire for the Charter to be clearer when explaining the compensation.

Ms. Mansfield agreed.

Ms. Klasmeier suggested making the language general.

Ms. Hangliter shared her agreement with using general language.

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Mr. Snow questioned the value of discussing this item and suggested focusing on the agenda.

Ms. Mansfield conveyed her desire to clarify the section, not discuss the compensation amounts.

Mr. Snow asked if changing the language would cause conflict and if the Council would need to introduce legislation for the changes.

Ms. Klasmeier responded.

Ms. Mansfield clarified that a super majority would still be needed.

Ms. Corby shared insight on allowances in the Code.

Ms. Mansfield added the clarification of compensation to the future discussion list.

Mr. Waddy asked for clarification on the vacancy language.

Ms. Klasmeier explained vacancies that have happened in the Council.

Ms. Mansfield opened the discussion on increasing the number of Councilmanic districts.

Ms. Klasmeier shared a chart showing different county sizes and districting.

Mr. Snow asked for clarification on the population size of the counties.

Mr. Kauffman shared that there were two separate discussions regarding increasing the Councilmanic districts.

Mr. Telford stated his belief that seven districts were enough.

Ms. Hanglitter asked what would be needed if the districts were increased.

Ms. Corby explained the need of extra staffing and the changes to be made to the Code.

Ms. Klasmeier agreed.

Ms. Mansfield asked for the Commission's feeling on expanding the number of districts.

Mr. Kauffman answered that seven was enough.

Mr. Snow agreed.

On motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Telford, the motion to retain the seven councilmanic districts and seven councilmembers was passed by the following vote:

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Aye – Ms. Mansfield, Ms. Hangliter, Mr. Kauffman, Mr. Snow, Mr. Telford

Nay – Mr. Waddy

Absent – Mr. Fleckenstein

Ms. Mansfield opened the discussion for County Councilmembers to serve three full consecutive four-year terms.

Ms. Klasmeier reviewed the terms of other counties.

Mr. Telford shared his agreement on increasing the terms and asked how the increase would affect the benefits of the councilmembers.

Ms. Klasmeier explained the vesting plan for councilmembers.

There was further discussion concerning the pension plans of councilmembers.

On motion by Mr. Telford, seconded by Mr. Snow, the Commission supports expanding the terms from two to three consecutive terms, where pension benefits are triggered in the third term, by the following vote:

Aye – Ms. Mansfield, Ms. Hangliter, Mr. Kauffman, Mr. Snow, Mr. Telford

Nay – Mr. Waddy

Absent – Mr. Fleckenstein

Ms. Mansfield spoke on the public comments received before the meeting.

Ms. Corby explained Article III of the County Charter.

Ms. Klasmeier explained where to find information on emergency ordinances in the Charter, and what acute and civil emergency ordinances are.

Mr. Waddy asked what types of authority the Council uses during an emergency.

Ms. Klasmeier clarified.

Mr. Kauffman suggested changing the term “Chairman” to “Chair” throughout the whole Charter.

Ms. Klasmeier stated that is being looked into.

Mr. Kauffman requested the language of Section 307(h) be reviewed.

Ms. Corby pointed out a change she would like to see in Section 307(h).

Mr. Snow asked if legislatures were allowed to use an emergency ordinance to address a situation that needs immediate action.

Ms. Corby confirmed.

Mr. Snow expressed his desire to look at number fourteen in Resolution No. 54-21 instead of number thirteen.

Ms. Corby stated that both items work together and need to be clarified.

Ms. Klasmeier offered to create language to clarify the section.

Mr. Snow asked if the Commission needs to work on the language of the section or if there needs to be a change to the law itself.

Ms. Corby explained that the law works, but needs better explanation language.

Ms. Mansfield asked Ms. Klasmeier to create the language and have it ready for the next meeting.

Mr. Snow asked Ms. Bohlayer if there was anything hindering the auditors from doing their jobs.

Ms. Bohlayer gave an overview of how the Audit Department works and explained different challenges they face.

Mr. Waddy asked if there were any trends across the state regarding the types of audits being done.

Ms. Bohlayer answered.

There was further discussion between the Commission and Ms. Bohlayer regarding the Audit Department.

Ms. Mansfield explained the public testimony that was received prior to the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Mansfield spoke on a system for public campaign financing.

Mr. Snow stated that the legislation failed, so the Commission should not look at it.

Mr. Kauffman shared his view of campaign financing.

Mr. Waddy suggested adding the item to the discussion for the future Charter Revision Commission.

Mr. Kauffman asked for background on the Fire Department.

Ms. Mansfield reviewed the timeline and agenda for future meetings.

Mr. Waddy asked for a racial equity analysis of the Charter from Pete Hill.

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Ms. Klasmeier and Ms. Corby clarified the request with Mr. Waddy.

Mr. Snow stated he will not be present at the next meeting, February 28, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Snow, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Anna Macaulay

Anna Macaulay
Reporter