



CITY OF DOVER

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE – MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Ordinance Committee Meeting**
Meeting Location: **City Hall, City Council Conference Room**
Meeting Date: **Monday, July 12, 2021**
Meeting Time: **8:30 a.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councilor Shanahan called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

Present: Councilor Shanahan, Councilor Cullen, Councilor Williams

Also Present: City Attorney, Joshua Wyatt and Deputy City Attorney, Jennifer Perez

No citizens present for citizens' forum.

2. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – June 14, 2021. Motion to approve June 14, 2021 special meeting minutes made by Councilor Williams, seconded by Councilor Cullen. Vote unanimous.

3. CHARTER DISCUSSION – Consideration of State's Comments on the Charter and the Possibility of Submission of Final Report

Josh Wyatt discussed the original submission of the June 2, 2021 letter to the three state agencies, along with the letter of July 1, 2021 with formal comments. Essentially, the agencies approve of the changes. The DRA had no comments on anything. The Secretary of State's office and the Attorney General's office had three (3) objections:

Section 5: They don't have an issue with employees serving on boards, but do have an issue of an employee who is not a city resident, serving on a board and making policy changes/additions. Advisory Boards were an exception. Attorney Wyatt suggests amending the language as they suggest if necessary. Much discussion on other boards that have out-of-town members on it and how to approach changing the wording and/or allowing non-residents to be on a particular board were discussed.

Section 10: Grouping together of the General Code Provisions as one Amendment, which has 39 sub-provisions is a major concern of the agencies. Attorney Wyatt said he was told they don't usually review ballot questions, but apparently, they did on this section. They are concerned about so many of these sub-provisions being packed into one provision and voters becoming confused. Attorney Wyatt confirmed that he spoke with the Attorney General's office and asked, hypothetically, if we were to break up the sub-provisions into 8 or 10 questions instead, would that help to have this section approved. He was told that yes, it probably would, even though that means there will be at least three (3) more pages to the Ballot and more questions for voters to read and vote on. Attorney Wyatt will draft a resolution with an updated Final Report for approval of the council.

Question 3: Attorney Wyatt explains that this section is where the Ordinance Committee had made some clarifications to better specify on election terms for councilors and school board members. Concern by the State is taking out the language about continuation in a position until the newly elected official has been sworn in. They are worried about continuity of government, where any number of things could happen – sick, a war – that it



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has to be clear that the prior council holds its office until new council is sworn in. They want to restore the language re: successor council. Consensus on new terms – Yes.

4. DISCUSSION OF PENDING PROPOSED ORDINANCES

Attorney Wyatt said a few changes were coming up for Wednesday's meeting in regards to Ch. 141 Parking & Traffic. There will be a discussion on whether to (i) keep the second Monday of the Month of October as Columbus Day and whether or not the name will be changed to Indigenous Peoples' Day; (ii) adding 15-17 parking spaces on the Chestnut Street Bridge; (iii) Gage St. parking issue where there is not enough room for cars driving down because of parking spaces.

5. GENERAL DISCUSSION

No other matters were brought up to discuss.

6. AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

September 13, 2021 next meeting addressing and resolving any changes revolving around the City Council meeting on July 14, 2021, as well as addressing any issues from the State's return letter which we hope will be back in August.

6. ADJOURN

Councilor Shanahan moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Williams Unanimous.