

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**RAYTOWN CHARTER COMMISSION**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2014**  
**IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**10000 E. 59<sup>TH</sup> ST., RAYTOWN, MO 64133**

- Call to order at 6:33 PM.
- Roll call at 6:33 PM.
  - All members present: Jim Aziere, Ted Bowman, Susan Dolan, Janet Emerson, Lisa Emerson, Jason Greene, Steve Guenther, Sandy Hartwell, Michael McDonough, Charlotte Melson, Mark Moore, Mary Jane Van Buskirk, and Greg Walters.
- Steve Guenther clarifies information on friendly amendments.
- Officers reports.
  - Secretary.
    - Ted Bowman moves to accept the minutes.
    - Seconded by Mary Jane Van Buskirk.
    - Approved unanimously.
  - Treasurer.
    - Mark Moore asks for clarification on the starting amount for the budget which was stated to be \$10,000. He states he will put a budget together. So far no costs have been incurred.
    - Steve Guenther says Sandy Hartwell was able to get in contact with Herb Lunday of West Plains, MO, as suggested by Mr. Markenson in order to get information on their itemized budget.
      - contract labor - \$400.00 to Mr. Markenson
      - attorneys fees - \$7,674.00
      - other expenditures - \$2,242.00
      - material costs - printing \$52.80
      - website - \$71.00
      - brochures for charter marketing - \$111.00
      - postcards for marketing of charter - \$235.00
      - postage costs for all literature - \$3,254.00
      - presentation binder - \$18.00
    - Greg Walters inquires to the size of West Plains and how that would be comparable to Raytown.
      - Janet Emerson states that population of West Plains is 12,270.
    - It was just stated that someone would make a request to the city clerk about what the final budget was and report back to the group.
- Preamble and Article I.
  - Ted Bowman reads his suggestion for the Preamble and Article I.
    - Lisa Emerson inquires about terminology use.
    - Steve Guenther suggested “We the people of the City of Raytown”.
    - Lisa Emerson suggested informing about individual rights in either the Preamble and/or in Article I.
    - Mary Jane Van Buskirk suggested keeping things short and simple.
    - Ted Bowman explained his origination of his version.

- Steve Guenther suggests to postpone further discussion of the Preamble to the next meeting.
- Article I.
  - Ted Bowman says he has a concern that we need to know what is in the office of the city clerk that outlines those boundaries in order to provide for due diligence.
    - Steve Guenther suggested putting a description of the boundaries in the charter printing or on file with the city clerk.
    - Sandy Hartwell says Article III says the city clerk must keep this information on file.
  - Ted Bowman suggests we be diligent about our use of words or we define terms including those suggested by Lisa Emerson of residents/citizens/etc.
    - Ted Bowman suggests the possibility of changing the name of the section from Terminology to Definitions if we should decide not to use interchangeable terms.
  - Steve Guenther asks for a motion.
    - Ted Bowman suggests postponing motions until we have further discussion.
  - Janet Emerson suggested adding extra terminology.
  - Lisa Emerson asks if we will have the ability to amend articles and sections after the fact in order to provide for the organic nature of creating such a document.
    - Ted Bowman suggests waiting until the whole thing is done before voting on it.
  - Ted Bowman says he will complete a document to suggest to the group over the course of the next week.
- Article II.
  - Ted Bowman suggests reworking Lisa Emerson's suggestions into both the preamble and article II.
  - Greg Walters suggests changing "any city" to "the City" due to the differing circumstances of Kansas City and St. Louis.
    - Charlotte Melson points out necessary capitalization differences to watch for.
- Article III.
  - 3.1. Jason Greene says he is in favor of keeping the name Board of Aldermen.
    - There is discussion about the name Board of Aldermen or City Council.
    - Janet Emerson asks what it would cost for the city to change the name to City Council.
    - Greg Walters asks if it could create confusion with the citizens and asks how a change would create cost.
    - Mary Jane Van Buskirk suggests we find out if there would be a charge for changing. Lisa Emerson will ask the city clerk.
    - Steve Guenther suggests we continue on and come back later to decide on the term we will use.
    - Charlotte Melson asks about the term "bylaw".
  - 3.2a. Jason Greene says he prefers a ward system and 10 aldermen.
    - Mary Jane Van Buskirk says she likes the ward system, 10 aldermen, and elections every 4 years.

- Others speak to keeping continuity.
  - 3.2b. Greg Walters suggests expanding the alderman residency requirement to 2 years within in the city and 1 year within the ward.
    - Sandy Hartwell suggests that a person must be a resident in the ward and not just a property owner.
    - Janet Emerson suggested the all taxes must be current; not only when running, but throughout their tenure.
    - Janet Emerson suggested using “must be a resident” instead of “reside”.
    - Greg Walters says proof of residency can be easy to find out and can be an issue of mail fraud.
    - Steve Guenther and Jason Greene suggest “registered, qualified voter”.
    - Jim Aziere suggests including “user fee” instead of simply “tax” for proof. He also suggests a procedure to monitor residency and removal from office due to lack of residency. He questioned resident as defining owner or renter.
    - Lisa Emerson asks if a grace period should be determined and what contingencies could ensue.
    - Steve Guenther says renting rather than owning shouldn’t be held against a resident wishing to represent his ward.
    - Ted Bowman says you cannot hold or run for office if you are not a registered voter in your district, and that is the definition of residency.
    - Charlotte Melson suggests not putting into the charter ways to check residency.
    - Sandy Hartwell suggests scratching her suggestion of property owner.
    - Janet Emerson suggests residing and being a registered voter in their ward.
    - Mary Jane VanBuskirk suggests the city clerk check tax status every year.
    - Susan Dolan agreed with an idea of an annual statement.
    - Greg Walters says by moving it to an ordinance it can be changed.
    - Jason Greene suggested simplicity in regards to this in the charter.
    - Jim Aziere suggests inserting the word “current” to ensure they are always paid up.
  - 3.2c.
    - Lisa Emerson asked about the term “status” versus “structure”.
    - Ted Bowman suggested scratching “each municipal...” and alternating elections, perhaps.
    - Greg Walters suggests figuring out term limits.
    - Mary Jane Van Buskirk suggests voters determine term limits.
    - Steve Gurenther mentions that Lee’s Summit is limited to two consecutive term limits rather than two total terms.
    - Ted Bowman cautions that writing term limits may kill the charter.
    - Greg Walters suggests term limits might help the charter.
    - Jim Aziere says if you have term limits for aldermen, you also need to have term limits for everyone else including the chief of police.
    - Susan Dolan suggests consecutive term limits rather than strict term limits.

- Jason Greene thinks the size of the town and lack of special interest money does not show a practical need for local term limits.
    - Greg Walters does not agree that term limits should have to apply to all elected officials.
    - Steve Guenther suggests the commission break for 5 minutes, which occurs.
    - Charlotte Melson asked if a term limit would be retroactive, and it was confirmed it would only be going forward.
    - Michael McDonough suggests doing what Raytown needs, not concentrate on what other cities are doing.
  - 3.3. Lisa Emerson asks about potential complication in the first half of the sentence and about particulars such as payment.
    - Susan Dolan asks about the citizens' oversight committee.
    - Sandy Hartwell suggests more of a turnover of the oversight committees by ordinance.
  - 3.4.
    - Greg Walters questions the veto power of the mayor.
    - Lisa Emerson suggests changing "right to vote" to "privilege of voting".
    - Susan Dolan thinks the mayor on the BoA is a conflict of interest.
    - Greg Walters clarifies mayoral voting on the BoA.
    - Ted Bowman reads the statute and adds that there is a statute not listed in Jason Greene's version, particularly the mayor privilege of dismissing ordinance violations.
    - Ted Bowman reads privileges and duties of the mayor as outlined in fourth class city statutes.
    - Lisa Emerson suggests segregating duties of the mayor between chairmanship and mayoralship proper.
    - Janet Emerson has a problem with the mayor's ability to dismiss charges.
      - Michael McDonough states this is law.
    - Jim Aziere brings up the decision of having a strong mayor or a weak mayor.
- Steve notes that it is past 9PM.
  - Ted Bowman motions to suspend the rules in order to finish discussion of section 3.4 and to attend to new business.
    - Michael seconds.
    - All are in favor.
  - 3.4. Jason Greene reads his suggestion about the mayor.
    - Ted Bowman suggests votes occur during "the next general election cycle" versus "special election" due to the expense.
    - Greg Walters asks about the annual election of mayor pro-tempore, and Jason Greene will look into it.
    - Ted Bowman asks if the term should be one year or two years and how it would affect extending to another general election.
    - Jim Aziere asks if there is an ordinance governing a mayor pro-tempore.
    - Ted Bowman asks how the mayor pro-tempore is currently chosen and how the position would be chosen if the board wasn't the body to decide the matter.

- Steve Guenther suggests a specific time to appoint a mayor pro-tempore.
  - Charlotte Melson cautions that it must be done after the certification of votes.
  - Steve Guenther suggests the second meeting.
  - Susan Dolan suggests to add certification wording. Jason Greene suggests the second meeting fills that requirement.
  - Steve Guenther suggests we can always fill in a date.
- Steve Guenther speaks of the timeplan. West Plains worked every week for 9.5 months to finish their charter. Steve suggests three months' time between compiling to marketing and voting. Steve says we only have 16 meeting dates between now and the end of January.
  - Greg Walters thinks the current schedule is good now and can always be revised later.
  - Sandy Hartwell asked about having the charter done sooner so as to not be on the April ballot.
  - Steve Guenther says he doesn't see it happening without rushing and extra fees.
  - Mary Jane Van Buskirk asked Sandy about lawyers.
  - Steve Guenther reminds there are points of contact.
  - Greg Walters suggests advertizing for a lawyer.
  - Susan Dolan asks what qualifications are necessary for an attorney.
  - Steve Guenther reminds that Markenson had some he could suggest and we might start there.
- Steve Guenther says next meeting is set for June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Steve Guenther requests going over the wording of the preamble and articles we've looked at; go into completing discussion of article 3, and be prepared to go into article 4 if we can.
- Greg Walters suggested we use three or four of the city's microphones for use of the meeting.
  - Lisa Emerson suggested making sure we have the privilege of use.
- More information is given on number of volunteers to write certain articles. Steve suggests people volunteer.
- Greg Walters suggests the city provide copies of documentation we work from for free.
- Janet Emerson motions to adjourn.
  - Seconded by Jason Greene.
  - Approved unanimously.
- Adjourned at 9:35PM.