

**MINUTES
HOME RULE CHARTER COMMISSION
December 14, 2015**

The Home Rule Charter Commission met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2015, at the Courthouse Annex in the Police Jury Meeting Room, New Roads, Louisiana.

Chairman Lyles called the meeting to order and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Lyles instructed Secretary Linette Pascalin to call the roll.

PRESENT: Messrs. Alden Andre, Price Gay, Mrs. Gail Hurst, Messrs. Jacques LaCour, Cletus Langlois, Richard Maciasz, Albert Sneed and Jimmy Lyles, Chairman. Arrived after roll call: Mr. Cornell Dukes.

ABSENT: Mr. Jeremy LaCombe.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Messrs. James Fairchild, Charles Morgan, Dannie Garrett, Tommy Comeaux and Lorenzo Goodman.

Chairman Jimmy Lyles reminded the committee of the attendance policy developed by the Police Jury. The commission inquired who would replace a member that was removed from the commission, due to a lack of attendance. Attorney Dannie Garrett explained the member can be anyone, not necessarily the alternate member.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Andre and seconded by Mr. Gay:

RESOLVED, That the minutes from November 23, 2015 be accepted as written and be published.

Unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION & CONSIDERATION OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Mr. Richard Maciasz inquired about the Floodplain Management and Planning & Zoning being under the direction of the Director of Administration. The commission agreed to have the Floodplain Management under the Administration and leave Planning & Zoning to continue operating as a commission.

Due to comments made of the article in The Banner, Editor Tommy Comeaux inquired with Juror Cornell Dukes if there are more supervisors listed in the proposed organizational chart as to the number of supervisors the Police Jury has currently. Juror Dukes responded he did not see anymore and that it just looks different on paper.

Mr. Albert Sneed expressed concern about the Utilities Department being under the Public Works Director. He stated the Utilities Department was designed to operate as a separate department. The Utilities Department and Sales Tax Department are the only departments that generate significant amounts of revenue. He further stated the person in charge of the department should have knowledge and experience with natural gas which is an industry not public works. Mr. Sneed feels that putting the Public Utilities Department under the Director of Public Works would be a mistake.

Mr. Cletus Langlois stated there are other parishes that have utilities departments separate from public works. Mrs. Gail Hurst stated she spoke with the WBR Council Chairman who confirmed they have a separate utilities department.

Juror Cornell Dukes stated there may be a problem with the difference in salaries and certifications.

Mr. Albert Dukes entered the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

After further discussion several members agreed under the Director of Public Works there would be a utilities supervisor.

Chairman Lyles called for a roll call vote to determine how the utilities department will operate.

Motion by Mr. Andre and seconded by Mr. Gay:

RESOLVED, That the Utilities Department stay under the Director of Public Works.

Substitute motion by Mrs. Hurst and seconded by Mr. Sneed:

RESOLVED, That the Utilities Department be a separate department under the Parish President.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the substitute motion that resulted as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. C. Dukes, A. Dukes, Mrs. Hurst, Messrs. Langlois and Sneed.

NAYS: Messrs. Andre, Gay, LaCour, Maciasz and Lyles.

ABSENT: Mr. LaCombe.

On a vote of 5-5-1, the motion failed.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the original motion that resulted as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Andre, Gay, LaCour, Maciasz and Lyles.

NAYS: Messrs. C. Dukes, A. Dukes, Mrs. Hurst, Messrs. Langlois and Sneed.

ABSENT: Mr. LaCombe.

On a vote of 5-5-1, the motion failed.

Attorney Dannie Garrett stated at this point the commission did not vote either way to adopt the organizational chart as presented. He further stated there could be discussion on the Article 4 – Administration as presented with the exception of Public Utilities.

Chairman Lyles asked Attorney Garrett, due to confusion of the wording of the agenda items, if the agenda could be amended to include proper verbiage for discussion of the Article 4 – Administration. Attorney Garrett replied with an unanimous vote the agenda can be amended.

Juror C. Dukes stated he would like the amended item to be listed as discussion of Article 4 – Administration with the exception of Public Utilities.

Motion by Mr. Gay and seconded by Mr. Andre:

RESOLVED, That the agenda be amended for inclusion of the following:

- Discussion of Administration - Article 4 with the exception of Public Utilities.

Mr. A. Dukes stated he has a problem with the agenda being amended in the middle of the meeting and was not going to vote to amend the agenda. Mr. Andre stated the reason they were at the meeting is to discuss Article 4 – Administration. Mr. Gay they had a lot of members at the meeting and they should discuss the article.

Attorney Garrett reminded the commissioners that an unanimous vote was needed to amend the agenda.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote that resulted as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. C. Dukes, Andre

NAYS: Mr. A. Dukes

The motion failed and roll call ceased.

Chairman Lyles stated he was going to use an executive privilege and told Attorney Garrett that better communication is needed and information needs to be sent to the commissioners in a timely manner. He stated it has been three (3) weeks since the last meeting and two (2) days ago they received information to be reviewed, which is unacceptable. He also stated the agenda will be cleared with Attorney Garrett before sending to member to assure everything is legal, so there will not be any more wasted time as he had promised that would not take place. He further stated he wants better cooperation in exchanging of information to move this process in a faster manner.

December 14, 2015

4

The committee agreed Attorney Garrett draft an Administration – Article 4 with Public Utilities as a separate department to review at the next meeting. Attorney Garrett will have the information sent before January 2, 2016.

DISCUSSION & CONSIDERATION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

There was no discussion.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

Chairman Lyles stated the next meeting date will be Monday, January 11, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. for discussion and consideration of the adoption of the proposed Administration Article and discussion and consideration of the Executive Branch (qualifications and powers of a Parish President).

OPEN DISCUSSION

There was no open discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Andre and seconded by Mrs. Hurst, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

JIMMY LYLES, CHAIRMAN