

**MINUTES
HOME RULE CHARTER COMMISSION
February 1, 2016**

The Home Rule Charter Commission met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 1, 2016, at the Courthouse Annex in the Police Jury Meeting Room, New Roads, Louisiana.

The meeting was called to order and Secretary Linette Pascalini called roll.

PRESENT: Messrs. Cornell Dukes, 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. Albert Dukes.

ABSENT: Mr. Jeremy LaCombe.

OTHER

PRESENT: Messrs. James Fairchild, Dannie Garrett and Tommy Comeaux.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 25, 2016

Motion by Mr. Gay and seconded by Mrs. Hurst:

RESOLVED, That the minutes of January 25, 2016 be approved and published in the official journal.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 12, 2016 WITH AMENDMENT

Chairman Lyles explained there was a typo on the numbers of a roll call vote.

Motion by Mrs. Hurst and seconded by Mr. Maciasz:

RESOLVED, That the minutes from January 12, 2016 be approved with amendment.

Unanimously carried.

CONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE III – PARISH PRESIDENT

Attorney Dannie Garrett asked the commission if anyone had concerns or changes regarding Article III – Parish President.

The commission reviewed a few typos for corrections and had discussion regarding the use of a Parish vehicle as described in Article III – Parish President, Section 4.03. Compensation, Item D.

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

RESOLVED, That Article III – Parish President, Section 4.03. Compensation, Item D be amended to read the President shall have the option of using a Parish vehicle or receive a vehicle allowance in an amount determined by the Council.

Unanimously carried.

Mr. Cornell Dukes expressed concerns with Section 4.04. Vacancy, Item F. After discussion the following resolution was offered:

Motion by Mr. Langlois and seconded by Mr. Sneed:

RESOLVED, That Article III – Parish President, Section 4.04. Vacancy, be amended to include Section I to read, the appointee to fill the office of Parish President will be disqualified from running in the next election for the office of Parish President whether in a regular or special election.

Unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Langlois and seconded by Mrs. Hurst:

RESOLVED, That Article III – Parish President be accepted as written with amendments.

Unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ON A PROPOSED ARTICLE PERTAINING TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Attorney Garrett reviewed a chart comparison of council powers and duties of Natchitoches, St. Landry, West Baton Rouge & West Feliciana parishes. The commission agreed to review each section at a time.

Size

The commission discussed the number of members for the council by giving explanations and different numbers of members they would like to see make up the Council. Mr. Albert Dukes explained there will be only two (2) black districts by using the School Board districts and may have trouble passing the charter due to this matter. After further discussion the following resolution was offered:

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

RESOLVED, That the council consist of eight (8) members elected from single districts and one (1) at-large member; and be it

RESOLVED further, The council districts be identical to the School Board districts at the time the charter is adopted.

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

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

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

ABSENT: Mr. LaCombe.

On a vote of 7-3-1, the motion carried.

Qualifications

The commission reviewed the qualifications of each Parishes presented.

Motion by Mr. Langlois and seconded by Mr. Sneed:

RESOLVED, That the qualifications for council members are as follows:

- Qualified elector of the district at the time of qualification
- Legally domiciled and actually resided in the district at least 1 year preceding the time established by law for qualifying
- Continue to be domiciled and actually residing in the district during term, exception for reapportionment
- Term Limits: 2 ½ terms in 3 consecutive terms

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

YEAS: Messrs. Andre, A. Dukes, Gay, Mrs. Hurst, Messrs. LaCour, Langlois, Maciasz, Sneed and Lyles.

NAYS: Mr. C. Dukes.

ABSENT: Mr. LaCombe.

On a vote of 9-1-1, the motion carried.

Forfeiture

Attorney Garrett explained to the commission the section of forfeiture and compared the difference of each parish. After discussion the following resolution was offered:

Motion by Mr. A. Dukes and seconded by Mr. C. Dukes:

RESOLVED, That the forfeitures for council members are as follows:

- Fails to meet any qualifications during term
- Fails or refuses to take oath of office
- Is convicted, pleads guilty, or pleads nolo contender to a state or federal felony crime
- Is convicted of a crime in a foreign country that would be a felony in US

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- Fails to attend 75% of regular meetings of the Council in a fiscal year
- Attendance provision enforceable through Council Chair informing DA and quo warranto proceeding

Unanimously carried.

Compensation

Attorney Garrett reviewed with the commission the section of compensation and compared the difference of each parish. After a lengthy discussion the commission agreed to table this item until the next meeting.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be February 15, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Agenda items will be as follows:

- Discussion and consideration of action on a proposed Article pertaining to the Parish Council.
- Discussion and consideration of action on a proposed Article - Part 2 pertaining to the Parish Council.

OPEN DISCUSSION

There was no further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Maciasz and seconded by Mr. Andre, the meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

JIMMY LYLES, CHAIRMAN