

MINUTES
HOME RULE CHARTER COMMISSION
January 12, 2016

The Home Rule Charter Commission met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, at the Courthouse Annex in the Police Jury Meeting Room, New Roads, Louisiana.

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

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

ABSENT: None.

OTHER

PRESENT: Messrs. James Fairchild, Charles Morgan, Dannie Garrett, Tommy Comeaux and Stephen Smith.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 14, 2015

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

RESOLVED, That the minutes of December 14, 2015 be approved and published in the official journal.

Unanimously carried.

CLARIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE POLICY

Chairman Jimmy Lyles explained to the commission the rules of absents of the commissioners. He stated the following rules for removal of a member are the following reasons:

- Missing three (3) meetings in a row (more two (2) consecutive meetings) or
- Missing four (4) overall meetings

He stated any reason a member cannot attend a meeting they must contact him or the secretary.

Chairman Lyles expressed the commission has 14 months left to write the charter and stated this is the time for any commissioner to state if they feel they are unable to fulfill their obligation as a member.

REPLACEMENT OF A COMMISSIONER

Chairman Lyles stated in the event of a vacancy, the commission will appoint someone as a replacement member. He explained the alternate member does not have to be appointed but, he would expect the alternate member to become a commissioner. The members of the commission agreed.

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At the request of Commissioner A. Dukes, Chairman Lyles reviewed the list of absenteeism with the commissioners.

Chairman Lyles inquired with the commissioners if they were satisfied with Monday night meetings. Commissioner C. Dukes asked to change the meetings from every 2nd and 4th Monday to every 1st and 3rd Monday.

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

RESOLVED, That beginning February 2016 the Home Rule Charter Commission Meetings will be held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month at 5:00 p.m.

Unanimously carried.

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS TO BE IDENTIFIED IN THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART AND THE LANGUAGE OF ARTICLE IV – ADMINISTRATION

For comparison, Attorney Dannie Garrett briefly reviewed the four (4) and five (5) department organizational charts.

Chairman Lyles inquired about the process to make changes in the departments once approved. Attorney Garrett explained there are three (3) different ways to make change as follows:

- Create an ordinance
- Mechanism of a super majority
- Action by the voters

After discussion the following resolution was offered:

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

RESOLVED, That the Organizational Chart configure of five (5) departments, consisting of Utilities, Parks & Recreation, Administration, Public Works & Finance be accepted.

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

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

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

ABSENT: None.

On a vote of 5-6-0, the motion failed.

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

RESOLVED, That the Organizational Chart configure of four (4) departments, consisting of Parks and Recreation, Administration, Public Works & Finance be accepted.

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

YEAS: Messrs. C. Dukes, Andre, A. Dukes, Gay, LaCombe, LaCour, Maciasz and Lyles.

NAYS: Mrs. Hurst, Messrs. Langlois and Sneed.

ABSENT: None.

On a vote of 8-3-0, the motion carried.

Mrs. Hurst asked the commission to remember when making decisions the citizens of the parish will review the charter and compare to other parish. She stated the citizens may think they will not receive a service if it is not shown as a standing department.

Attorney Garrett referred to the handout presented of the Article IV, Administration, inquiring if the commissioners had any provisions that were needed.

After discussion the following resolution was offered:

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

RESOLVED, That Article IV, Administration, Section 4.05 Department of Finance: Item P, be amended to read as follows: Preparation and maintenance of a monthly statement of revenues, expenses and accounts, to be completed within thirty (30) days of the end of each calendar month and made available for public inspection.

Unanimously carried.

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

RESOLVED, That Article IV, Administration be approved as written with the amendment to Section 4.05 Department of Finance: Item P.

Unanimously carried.

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE DESCRIPTION OF THE OFFICE, POWERS, DUTIES AND ANCILLARY MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE PARISH PRESIDENT

Attorney Garrett explained the four (4) comparisons of the administration organization structure with the commission. The commission agreed to discuss and vote on each section one by one.

General Statement

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

RESOLVED, That the General Statement will read as follows: Parish President shall be the CEO and exercise general executive and administrative authority over all departments, offices, and agencies, except as otherwise provided.

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Unanimously carried.

Term

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

RESOLVED, That there be no term limit for the Parish President.

Unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Langlois & seconded by Mr. LaCombe:

RESOLVED, That there be a four (4) year term for the Parish President to coincide with the Council.

Unanimously carried.

Qualifications

The commission discussed the age to qualify for the Parish President position.

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

RESOLVED, That to be a candidate for Parish President you shall be 30 years of age.

Substitute motion by Mr. C. Dukes and seconded by Mrs. Hurst:

RESOLVED, That to be a candidate for Parish President you shall be 25 years of age.

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

YEAS: Messrs. C. Dukes, A. Dukes, Gay, Mrs. Hurst, Messrs. LaCombe, LaCour and Lyles.

NAYS: Messrs. Andre, Langlois, Maciasz and Sneed.

ABSENT: None.

On a vote of 7-4-0, the motion carried.

The commission discussed the number of years a candidate should be domiciled and actually resides in the parish to qualify for the Parish President position.

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

RESOLVED, That a candidate for Parish President shall be domiciled and actually reside in the parish for one (1) year.

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

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

NAYS: Mr. Maciasz.

ABSENT: None.

On a vote of 10-1-0, the motion carried.

The commission discussed being a qualified elector for the Parish President position.

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

RESOLVED, That a candidate for Parish President shall be 25 years of age and domicile and actually reside in the parish for one (1) year at the date of qualifying; and be it

RESOLVED further, That a candidate shall maintain domicile and residency for the position of the Parish President.

Unanimously carried.

The commission discussed the compensation for the Parish President position.

The commission agreed to obtain the salaries of the sheriff, assessor, clerk of court, mayor and school superintendent for comparison at the next meeting before deciding on the parish president's salary.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be January 25, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Agenda items will be as follows:

- Discussion and action on the description of the compensation and vacancy pertaining to the Parish President.
- Discussion and action on the description of the powers and duties pertaining to the Parish President.

OPEN DISCUSSION

There was no further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Andre and seconded by Mrs. Hurst, the meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

JIMMY LYLES, CHAIRMAN