

**MINUTES
WATAUGA CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 11, 2011
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 7105 WHITLEY ROAD
6:30 P.M.**

Members present:

Pete Beierschmitt	Vice-Chairperson
Christy McCauley	Secretary
Ernie Koontz	Member
Carol Coy	Member
Patrick Shelbourne	Primary Liaison

and

Dr. Scott Neils	City Manager
DeeAnna Looney	City Secretary

with Members Roma Bowman, Kip Woodruff and H. T. "Jumper" Davis absent with notice.

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chairperson Beierschmitt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION:

Member Coy gave the Invocation.

CITIZEN'S OPEN FORUM:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and action on selection of Chairperson

Member Coy nominated Ernie Koontz to serve as Chairperson. Secretary McCauley seconded the motion, with all members present voting aye.

2. Discussion and action on Proposed Amendments to the Home Rule Charter

During the June 6, 2011 Charter Review Commission Meeting, Dr. Scott Neils, City Manager asked that the Commission amend Section 9.04(D) Transfer of Appropriations to allow the City Manager to have authority to transfer all or part of any unencumbered appropriation balance within a Fund. The Commission voted to table this item until the current meeting.

Dr. Scott Neils, City Manager reviewed and explained the revenues and expenditures Ordinance, and responded to various questions asked by the Commission. He proposed the following revised wording:

“Section 9.04(D) Transfer of Appropriations – At any time during the fiscal year, the City Manager may transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balance between or among departments within a Fund, and upon written request by the City Manager, the Council may by Ordinance transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balance from one Fund to another.”

Member Beierschmitt made a motion to allow the City Manager to move monies between Funds as requested. Member McCauley seconded the motion which passed as follows:

AYES: Beierschmitt, Koontz, McCauley
NAYS: Coy
ABSTAIN: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and action on Proposed Amendments to the Home Rule Charter, Article V, Recall of Officers

Member Beierschmitt made a motion to table this item. Member Coy seconded the motion, with all members present voting aye.

2. Discussion and action on Proposed Amendments to the Home Rule Charter, Article VI, Legislation by the People, Initiative and Referendum

Member Beierschmitt stated that last year, he submitted a petition to the City Council that was found to be invalid, due to the fact that birthdates were not provided and the petition was not properly addressed to the City Council. He stated that it is not fair to require an ordinary citizen to have to write an Ordinance themselves. He also recommended reducing the number of required signatures on a petition from 350 to 250. The proposed language for Article VI, Section 6.02 – Legislation by the People, Initiative and Referendum is as follows:

“Any initiated Ordinance may, subject to the above, be submitted by the qualified voters of the City of Watauga, by submitting a petition addressed to the City Council which requests the submission of a proposed Ordinance or Resolution to a vote of the qualified voters of the City. Said petition must be signed by qualified voters of the City equal in number to (30%) of the number of votes cast at the last regular municipal election of the City, or two hundred and fifty (250), whichever is greater, and each copy of the petition shall have

attached to it a copy of the proposed Ordinance/Resolution clearly outlining the desired changes.”

Member Coy made a motion to accept the proposed language submitted by Member Beierschmitt. Member McCauley seconded the motion, with all members present voting aye.

3. Discussion and action on setting next meeting date

Member Beierschmitt made a motion to set the next meeting of the Charter Review Commission for Monday, October 3, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Member Coy seconded the motion, with all members present voting aye.

ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further business to discuss at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

APPROVED: this the 9th day of November 2011.

SIGNED: this the 9th day of November 2011.

APPROVED:

Ernie Koontz, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Cristy McCauley, Secretary