Charter Review Committee Minutes

Approved: _05/01/2023_

From the Monday, April 17, 2023, 12-2pm Meeting, Council Chambers, GDC Building

Member Attendance:

☐ Leonard Giuliano
☐ Cheryl Lovell
☐ James Marsh-Holschen, Council
☐ David Mathewes
☐ Seth Patterson
☐ Sam Taylor, Chair
☐ Austin Ward, Council

Staff Attendance: Nancy Rodgers, City and County Attorney; Geoff Wilson, CRC Consultant; Denise Keith, Staff support for CRC

Agenda Items:

1. Call meeting to order, Roll Call, Approval of the Minutes

   Member Lovell moved and Member/CM Marsh-Holschen seconded approval of the minutes from the April 3 meeting, with the corrected spelling of David Mathewes name.

   Member Mathewes also requested that the minutes have more detail; Member Lovell suggested an end of meeting review of substantive discussions.

   Member/CM Marsh-Holschen asked about recording meetings. Ms. Rodgers responded that she can find out more information about doing this.

   Next Steps:
   - Staff will provide more detail in the minutes.
   - Staff will find out about recording options.

2. CRC Administrative Matters
   a. 1st and 3rd Mondays, 12-2pm

       Confirmed

   b. Evening meetings discussion: CRC meetings and/or Town Halls

       4th Wednesday of the month in the evenings (5pm? 6pm?)

       First Town Hall is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24th, 6-8pm

   c. Form and email for public comment

       The public can submit feedback to the Charter Review Committee HERE and see results HERE. The email address for public comment is CharterReview@broomfield.org.
3. List of potential areas for Charter review/revisions

   a. **CRC Consultant’s List** - Geoff Wilson

      Mr. Wilson reviewed his list, which is linked above.

   b. **CCOB list** - Nancy Rodgers

      Ms. Rodgers went through her list, which is linked above.

Discussion between committee members and staff:

- Ordinance publication costs; looking at where publication happens and what the web hits/print publications numbers are.
- Request for a strikethrough version reflecting these lists and other members agreed.
  - Mr. Wilson suggested that the CRC goes chapter by chapter in its review and, once the edits to a chapter are complete, they put that chapter aside. Chair Taylor likened this to having technical changes on a sort of “consent agenda.”
- Editing the preamble - it could be done; the preamble can be helpful for legislative intent.
- Addressing laws that may change in the future (like TABOR), the Charter can say “as required by law” instead of referencing the exact law.
- How these changes are presented to the voters will be the City Council’s determination.
  - They could do more than one ballot measure.
  - Lots of considerations on this point: what else is on the ballot, ballot fatigue, competing questions.
- Changes in form of government may require looking at the City Manager sections.
- Changes in form of government doesn’t require changing how the Chief is currently hired (City Manager), but whether the Chief is council-approved like the Clerk is a separate issue that the CRC could consider.

Next Steps:

- CRC Homework - read Charter
- CRC Homework - highlight, list, mark those areas of the Charter that the Committee member believes needs to be reviewed/changed.
- Redline on Charter - Mr. Wilson will start working on this now. The strikethrough would not include areas that required more CRC discussion
  - Chapter IV - Council and Mayor
  - Chapter VI - Legislation
  - Chapter IX - Personnel Merit System


   a. **Charter Section - Chapter IV, specifically Sections 4.1, 4.2**

The Committee continued its discussion from the meeting on April 3 about the form of government, including county/city obligations, number of elected officials, wards, terms, and management.

The following documents were provided to the Committee related to this discussion:

- [Local Government (Cities and Counties) Comparison Sheet](#)
- [Chart of Colorado County Data](#)
- [City and County Duties and Broomfield Departments](#) - listed by City/County function
- [How Broomfield is Similar and Different from Other Counties](#)
- **Staff Memo from August 2020** - when the ward boundaries were last changed
- **Staff Memo from October 2021** - updating the City Council's Compensation

Generally, the Committee discussion went as follows:
- Mr. Wilson and Committee members discussed the governing structure in different types of communities: strong mayor, strong manager, counties with a county manager, counties with commissioners overseeing the departments.
  - Part-Time vs Full Time
    - Allowing the reduced number of elected officials to be “full time”.
    - The impact of being “full time” on those who have jobs they don’t/can’t leave for a variety of reasons, including concerns about leaving the workforce for 4 years, 8 years, or even longer if the person ran for Council then Mayor.
    - Job mobility is a challenge for women and people of color. Leaving the workforce could be a deterrent to running.
    - County commissioners are not, by statute, required to be full time. They are paid something that reflects a full time salary.
    - What does “full time” really mean? Discussion included the word “dedicated” as an alternative to “full time”.
    - There are impacts on a person’s other career/work when they are an elected official, either not seeking out advancement, getting denied promotions, and/or using all of their vacation time on council activities.
    - Some Council members are not ready for the meeting because they don’t have the time to do the work required to be prepared for the policy making.
  - Pay - If there is a “full time” pay, discussion of the number being reduced because of the budget impacts.
  - Term Limits discussion
    - Adding or modifying the state-mandated term limits (which is a permissible add under the Colorado Constitution).
      - Current term limits - 2 4-year terms for councilmembers and 3 2-year terms for mayor. Mayor’s term of 2 is short.
    - Could also look at using a ranked choice voting method.
  - At Large Discussion -
    - Mix of ward election; redrafting ward lines; or a full at-large Council.
    - Discussion about where candidates are coming from and population vs voter turnout and not wanting candidates from only specific neighborhoods or demographics.
    - At large could force an elected official to consider the needs of residents from all of Broomfield.
  - Mayor Voting
    - Discussion of the Mayor being only a tie-vote and permitted the mayor to vote either all the time or staying only a tie-breaker.
  - Number of Council members
    - Generally, the discussion involves reducing the number of councilmembers, although there was discussion about increasing it to 3 per ward (15 total) and keeping the existing 2 per ward.
    - Ideas included 5 council members elected by district, 2 elected at large
    - Numbers can impact meeting assignments (which was discussed as a large lift in the first meeting).
  - Name/What to Call the Elected Body
Discussion of whether the name Council is a better/word than Commissioner. Can call the elected body anything, although the Constitutional Amendment establishing Broomfield references a “City Council.”

Chair Taylor asked each member for their opinion on where each one stands on form of government after two meetings. This was not a vote.

- Member Mathewes - Don’t know. Changing that may not help expand the pool.
- Member/CM Marsh-Holschen - 5 plus mayor but not oppose to 4 plus mayor
- Member Lovell - still collecting info
- Member Guilano - like “dedicated” rather than full time as word; pretty strong on 4 commissioners dedicated plus mayor
- Member/CM Austin - all for dedicated positions and 5 plus mayor.
- Member Patterson - 4 plus 1 mayor that votes; and dedicated if there is reasonable pay.
- Chair Taylor - Likes the 2 members per ward. These people really need the time to make these decisions. If dedicated, no more than 5?

Next Steps:

- Information on how counties are classified under state law - Ms. Rodgers will pull this info.
- Data on the Ordinance Publication Costs - Ms. Rodgers will pull data on this point.

Adjourn (confirm date/time for next meeting)

Confirmed next meeting will be held Monday, May 1, 2023 from 12-2pm

Mr. Patterson moved to adjourn.
Mr. Marsh-Holschen second.
All were in favor.

Adjourn 2:08pm