



MEETING MINUTES

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025 6:30 PM

RECEIVED
CITY CLERKS OFFICE
EVERETT, MA
2025 JUL 28 A 9:08

EVERETT CITY HALL, 484 BROADWAY, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 3RD FLOOR
EVERETT, MA 02149

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Van Campen called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Guerline Alcy Jabouin, Fred Capone, Darren Costa, Rosa DiFlorio, James Mastrocola, Kathleen Parker, David Pretti, David Senatillaka, Robert Van Campen

Chair Van Campen instructed the committee's recording secretary to call the roll,

Mr. Flood called the roll. There were 8 members present when the roll was called. A quorum was established for the transaction of the committee's business.

Member Senatillaka joined the meeting at 6:45 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Van Campen led the committee and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATIONS

April 3rd, 2025 communications from JP Beckta

Mr. Flood explained that the meeting's agenda packet contained communications received from JB Beckta. Any of these communications that had been received prior to the committee's 4/3/2025 meeting had already been distributed to the members at that meeting but had been included in the packet so they could be shared with the public.

All of Ms. Beckta's communications were accepted and placed on file without further discussion on a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Conduct a final review of Articles 1-10 of the Charter

a. Independent Audit

Consideration of this proposal had been postponed from the committee's regular meeting of 03/20/2025.

It was noted that the administrative order required to separate the Chief Financial Officer and the City Auditor positions would have its first reading at the next city council meeting. As the order is written, the new auditor position would report to the Mayor.

It was again pointed out to the committee the Clerk of Committees did not have the expertise to coordinate the city's annual audit on his own nor does anyone else on the City Council staff,

An amendment was proposed by Member Capone to amend Section 6-6(d) by insert the phrase "with the assistance of the city's chief financial officer ". This change would leave the responsibility for the audit with the City Council but adds the assistance that the Clerk of Committees will need to complete the task.

The amendment was accepted on a 5 -3 roll call vote, (See below)

MOTION:	Favorable Action
MOVER:	Fred Capone
SECONDER:	Darren Costa
RESULT:	Passed [5 TO 3]
AYES:	Alcy Jabouin, Capone, Costa, Mastrocola, Van Campen
NAYS:	DiFlorio, Parker, Pretti
AWAY:	Senatillaka

b. Felony Conviction

The committee considered a new proposal for changes to the charter's felony conviction provisions as proposed by Attorney Lauren Goldberg.

The committee rejected the proposal as they had already made up their minds at their last regular meeting that they would not be proposing any changes to charter's felony conviction language other than consolidating the language to one place in the charter.

c. Meetings of the City Council

Mr. Flood brought up a charter issue that had originally been identified by City Clerk Cornelio but was not identified or corrected in the preliminary charter changes

proposed by the clerk and KP Law for this review.

The issue is that the charter states that the city council's meeting schedule will be set by ordinance. As ordinances require the approval of the Mayor, it was felt that this requirement is not in line with the separation of powers of the two branches of city government.

As such, a motion to amend Section 2-6(c)(1) to replace the word "ordinance" with the phrase "the rules of the city council" was made and adopted,

It was noted that when the charter charges take effect, the rules of the city council will need to be amended and the current city council meeting ordinance will need to be rescinded.

d. Term Limits

Consideration of this item had been postponed from the committee's 03/20/2025 meeting.

Member Capone presented a proposal to amend the charter to introduce term limits for elected positions in all three branches of city government. He noted that this proposal was very similar to a proposal that was introduced when he was a city councilor.

The committee was split on support for the proposal. Member Mastrocola was in favor; Members Pretti and DiFlorio were against, saying elections are the ultimate term limits, Member Parker questioned if this was an issue that should be placed in front of the voters.

Chair Van Campen reminded the committee that the city council was already taking up this issue. He recommended that the committee's recommendations on the subject matter be forwarded to the city council so that term limits can be addressed as a separate issue. The committee accepted the chair's recommendation on a voice vote.

2. Charter Standardization Changes

At the Committee's last regular meeting, Mr. Flood requested permission to review the charter for the standardized usage of terms and phrases, especially those that were introduced in this update. The committee approved this request and Mr. Flood promised to document his recommendations for the committee's approval,

Mr. Flood included the promised document in the meeting's agenda packet. The changes included a mix of changes to parts of the charter that were not previously being amended and further amendments to parts of the charter that were already being amended, When the changes were further amendments, they were highlighted in yellow in the document to distinguish the additional changes.

The committee accepted all of Mr. Flood's additional proposed changes on a voice

vote.

3. Other Items for Consideration – DF

a. Beginning of Term City Council/Mayor/School Committee

Mr. Flood wanted to re-visit an issue that he had brought up at an earlier meeting regarding when an elected official's term of office begins. However, as he did not have an opportunity to review the issue with the city's lawyers, no changes will be contemplated at this time to address the possible issue.

b. School Committee Chair – Elected Only After Election

Mr. Flood pointed out that an issue that the committee had recommended correcting regarding the election of a city council president also exists in the charter provisions pertaining to the election of the school committee chair,

As currently written, the charter seems to indicate that a school committee chair is only elected by the school committee at the beginning of the committee's first year in office. School committee vice chairs are elected every year.

In order to correct this issue, the committee recommended amending Section 4-2(a) (1) by replacing the phrase "As soon as practicable after the school committee members-elect have been qualified following each biennial election, as provided in section 9-11)" with the phrase "At the 1st meeting of the school committee held in January of every year,".

c. School Committee Vice Chair – Elected Only after Election

Mr. Flood pointed out that an issue that the committee had recommended correcting regarding the election of a city council president also exists in the charter provisions pertaining to the election of the school committee vice chair.

As currently written, the charter seems to indicate that a school committee vice chair is only elected by the school committee at the beginning of the committee's first year in office. School committee vice chairs are elected every year.

In order to correct this issue, the committee recommended amending Section 4-2(a) (2) by replacing the phrase "As soon as practicable after the school committee members-elect have been qualified following each biennial election, as provided in section 9-11)" with the phrase "At the 1st meeting of the school committee held in January of every year,";

d. Capital Improvement Plan Approval Date

Mr. Flood attempted to have the committee reconsider changing the approval date of the Capital Improvement Plan from May 31 to June 30. As the current administration may not release the city's actual Capital Improvement Plan until May 16, it makes it

difficult for the city council staff to schedule the vetting of the plan, including a public hearing, so that the Capital Improvement Plan is approved on time.

The general consensus of the committee was that instead of extending the date for approval of the plan, they would rather see the city council require the administration to deliver their actual Capital Improvement Plan to the city council as required by the charter (the end of February) as it was when the charter was first implemented.

e. Year for the Review of the Ordinances

One of the changes that the committee has recommended to be made to the charter is to change the year that the charter will be reviewed so that it will not be back-to-back with the year that city's ordinances will be reviewed.

However, Mr. Flood recommended that the committee also consider changing the year that an ordinance review begins to an even numbered year. As long as city councilors will be members of the review committee, it only makes sense to begin the review process in the first year of their term rather than trying to get their attention during election years.

The committee agreed with Mr. Flood and voted, via voice vote, to amend Section 9-5(a) to change the number 5 to the number 6.

4. Next Steps

Committee Report

Chair Van Campen stated that Mr. Flood is in the process of writing a committee report summarizing the changes being recommended by the committee.

Order

Chair Van Campen also said that Mr. Flood is in the process of compiling an order that will contain all of the changes that the committee has recommended in the required format.

Submission to City Clerk/City Council

Chair Van Campen explained that once Mr. Flood completes his work, he will assemble a package including the committee report cover letter (see below), the committee report, the charter order and any other applicable materials for submission to the city clerk.

It is projected that the committee's charter recommendations order will be placed on the agenda for the city council meeting of April 28, 2025.

5. Committee Report Cover Letter

Chair Van Campen wrote a cover letter for the charter committee report, A copy of the letter was included in the meeting's agenda packet, The committee approved the letter on a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Chair Van Campen thanked the committee members for their time, effort and service to the city and formally disbanded the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

(All agendas and reports can be obtained on City of Everett Website)

Respectfully submitted:

David R. Flood

Charter Review Committee Recording Secretary
Everett City Council Office