

Mr. Ray interjected and said that the group was only considering the approval of the agenda and encouraged a vote on that issue.

Vote in favor of motion is unanimous.

Yeas: Shane Cheatham, Preston Friedley, Jr., Lee A. Jeter, Sr., David Johnson, Sandra Morehart, Julianna Parks, Vicky Whitman, and Lisa Wilhite

Nays: none

Absent: Panderina Soumas

Abstain: none

New Business –

A. Introduction of members and initial opposed procedures.

All members introduced themselves and provided background on themselves.

B. Election of Officers

After a brief discussion:

Mr. Ray reminded the group that they are a public body and will be bound by open meetings laws and should not meet outside a meeting with a quorum.

By: Shane Cheatham

Motion to nominate Preston Friedley for Chair.

Seconded by Vicky Whitman.

Audience member, David Crockett suggested a city social for the public to the people that are the leadership as well as give opportunity for members to get to know each other.

Vote in favor of motion is unanimous.

Yeas: Shane Cheatham, Preston Friedley, Jr., Lee A. Jeter, Sr., David Johnson, Sandra Morehart, Julianna Parks, Vicky Whitman and Lisa Wilhite

Nays: none

Absent: Panderina Soumas

Abstain: none

By: Vicky Whitman

Motion to nominate Shane Cheatham for Vice Chair.

Seconded by Julianna Parks.

Vote in favor of motion is unanimous.

Yeas: Shane Cheatham, Preston Friedley, Jr., Lee A. Jeter, Sr., David Johnson, Sandra Morehart, Julianna Parks, Vicky Whitman and Lisa Wilhite

Nays: none

Absent: Panderina Soumas

Abstain: none

Mr. Cheatham asked if meeting is being livestreamed. Mr. Ray answered that he was not sure and noted that the Bossier City IT department and a BPC representative may need to be involved. Mr. Ray asked that the next meeting be held during business hours in order to ensure that the meeting could be livestreamed.

Mr. Cheatham noted that the Secretary position was a hard job. This position will be taking notes, keeping up with motions and also contacting members via email or phone. This person will need to be a good communicator. Mr. Johnson nominated Julianna Parks. Mrs. Parks declined. Mr. Cheatham suggested Mrs. Morehart for Secretary.

By: Shane Cheatham

Motion to nominate Sandra Morehart for Secretary.

Seconded by Lee A. Jeter, Sr.

Vote in favor of motion is unanimous.

Yeas: Shane Cheatham, Preston Friedley, Jr., Lee A. Jeter, Sr., David Johnson, Sandra Morehart, Julianna Parks, Vicky Whitman and Lisa Wilhite

Nays: none

Absent: Panderina Soumas

Abstain: none

Mr. Jeter addressed concern for citizens with ADA-recognized disability and how they will submit a request to be able to provide comment remotely via electronic means.

Mr. Friedley noted they have 18 months to complete their work. The need to try to schedule meetings out as far in advance as possible to accommodate everyone's schedule. He asked Mrs. Nottingham for her input regarding meeting times/dates.

Mrs. Nottingham suggested meeting to follow council meetings and clarified that they have 18 months from the time the ordinance was passed to get to voters.

Mr. Friedley also suggested community meetings as well to get as much input from the citizens as possible.

Mr. Jeter expressed concern that if city council meetings run long that will put them waiting longer to get their meeting started. He doesn't want to be rushed and will need flexibility in scheduling.

Mr. Cheatham believes meetings must be at 6pm, at least the first four meetings. Would like to discuss getting a budget to pay for overtime for Marshals etc.

Mr. Ray suggest next meeting be held mid-morning around 11am, especially if body wants meeting streamed to give time to address and figure out how to have an after-hours meeting.

C. Schedule for future meetings.

By: Lisa Wilhite

Motion for next meeting to be held January 30, 2024 at 11am in Bossier City Council Chambers.

Seconded David Johnson.

Mr. Crockett spoke on publicity since Bossier Press doesn't come to meetings. He suggested that Public Information Officer to do press releases.

Mr. Ray committed to working with Mrs. Nottingham to research the issue of livestreaming for Jan 30. Mr. Ray and Mrs. Nottingham spoke on deadlines.

Vote in favor of motion is unanimous.

Yeas: Shane Cheatham, Preston Friedley, Jr., Lee A. Jeter, Sr., David Johnson, Sandra Morehart, Julianna Parks, Vicky Whitman and Lisa Wilhite

Nays: none

Absent: Panderina Soumas

Abstain: none

Addressing Mr. Jeter's earlier comment regarding ADA recognized disability, Mr. Ray pointed out the verbiage at the bottom of the notice that is consistent with the new rules that were adopted by the City Council and that could be further discussed at the next meeting.

Vicky Whitman spoke on livestreaming for the next meeting.

Mr. Ray committed to looking into livestreaming the next meeting to see if that was viable option.

Mr. Jeter spoke on City Engineer position and would like to ensure that they have access to the current ordinances and resolutions that have been passed by the council that are in disagreement with the charter so they can make decisions based on the most current information.

Mr. Friedley reiterated Mr. Jeter's concerns that the City Council is not totally adhering to the City Charter, specifically Section 9 referencing the City to have a City Engineer but the City Council has proceeded to hire and appoint Manchac as the City Engineer. He advised any other members if they have something specific they have questions about to bring that to Mr. Ray's attention.

Mrs. Morehart ask about linking between ordinances being linked or mapped to City Charter.

Mr. Cheatham talks about dissecting City Charter to see what can be improved and the time it will take.

Mr. Ray talks about City Charter being like the City's constitution and reviewing and suggesting changes in the City Charter.

Mr. Ray speaks on scope of commission.

Mr. Jeter speaks on making sure they have any amendments or ordinances that improved the Charter they may need to incorporate.

Mr. Ray says he will circulate an email link to where all the ordinances are available online.

Councilman at Large Chris Smith spoke on the issue that there are some ordinances that may be in conflict like the City Charter says the Mayor's office has the ability to hire and fire, but there's an ordinance that does not allow the mayor to hire and fire.

Mrs. Parks expressed that if the ordinance doesn't comply with the Charter, then the procedure is to challenge the ordinance on the grounds that it doesn't meet the Charter.

Adjournment - 5:39 pm

By: Shane Cheatham

Motion to adjourn.

Seconded by Lee A. Jeter, Sr.

Vote in favor of motion is unanimous.

Yeas: Shane Cheatham, Preston Friedley, Jr., Lee A. Jeter, Sr., David Johnson, Sandra Morehart, Julianna Parks, Vicky Whitman and Lisa Wilhite

Nays: none

Absent: Panderina Soumas

Abstain: none

Respectfully submitted:



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