

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
OF BOSSIER CITY LOUISIANA TAKEN AT THE MEETING OF
March 4, 2024**

The Charter Commission of the City of Bossier City, State of Louisiana, had a meeting in the Bossier Council Chambers, 620 Benton Road, Bossier City, Louisiana, on March 4, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call as follows:

Present: Vicky Whitman, Panderina Soumas, Julianna Parks, Sandra Morehart, Preston Friedley, Jr., Lee A. Jeter, Sr., David Johnson.

Absent: Lisa Wilhite, Shane Cheatham

Also present were ex officio non-voting members: Assistant City Attorney Richard Ray standing in for City Attorney Charles Jacobs, Chief Administrative Officer, Amanda Nottingham.

Invocation was given by Mr. Lee A. Jeter, Sr.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. David Johnson.

Agenda Item called: Approve Agenda

By: Mr. Jeter **Motion to approve agenda.**

Second by Mrs. Whitman

No comment from the audience.

No comments from the commission.

Vote in favor of motion is unanimous.

Yeas: Vicky Whitman, Panderina Soumas, Julianna Parks, Sandra Morehart, Preston Friedley, Jr., Lee A. Jeter, Sr., David Johnson.

Nays: none

Absent: Lisa Wilhite, Shane Cheatham

Abstain: none

Agenda Item called: Approve Minutes from February 12, 2024 meeting.

By: Mrs. Whitman **Motion to approve minutes from February 12, 2024 meeting.**

Second by Mrs. Parks

No comment from the audience.

No comments from the commission.

Vote in favor of motion is unanimous.

Yeas: Vicky Whitman, Panderina Soumas, Julianna Parks, Sandra Morehart, Preston Friedley, Jr., Lee A. Jeter, Sr., David Johnson.

Nays: none

Absent: Lisa Wilhite, Shane Cheatham

Abstain: none

Old Business

Agenda Item Called: Discussion of town hall meeting comments/feedback.

Mrs. Morehart presented a summary of feedback received from Bossier City Commission email, verbal feedback from town hall meetings and forms submitted to the google docs electronic form. There were a total of 27 people with 49 comments in 17 categories. Of the 17 categories, Yes, term limits had 24%, charter commission changes 12%, and Ethic/conflict of interest 12%.

Mrs. Parks noted she was not available for town halls, but she has watched all feedback comments in the town halls and is up to speed.

No action was taken.

Agenda Item Called: Status of proposed charter revisions from Mayor and City Council.

Mr. Ray presented the "Draft of Bossier City Charter with Suggested Changes" which included comments from the Mayor and City Council. He explained how the differences are formatted and marked for review.

Mr. Jeter advised we use this document as a review document; however, the commission may or may not use the document's version but write our own version.

Mrs. Whitman asked that different department heads be made available for the commission to ask questions and receive guidance.

Mrs. Nottingham agreed but asked the meeting time be during work hours. She further commented the Mayor had asked the department heads for feedback.

Mrs. Morehart submitted a proposed schedule for review of the charter. Based on every other week meeting this would take us to the end of May.

Chapter 1-5 – March 4

Chapter 6-8

Chapter 9-12 – department heads needed

Chapter 13-16

Chapter 17-19

Chapter 20-21

Review and finalize changes.

Next meeting set for March 28, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

New Business.

Agenda Item Called: Review Bossier City Charter chapters 1-5.

Discussions proceeded by chapter. No actions taken.

Chapter 1 – no changes

Chapter 2 – Discussions on 2.03 on appraisals.

Chapter 3 – Discussions:

3.01 Two separate At Large councilman proposed changes

3.01(d) Councilman residence for 12 months in district

Mr. Jeter led discussions on chapter 3.

1. 3.01(b)(2)(f) He proposed staggering elections with possible 6 year terms for At Large councilman to ensure continuity.
2. 3.03 should be revised to look at districts when annexation occurs so that population base remains consistent.
3. 3.04 (b) (2) add “or plead guilty” wording,
4. 3.04 (c) add requirement for candidate for vacancy to be from the district vacated,
5. 3.06 requested ordinances for compensation for both council and Mayor,
6. 3.06 (b) requested policy/use for expense reimbursement,
7. Other compensation – no retirement, yes health care with deduction from salary
8. 3.08 (b) recommends hiring authority for department heads/Mayor - strengthen wording
Understand ordinance that changed the charter,
9. 3.10 Audit completed in 90 days – Is this realistic?

10. 3.12 majority vote, should be affirmative vote(2/3) – all over charter so that it requires working together, could have conflict in state law.

11. 3.14, 3.20 require affirmative vote (2/3) for ordinances or changes in charter

Mr. Ray will research the ability to change majority vote/affirmative 2/3 vote for specific items.

Mrs. Whitman noted 3.07 all powers definition should be clarified. Mr. Jeter noted equal power between Mayor and Council. Mr. Ray noted clarifications may be noted throughout the charter, since this is in the Council section.

In next meeting, March 28, 2024 6:30 pm, it was agreed to review revisions discussed in Chapters 1-3 and new business reviewing Chapters 4 – 7.

By: Mrs. Morehart **Motion to adjourn**

Second by: Mr. Johnson

Adjournment – 8:37 pm

No comment from the audience.

No comments from the commission.

Vote in favor of motion is unanimous.

Yeas: Vicky Whitman, Panderina Soumas, Julianna Parks, Sandra Morehart, Preston Friedley, Jr., Lee A. Jeter, Sr., David Johnson.

Nays: none

Absent: Lisa Wilhite, Shane Cheatham

Ahstain: none

Respectfully submitted:

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