
METROPOLITAN CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING

May 10, 2018

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The Metropolitan Charter Revision Commission met on May 10, 2018 at 4:30 pm in Committee Room 1, 205 Metropolitan Courthouse, One Public Square, Nashville, TN 37201.

The following members of the Commission were present: Dewey Branstetter, Eileen Beehan, Hal Hardin, Susan Short Jones, and Jim Murphy.

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m., and the first order of business was the election of officers. Upon motion by Hal Hardin, seconded by Susan Short Jones, the Commissioners voted unanimously to elect Elizabeth Waites to serve as Secretary. Upon motion by Eileen Beehan, seconded by Susan Short Jones, the Commissioners voted unanimously to re-elect Dewey Branstetter as Chairman.

The next order of business was the approval of the minutes of the May 4, 2015 meeting. Upon motion by Mr. Hardin, seconded by Ms. Beehan, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2015 meeting. At a later time, amendments were offered to address a clerical matter. Upon motion by Mr. Hardin, seconded by Ms. Beehan, the prior approval of the minutes was reconsidered, the minutes were orally amended, and adopted as amended.

The Secretary made an announcement related to appeal rights of a party pursuant to Metropolitan Code of Laws section 2.68.030. Thereafter, the Commission considered a policy governing the posting

of agendas and minutes to its website. Upon motion of Ms. Jones to adopt the policy, seconded by Mr. Hardin, the policy was approved unanimously by the Commission.

The next order of business was the consideration of Resolution RS2018-1180 and Proposed Amendments thereto. The first proposed charter amendment presented by Council Member Rosenberg would: (1) establish a manner of succession to fill a vacancy for the position of mayor; (2) clarify when a special election is required to fill a vacancy for the position of mayor; (3) provide for a special election to fill a vacancy for the position of vice mayor; (4) reduce the length of time prior to a general metropolitan election within which to hold a special election in order to fill a vacancy for the position district council member; and (5) make explicit the date of a runoff subsequent to a special election for mayor, vice mayor, or district council member when no candidate receives a majority of applicable votes.

The second proposed charter amendment presented by Council Member Rosenberg would implement the use of instant runoff voting in a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of vice mayor or district council member in order to eliminate subsequent runoff elections for these two offices.

The third proposed charter amendment presented by Council Member Rosenberg would formally recognize certain positions within the Metropolitan Council and establish a manner of succession to fill a vacancy for the position of vice mayor and/or a vacancy for the position of president pro tempore, which position would be formally established upon adoption of the amendment, along with the position of deputy president pro tempore.

The first proposed amendment to the above-referenced charter revision proposals as offered by Council Member Allen would reduce the length of time prior to a general metropolitan election within which to hold a special election in order to fill a vacancy for the position of vice mayor.

The second proposed amendment to the above-referenced charter revision proposals as offered by Council Member Allen would add language to clarify the manner of allocation of votes in the event of a tie for purposes of calculation of the proposed instant runoff equation.

The public hearing was opened, and Council Member Dave Rosenberg described what the proposed amendments would accomplish. Council Member At-Large Bob Mendes spoke in favor of various aspects of the proposed amendments. Director of the Metropolitan Department of Law, Mr. Jon Cooper, made remarks and responded to questions of the Commission. Council Committee Chair Davette Blalock presented remarks favoring the proposed amendments. Members of the community were recognized and made remarks to the Commission: Tom Johnson of District 13 spoke in favor of one of the Amendments; former Council Member Jamie Hollin made remarks in favor of one of the Amendments; Benjamin Logan of District 21 spoke in favor of one of the Amendments. There being no further individuals requesting to address the Commission, the public hearing was then closed.

The members of the Commission then discussed this proposed charter amendment. No motion was offered at this time, with consensus that these amendments continue to be researched and discussed.

The matter of election of officers recurred at this time upon a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Jones, which motion was unanimously ratified to re-elect Hal Hardin to serve as Vice Chair of the Commission.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned upon a motion by Ms. Beehan, seconded by Mr. Murphy, which was adopted and the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Dewey Branstetter

C . DEWEY BRANSTETTER, JR., CHAIRMAN

/s/ Elizabeth Waites

ELIZABETH WAITES, SECRETARY