

# June 18, 2024 City Charter Review Committee Meeting

## Meeting minutes

### Call to Order

The City Charter Review Committee meeting was called to order at 10:13 AM. The Chair conducted a roll call with the following members present: Lisa Watson, Eric, Frank Silvia, and David Robeson (via Zoom). Rod Cross, Jackie Burns, and City Attorney Mike Adams were noted as absent. A quorum was established.

### Continue review of the Toledo City Charter

The committee continued their review of the Toledo City Charter, focusing primarily on the council compensation section (Section 3.11) and position numbering for council seats.

### Council Compensation Discussion

Amanda Carey, Finance Director, joined the meeting to assist with the discussion on council compensation. The committee discussed several aspects of how council members should be compensated:

- The committee debated whether compensation should be monthly or per meeting attended, with consensus forming around per-meeting compensation to incentivize attendance.
- There was discussion on whether to create a three-tier compensation system (for Mayor, Council President, and regular council members) or a two-tier system (Mayor and council members).
- Committee members expressed concerns about the Council President compensation, ultimately agreeing that the Council President should receive the higher Mayor-level compensation only when actually performing mayoral duties in the Mayor's absence for an entire meeting.
- The group considered which meetings should qualify for compensation, with consensus that only regular council meetings, special meetings, emergency meetings, and work sessions should be included. Town halls and other committee meetings would not qualify for payment.
- Amanda Carey recommended a stipend per meeting based on her previous experience, noting this would be both administratively manageable and equitable.

The committee considered the financial implications, with Amanda confirming that the proposed compensation would be financially feasible for the city. Committee members discussed appropriate amounts, considering voter perception and the need to make council positions more accessible to those with childcare needs or other financial constraints.

After thorough discussion, the committee agreed on:

- \$50 per meeting for council members
- \$75 per meeting for the mayor
- The Council President would receive the mayor's compensation rate only when conducting an entire meeting in the mayor's absence
- Total annual compensation would be approximately \$13,500 for all positions combined

The committee noted that while this amount might seem conservative, it provides a starting point, with the understanding that compensation could be increased in the future through a charter amendment if needed. Several members expressed that starting with a lower amount would be more likely to gain voter approval when the charter changes go to ballot.

The committee requested that Lisa and David work with Mike Adams offline to finalize the specific language for this section.

## Council Position Numbers

The committee then discussed section 3.2 of the charter regarding council position numbers. Lisa reported having communicated with the county clerk and state elections office, confirming that changing from at-large seats to numbered positions does not require voter approval.

The committee reviewed language changes in sections 3.2 and 3.3:

- Section 3.2 now states that city councilors serving 4-year terms shall be assigned position numbers 1-6, and the mayor position shall not be assigned a position number
- Section 3.3 specifies that position numbers 1, 3, and 5 shall be elected in odd years (to make it easier to remember)

The committee discussed the advantages of numbered positions, including:

- Allowing candidates to run against specific incumbents rather than just being in the top vote-getters
- Providing clearer organization for voters and candidates
- Potentially reducing the likelihood of recalls by allowing direct challenges to specific councilors in regular elections

The committee agreed that all positions would remain at-large (not representing specific geographic areas), but would now have numbers. It was clarified that a candidate could only run for one position at a time, as required by state law.

The members also briefly discussed the implementation process, noting that current councilors up for election would be assigned to the new numbered positions.

## New business

No new business was discussed. The committee agreed to thoroughly review the entire draft charter document before the next meeting, which was scheduled for June 27, 2024, at 10:30 AM.

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 AM.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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Mayor Rod Cross

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City Recorder Paul Johnson

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