

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES

March 9, 2020

The Charter Review Commission met at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Multi-Purpose Room on the 9th day of March, 2020, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL.

PRESENT:

Mr. Doug Cubberley, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Carol Dillingham
Mr. Jim Eller
Mr. Jim Griffith
Mr. Tom Hackelman
Mr. Kenneth McBride
Mr. Kevin Pipes
Mr. Richard Stawicki
Mr. Bob Thompson, Chairman
Mr. Bryan Vinyard
Ms. Shon Williamson-Jennings

ABSENT:

Ms. Aisha Ali
Mr. Trey Bates

TARDY:

Greg Jungman

STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Kathryn Walker, City Attorney
Ms. Brenda Hall, City Clerk

Item 2, being:

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2020.

Commissioner Stawicki moved that the minutes be approved, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Hackelman;

Items submitted for the record

1. Charter Review Commission minutes of February 10, 2020

and the question being upon approval of the minutes and upon the subsequent directive, a vote was taken with the following result:

Item 2, continued:

YEAS: Commissioners Cubberley, Dillingham, Eller, Griffith, Hackelman, McBride, Pipes, Stawicki, Vinyard, Williamson-Jennings, Chairman Thompson

NAYES: None

Chairman Thompson declared the motion carried and the minutes approved; and the filing thereof was directed.

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Discussion of Items 3 and 4 were combined.

Items 3 and 4, being:

CONTINUED DISCUSSION REGARDING THE WARD BOUNDARY CREATION PROCESS.

Ms. Walker said the City used to have a Reapportionment Commission and one of changes of the last Charter Review Commission was to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee in certain situations only, such as annexation or de-annexation of property and during the last quarter of the calendar year prior to the release of the Census, or upon the unanimous recommendation of City Council.

Commissioner Vinyard left the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Ms. Walker said criteria for the ward boundaries are set up by ordinance to be formed so as to equalize, as nearly as practicable, the population of the wards. In addition, each ward should be formed of compact contiguous territory with boundaries drawn to reflect and respond to communities of common interest, ethnic background, and physical boundaries to the extent reasonably possible. Ward lines shall not create artificial corridors which in effect separate voters from the ward to which they most naturally belong. She said the Ad Hoc Committee will meet after the 2020 Census to review ward boundaries.

Chairman Thompson asked if the Ad Hoc Committee is allowed to take into consideration voter participation in a ward and Ms. Walker said no, they can consider population, but not participation.

Co-Chairman Cubberley said when he was elected to Council in 2001 he represented a small piece of ward that changed boundaries three times over a ten year period. He said sometimes there is more growth in certain parts of the City and reviewing ward boundaries every ten years seems to be more practical.

Item 5, continued:

Commissioner Dillingham agreed and said a portion of her ward (Ward 4) went back and forth between Ward Four and Ward Eight over several years.

Chairman Thompson suggested discussion be postponed until the Charter Review Committee can determine Council's specific concerns about the ward boundary process.

Co-Chairman Cubberley moved to postpone this item until further notice, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Hackelman;

Items submitted for the record

1. Draft Charter Review Commission Article XX – Reapportionment.
2. Current Charter Provisions for Article XX – Reapportionment
3. Reapportionment/Ward Boundary Creation and Review Process

and the question being upon postponing this item until further notice, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Ali, Cubberley, Dillingham,
Stawicki, Williamson-Jennings, Chairman
Thompson

NAYES: None

Chairman Thompson declared the motion carried and the item was postponed until further notice.

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Item 6, being:

MISCELLNEOUS DISCUSSION.

Ms. Hall said future items to be discussed includes the request from Norman Regional Health Systems to expand their board members, examining the relationship between NRHS and the City of Norman, and utility rates.

Commissioners asked if Councilmember Petrone could attend the next meeting to explain her concerns regarding items she requested to be reviewed.

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Item 7, being:

ADJOURNMENT.

Chairman Thompson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.