CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

April 22, 2017 Special Meeting

The special meeting of Council was called to order by President Schottke at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 4035 Broadway.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Steven Robinette Roby Schottke Jeff Davis Ted Berry

1. President Schottke stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review the recommendations of the Charter Task Force. He explained that he had grouped the recommendations together by levels to help get through them more efficiently. He passed out Level One, which included changes in wording but not concept.

   Pres. Schottke noted that there were no changes in Articles I, VI, and VIII. Council Members agreed to skip those Articles.

2. Mayor Stage noted that there was no Legal Counsel in attendance this morning.

**Editors Note: Mr. Bennett arrived at 8:10 a.m.*

3. President Schottke moved to waive the Rules of Council to provide a more free discussion; seconded by Mr. Robinette.

Mr. Robinette	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

4. President Schottke read each Section in Level One and asked for any questions or comments.

   Mayor Stage asked about Section 3.07(2) concerning the date for the complete public report. He suggested that March 31 be changed to sometime during the following year.

   Mr. Berry questioned using the term Administrative Assistant rather than Administrator. It was explained that the term is synonymous with the Form of Government. It is also defined later in the Charter.

   Going back to the "complete public report", Mr. Tim Keck, Chair of the Task Force, said the Committee felt it referred to the Budget or CAFR.

   Discussion took place about a time for this report. Mayor Stage said he feels like the State of the City address fulfills this report, but it happens at different times of the year.

Mr. Bennett voiced concern over removing the "publishing in the newspaper". He said many people don't get on-line. Mr. Keck stated that the Task Force tried to be forward-looking in suggesting the newspaper publication be changed. He said many papers are going on-line. He also reminded Council that it doesn't preclude notices being published in the newspaper.

Mr. Berry suggested adding "(State of the City)" and change date to June 31. Mr. Keck said the group suggests staying away from nomenclatures so the Charter language doesn't get outdated quickly.

It was agreed that "(state of city)" would be added at the end of sentence and change the date to June 30.

Section 9.04 adds a requirement to form a Charter Review every ten years. Mayor Stage voiced concern over tying hands to not allow a Charter Review before 10 years. Mr. Keck said the Group discussed this at length. This provides a date to review the Charter but does not preclude Council from looking at it at any time.

Mr. Berry questioned the 10% of the electors. Mr. Davis said he thinks it should be hard to change the Charter.

Mr. Schottke moved to accept all changes in Level One and the change in 3.07(2) to include (State of the City) at the end of the first sentence and change the date from March 31 to June 30; seconded by Mr. Davis.

Mr. Bennett	*Yes*
Mr. Schottke	*Yes*
Mr. Davis	*Yes*
Mr. Berry	*Yes*
Mr. Robinette	*Yes*

4. Next, President Schottke passed out Level Two, which had changes in concepts. Again, Mr. Schottke read each suggested change and asked for questions or comments.

Mayor Stage voiced concern over removing the wording under **Section 3.06** concerning the City Administrator not living in the City. He said he knows the Case Law, and doesn't know that they refer to this form of government. Mr. Robinette said the Mayor appoints the Administrative Assistant and can decide their criteria. He feels we shouldn't keep something in the Charter that may not be enforceable. Mr. Keck explained the Group wanted to provide flexibility and it was clear from the Law Director that you can't say you must be a resident. It didn't seem right to leave something in the Charter that is frustrated by State Law. Council continued to discuss this issue. Mr. Robinette said he agrees with the spirit but he doesn't like not following our own rules. Mayor Stage said he would just like to see it changed to say that "it is suggested that the Assistant live in the City". He said it helps to have some criteria in writing to point to when interviewing persons for this position.

Mr. Ron Fomby, Task Force member, said he suggests keeping it flexible. He agrees that this person should be plugged into the City & invested, but shouldn't bog down the Charter.

Mayor Stage suggested changing the language to say"unless otherwise provided by Stale Law" and leave everything else in. After some discussion Council agreed to this adjustment.

Mayor Stage then questioned the Administrative Assistant salary change. Mr. Keck said they did review this at length. It was meant to allow for a way to change the salary if the Admin. Asst. would leave before the end of a fiscal year. After further discussion, Council agreed to retain the suggestion of the Task Force.

Charter recommendations for **Sections 5.02 and 5.06** were agreed upon by Council.

In **Section 5.05,** Mr. Davis agreed with these changes and said he believes Section 3.05 has a similar reference that needs changed too. Mr. Bennett said the word "annual" should be kept when referring to the appropriation.

Mr. Schottke moved to accept all changes in Level Two including a change in 3.06 to add "unless otherwise provided by State Law"; seconded by Mr. Davis.

Mr. Schottke	*Yes*
Mr. Davis	*Yes*
Mr. Berry	*Yes*
Mr. Robinette	*Yes*
Mr. Bennett	*Yes*

On **Section 5.14,** there was a question of removing the last sentence. Mr. Keck said he understands this is optical, and Council may want to leave something there. Mr. Berry said it just seems removing it appears that we are being less transparent. After much discussion it was decided to review this with Mr. Smith and cone back to it later.

5. Finally, President Schottke passed out Level Three, which were major changes.

Starting with **Article II, Section 2.01** - Number of Council Members, the first change was to change the number of Council Members from 5 to 7.

Mr. Schottke voiced opposition to adding members. He feels there is adequate representation with six elected officials. Mr. Berry said he has no problem asking the voters what they think. Mr. Schottke said the Minutes of the Task Force show this issue was not a compelling recommendation. Mr. Davis said he is surprised by this issue. He said he is pretty firm on his opinion but is open to listen to the Task Force. Mr. Keck said there were various opinions and initially the Task Force said to leave it alone. However, it came back up again and there were varying opinions on the subject. He said the same questions and concerns that Council is voicing were very much the same in the Task Force meetings. He said the City is growing and there doesn't seem to be a sense that it will stop or start shrinking any time soon. In the end they made the recommendation to add two seats and did so in a manner that would correspond to the Census. They felt the Ward system should be kept, so the addition of a Ward seat was appropriate.

6. President Schottke said the time has come and asked for dates for a second meeting. It was agreed to continue on Tuesday, 4/25 @ 6:00 p.m.

Council adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Tami K. Kelly

Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council

Roby Schottke

Roby Schottke
Chair