

PRESCOTT CHARTER AMENDMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2010
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESCOTT CHARTER AMENDMENT COMMITTEE held on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 in the Mayor's Conference Room located at CITY HALL, 201 SOUTH CORTEZ STREET, Prescott, Arizona.

A. Call to Order.

Councilwoman Linn called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

B. Roll Call.

Members Present: Councilwoman Linn, Chairman; Councilmen Lamerson and Hanna.

Members Absent: None.

C. Discussion of Charter amendments.

The Committee began with review of the changes recommended by staff, shown on Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof. Discussion followed on each of the items as shown:

#1 Art. II Sec. 3, 4, 10

Agreed to change to read "*second ~~regularly-scheduled~~ voting session of council in November.*"

#2 Art. II Sec. 5

Agreed to change to read "*The mayor and councilmen shall be qualified electors of the city one year prior to election and shall hold...*"

The Committee members agreed that the second recommendation that Council members be required to meet the same things as required of employees should be addressed through a policy adopted by resolution.

#3 Art. II Sec. 6

Members discussed this issue and removed it from the list.

#4 Art. II, Sec. 11

Members agreed to change the wording to “*absent from more than two (2) consecutive called meetings without the ~~consent~~ **notification** of the council.*”

#5 Art. II, Sec. 14

Members discussed the need to have this wording consistent with Open Meeting Law requirements, and agreed to reword it as, “*call a special **emergency** meeting of the council for a time not earlier than three (3) hours...*”

#6 Art. II Sec. 18

Mr. McConnell said that he had suggested this be addressed because someone may not be on any regular meeting, unless they were on the agenda. The members discussed this issue and recommended changing the words to “*appear before the council at ~~any~~ **a** regular meeting.*”

#10 Article VI Sec. 18

Ms. Burke explained that Mr. Woodfill had requested this because the current wording only allows an auditing firm to audit the City for three years, and it can take up to three years to become familiar with the procedures used by the City. Also current wording prohibits a current auditor from rebidding for the next cycle. He had requested that it be changed to five years and that the current auditor be permitted to rebid. This item was to be studied further to ensure that there were no other regulations that would prohibit such a change.

#15 Art. VII Sec. 13

Ms. Burke explained that permanent records are now stored in archival boxes and no longer maintained in books. Members agreed to change wording to read “*and certified by him ~~in books~~ for that purpose...*”

#16 Art. VIII Sec. 1

Similar to the above item, contract numbers are no longer maintained in books, so wording was recommended as “*...same in a ~~book~~ **log** kept for that purpose.*”

The second part of this item was to address wording regarding City Attorney review of contracts under \$20,000. Mr. Kidd and Councilman Lamerson will be reviewing this wording further and bringing something back for further discussion.

#19 Art. IX Sec. 2

Discussion was held by the Committee on various changes needed to the election issues. It was agreed that wording should be proposed that would allow the City Clerk to 1) remove signatures of those signers on petitions who list an address outside of the City of Prescott; 2) remove signatures of those signers that signed before the Statement of Organization or \$500 Threshold Exemption was filed; and 3) verify that official candidates are qualified electors as established in Art. II Section 5 of the Charter (requiring that they be qualified electors of the City for one year prior to the election). Ms. Burke was directed to prepare language to address these changes.

#20 Art. IX Sec. 5

Ms. Burke explained that laws in the State have changed as to dates of elections and she was recommending that this section of the Charter be consistent with those dates. Members agreed to change the wording to read "*The primary election shall be held in ~~September of every odd numbered year~~ **on dates consistent with those permitted by State law.**"*

Further discussion was held on the issue of whether a primary election was required. Members agreed that they would support elimination of the primary elections to reduce costs to the City and also the candidates. Staff was requested to research whether elimination of the primary was permitted by law. Discussion on Items #21 and #22 would be held until that question was answered.

#23 Art. X Sec. 1

Ms. Burke said that this item, or perhaps #26, is where they would need to address the issue of requiring 15% or 25% of voters to sign petitions for charter amendment initiatives. The members agreed that it should be 25%, as determined by the State Legislative Counsel, and that it should be included in both sections.

It was agreed that Mr. Kidd and Councilman Lamerson would get together to review wording regarding contracts and also wording to tighten up the structure of City departments with regard to who staff members report to when they work in those departments that have department heads appointed by the Council (Legal, City Clerk, Magistrate).

The next meeting would be scheduled once the above discussions took place and would include Mr. McConnell and Mr. Vardiman to address their specific issues not already addressed.

D. Adjournment.

There being no further business to be discussed, the meeting of the Charter Amendment Committee of April 20, 2010 adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

TAMMY LINN, Chairman

ATTEST:

ELIZABETH A. BURKE, City Clerk