

Rules Committee Minutes

Honorable City Council
City of Newark, Ohio
November 1, 2017

The Rules Committee met in Council Chambers on Monday, October 30, 2017 following the Street Committee with these members present:

Mike Mangus, Chair
Doug Marmie
Johnathan Lang

1. **Ordinance No. 17-56** appointing a Charter Review Study Group pursuant to Charter Article 11.05 for the limited purpose of considering modifications to the current form of City Government was considered.

Mrs. Floyd- I brought this up because the last two Charter Committees that I have attended some of the sessions of they have discussed non-partisan elections in the City of Newark. There are so people who are in favor of non-partisan and there are people opposed to it but I think one of the biggest issues is that people don't know enough. I know this last Charter Review Commission felt there wasn't enough time; the Charter Commission meets for two months. This legislation would give people 6 months, the people would be chosen the same way the Charter Commission people were chosen, they would be run through the President of Council and would come up with 5 names. Those people would have the time to look at what other cities do. I have tended to favor a non-partisan form of government for the City of Newark but I know it would change a lot of what we do. We could not do Rule 11, committees would not be set up the way they are now because all that is based on political party and that would have to change. I could see the Charter Study Group which might meet and go through this whole thing to see about changing to non-partisan and say that it won't work for Newark. Granville has it, Heath has it, and a number of communities have non-partisan governments so there's not as much political party involvement in terms of what goes in within the city. I brought it up because I think that it is important that a group and I know there was at least one person in this last Charter Committee that said they would be willing to meet to dig into a little bit to study it. Since it is brought up every time it would seem to me that if there was a study group who really studies it because anything that would be done the study group would come back and say yes that is the way we want to go then it would have to go through Council. Council would make the final decision. Because it is something the Charter Commission has brought up the last two times it has met I thought that it might be a good idea for us to give a group a chance to look at it and try to decide what might work for the City of Newark, maybe it would change nothing,

maybe we would end up with exactly what we have now. I would like this to pass on to full Council so Council has a chance as a group to vote on it.

Mr. Marmie- you mentioned that they would study this and come up with alternatives.

Mrs. Floyd- they could, they could decide to do nothing.

Mr. Marmie- section 2 says that they shall have no authority to recommend alterations, revisions or amendments to be adopted by Council or submit any recommended revisions, alterations or amendments to the electors or directly through Council action.

Mrs. Floyd- they are studying it to maybe have the next Charter Review Committee look at it and have some information on. I understand what you are saying.

Mr. Marmie- I'm not opposed to it I just think that I would want to know what the scope of it is. I don't think anybody is in disagreement with any study group we have done it with the trash haulers and we didn't need legislation to do it. I don't mind formalizing it but if this is the scope than we are going to have to abide by the scope.

Mrs. Floyd- I understand

President Ellington- that language that you just read that is how the Charter states a Review Committee is.

Mr. Marmie- that was what my next question was is this in addition to anything that we already have in our Charter. Is this more or less a resolution of support or an ordinance of support? I'm all for it ...

Mrs. Floyd- I guess for me it is an idea that we should have a group that actually takes the time to study things. I was on the Property Maintenance Committee that met for months and I know people were on the Trash Talkers that went on forever and ever and nothing really changed as a result of that but you have a chance to gain some information that could be combined and could possibly be used by the next Charter Commission. I just think that it might be something valuable to do.

Mr. Marmie- I agree, I'm not disagreeing with you at all I'm trying to make sure we are clear on the scope when they meet.

Motion by Mr. Marmie to send Ordinance No. 17-56 to full Council, second by Mr. Lang

Daniel Crawford, 163 S 2nd St- I think that it might have been my fault that there was at least the impression they could make recommendations. During the Charter Review meeting I even read that they wouldn't have the power to do that and it was in my passion of promoting non-partisan elections I said make a recommendation. At least this information could be there for the next commission. That way there's not the excuse that we haven't had enough time to research it. I appreciate the motion and the second.

Mr. Mangus- Mrs. Floyd mentioned that at least one person on the Charter Review Commission had asked for the special committee be created, I attended most of those meetings and it was at least three of the people involved asked for this committee and I look forward to this moving on to full Council.

Motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Mike Mangus, Chair