

Marion City Council
Ad Hoc Committee – Charter City
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Minutes
February 22, 2022

Roll Call – Cornelius (chair), Mike Thomas (vice-chair), Neff, Meade, Rollins

With a quorum present, Mr. Cornelius called the meeting to order at 6:51 PM.

Old Business

New Business

Item 1. Discussion – Define Scope

Cornelius made announcements. Material has been provided to council members from the Ohio Municipal League regarding Charter Cities. Article XVIII section 8 of the Ohio Constitution identifies procedures to adopt a charter. He suggested that members review these items on their own time.

Cornelius provided a suggested scope, as follows:

1. Gather information from charter experts (Ohio Municipal League)
2. Gather information from BOE on timelines
3. Gauge interest from community on charter
4. Adopt language for possible ordinance
5. Develop budget for adoption of charter
6. Submit work to council for approval

Rollins asked about timeline to get this on next primary. Cornelius confirmed that deadline was 02/04/2022. There was speculation that it can only be added to a general election. Cornelius said that they would need to talk to BOE about the deadlines for a general election. It could also be done as a special election. It was noted that special elections could be costly. Meade asked that the consider budget sooner than later.

Russell referred group to Garry Hunter for specific questions and answers about pros and cons, as well as specific details on the process and the commission. Mayor stated that it would be hard to develop a full budget as they cannot foresee what type of paid support the commission might need.

Cornelius is in the process of rescheduling Mr. Hunter's presentation. Neff stated that Hunter stated that a Wednesday night would be an easier for him to attend because he works in Columbus on that day. Cornelius said that they could watch video that is available on YouTube channel and schedule a teleconference to ask questions.

Schaber asked if this committee is charged with identifying what problems exist that a charter city designation would solve. He believes that will be important to other council members, as well as the voters.

Mayor clarified that the city already has home rule as a statutory city.

Mayor clarified that it has been **past practice** that no budget is passed until new council members have been sworn in, i.e., outgoing council does not approve budget that new council inherits. It has been a practice; however, Law Director has confirmed that it is not required.

Scope as modified:

1. Gather information from charter experts (Ohio Municipal League) *and talk about advantages and disadvantages*
2. Gather information from BOE on timelines
3. Gauge interest from community on charter (announcements on radio and newspaper for public to come in and give opinion and ask questions)
4. Adopt language for possible ordinance
5. *Weigh advantages and* develop budget for adoption of charter
6. Submit work to council for approval

Thomas made a motion to wait until Hunter gives presentation and then define scope. Neff 2nd.

Roll Call: Ayes – Thomas; Nays – Cornelius, Neff, Meade, Rollins

Motion defeated (1-4)

Rollins made a motion to adopt the scope, Meade 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes – Cornelius, Thomas, Neff, Meade, Rollins; Nays -- none

Scope Adopted (5-0)

Matt Carbary, president of Marion Area Chamber of Commerce, said that they would be agreeable to acting as a platform for educating the citizens of the benefits of a charter city or whatever way they go with it

Other Matters

Adjourn

With no other business, Cornelius adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Chairman Cornelius

Clerk of Council

