



City of Malden

Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Meeting Minutes - Final Charter Review Committee

Spadafora, Chair
Linehan, Vice Chair
Winslow
Karen Anderson, Ex-Officio
Ron Hogan, Ex-Officio

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

6:00 PM

215 Pleasant Street
Room 113
Malden, MA 02148

Roll Call

*Also Present: Councillors Murphy, Simonelli, Colon-Hayes, Crowe, Condon and O'Malley
John McNaught-City Solicitor, Carol Ann Desiderio-City Clerk*

Councillor Spadafora called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

Present: 4 - Councillor at Large Craig Spadafora, Councillor Amanda Linehan, Stephen Winslow and Ron Hogan

Absent: 1 - Karen Anderson

Minutes to be Approved

Business

The Charter Review Committee will meet to discuss long-term planning and continue to work in reviewing the MALDEN Charter.

Councillor Spadafora gave a brief background of where we were, where we are and where we want to go. There was a lot of work done in 2019 in the Charter Revision Committee. There were individual meetings set up with each Councillor to see what their wants and desires were in terms of Charter change. That committee then did a lot of work to produce a document which we have. He does not see a lot of work however, there will be debatable issues but doing nothing is not an option. The hope is we will debate recommendations and his goal is to get this document out before the budget season. This is a Home Rule Petition that has to go to the State House to get voted on. There is potential for finally fixing the way the Council and other bodies get paid in the Home Rule Petition that has to be done before the election. There is a timeline for the State. The sooner we can get this document to move forward the better it is.

Ron Hogan gave a presentation to the committee. (see attached) The effort was to separate our framework and our documents into two pieces. It was focused on the administrative organization on the city. The executive legislative authority, the appointment confirmation process and the how City departments are set-up and organized. Aspects of how we are organized as a City is up to the Council and the Mayor to figure out. In the proposed structure that we put forward the administrative order is a different way of going about how the Executive Branch and the Council organizes the City and their roles in a reorganization. Under this structure the administrative order lines up your boards, commissions and departments and the roles of each. It has to be proposed by the Mayor and approved by the Council. Your Charter is your Charter and it stays true to how the City is organized from the elective official perspective and petitions but

doesn't get into how the City is run. Ordinances get into regulatory provisions, land use management. The administrative order is how the City is organized. You can change it, Melrose does it every year it comes from the Mayor and then the Council votes on it and adjust that portion of it. Last time we went through this effort we took all the input from the City Council and the result was a draft revised charter and a draft administrative order. We would still have to go ahead and get the updates to the Charter through the Home Rule Petition. There are drafts of those documents that are a great starting point ready for debate. Ron will send the copies out to Lisa to distribute to the Council to view. Ron suggests getting the document to everyone before they begin discussing. Ron would be willing to meet with any Councillor who did not get to have a one on one the last time to discuss input they have.

Councillor Spadafora suggests meeting from this point on till at least May at 7:05 PM on Committee of the Whole evenings to get the work done. He also suggests meeting on off committee nights if the committee agrees.

Councillor Linehan asks if there is a deadline to get this in for the Home Rule Petition. Councillor Spadafora will reach out to Rep. Ultrino to see if they have the calendar set up yet at the State.

Councillor Murphy said this is one of her top priorities. A tremendous amount of work was put into this a few years ago. It is something that needs to be done. It would be a great success for us to be able to move this out and say we are positioning the City to be able to operate more effectively moving forward. As Councillor Spadafora has said we will not all agree on it but she asks please, if everyone would get invested in it now and be a part of the process. Mr. Hogan said if we can get to 95% of it we would probably be in good shape. She asks everyone to take a look at it and be a part of the process. There are only three members of the committee but Councillor Spadafora is inviting everyone to come and be involved in the meetings. This is a decision we all have to make and will lead the City for the next 50 years. It is the foundation of our City and what it will look like going forward. She asks they read it and stay abreast of it. Also to get their comments in early because the timeline is certainly very sensitive.

Councillor Spadafora said if we have to meet on an off night and we can get a quorum he will do that. Hopefully we can get started and put the pen to paper and get this done. The committee continued discussion on some of the issues they would like to discuss during these meetings.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 7:05 PM.

Other Business

Adjournment

Motion was made by Councillor Amanda Linehan, seconded by Councillor Stephen Winslow, that this meeting be adjourned at 6:51 P.M. The motion carried unanimously.