



## City Council Meeting Highlights Monday, March 29, 2021

*In an effort to provide clear, factual information in a timely manner, the City will be sharing highlights from City Council Meetings the morning after a council session on the City website and social media. These highlights will include summaries from work session, full council, and any public hearings/meetings that take place. They will not replace formal minutes.*

### [Committee of the Whole Meeting Packet](#)

#### **CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

The primary focus of the meeting was reviewing recommendations from the Charter Review Commission. Two recommendations took up the majority of the discussion, detailed below. Neither of these recommendations passed the straw poll, meaning they **will not** move on to Work Session for continued discussion at this time.

- (1) Council Candidates must be a resident of Canal Winchester for 1 year prior to filing for office.
  - a. Those in favor highlighted that is passed in the commission with an 11-0 vote, and how it is part of several other Central Ohio charters.
  - b. Those not in favor expressed concerns about the ability to prove residency. They also shared that potential candidates may be invested in the community through other avenues, such as owning a business in town. They ultimately felt it should be up to the voters to decide how important a candidate's residency is at the time of election.
- (2) Candidates shall not seek, accept, publish, or communicate an endorsement.
  - a. Those not in favor echoed the concerns of City Legal Counsel, Thadd Boggs. Mr. Boggs started the discussion stating that his legal opinion is that this recommendation does violate first amendment rights and subjects the City to future lawsuits.
  - b. Those in favor expressed the desire to "keep local elections local" by requiring a nonpartisan election. Recognizing the legal implications this may have, they suggested moving it forward to work session to change the language so it follows more of a "spirit of the law" rather than an enforceable rule.
  - c. Council also discussed if there was a conflict of interest having the 3 members of Council who previously ran with endorsements vote on the matter. Mr. Boggs explained that there is an exception within conflict of interest section of the Ohio Revised Code, so it would not be a conflict of interest for all of council to vote.

Additional Charter Recommendations that **will not** move forward to Work Session at this time:

- Clerk of Council may not hold another position within the City.
- Mayoral Candidates must be a resident of Canal Winchester for 1-year prior to filing for office.
- Council members will be removed from office if found to have sought endorsement during the election.

There were several Charter Recommendations that **will** move on to Work Session. Mr. Boggs intends to prepare an ordinance will send the recommendations as single ballot issue for vote. Those items are as follows:

- Clerk of Council is responsible for other duties as assigned by Council.
- Charter Review will take place every 5 years (*changed from 10*).
- Several clerical updates including adopting gender-neutral language, changing "Village" to "City", adding website postings, and more.

#### **LANDSCAPING & SCREENING CODE**

- Mr. Lynch would like to review the code, citing changes that have taken place since it was passed in 2019. Development Director, Lucas Haire, explained the ways in which these changes can be made. It was agreed that a small sub-committee would review the current code and bring the proposed changes to Council in the future.