



CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEETING
September 13, 2018 6:00 p.m.
Parks Administration Conference Room
Blue Springs Fieldhouse
425 NE Mock Avenue
Blue Springs, Missouri

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Review Commission of the City of Blue Springs, Missouri, will hold a meeting on September 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parks Administration Conference Room of the Blue Springs Fieldhouse at 425 NE Mock Avenue, Blue Springs, Missouri. The agenda of this meeting includes:

1. Call meeting to order
2. Committee Procedure
3. Approve Minutes of July 19, 2018 Charter Review Commission Meeting
4. Discussion Regarding Article I of the Charter (Incorporation, Name and Boundaries)
5. Discussion Regarding Article II of the Charter (Powers)
6. Discussion Regarding Article III of the Charter (City Council)
7. Public Comment
 - Email from Dale Carter dated July 16, 2018
8. Adjourn

The Blue Springs Home Rule Charter can be found on the [City's Website](#).

The next meeting of the Charter Review Commission is scheduled for Thursday, September 27, 2018.

Posted at Blue Springs Public Safety Building and on the City's website on Monday, September 10, 2018

Sheryl Morgan
City Clerk

**CITY OF BLUE SPRINGS, MISSOURI
MINUTES OF CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
JULY 19, 2018**

A meeting of the Charter Review Commission was held on Thursday, July 19, 2018, 6:00 p.m. in the Journagan Family Community Room of the Howard L. Brown Public Safety Building, 1100 Smith Street.

COMMISSION MEMBERS	Jeanie Lauer	James Wallace
	Kelli Montgomery	Jason Bonney
	Bryan Pratt – BY PHONE	Kynette Campbell
	Maureen Johnson	Traci Via
	Becky Nace	

Also present were Mayor Carson Ross, Assistant City Administrator Christine Cates, City Attorney Jacqueline Sommer, and City Clerk Sheryl Morgan.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Carson Ross called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and thanked the Commission for their time. Members and Staff Liaisons introduced themselves to the Commission.

Mayor Ross advised that the Ordinance calling for an election and outlining ballot language would need to be certified and submitted to the Jackson County Election Board no later than January 22, 2019 for the April election. This would require the Commission to complete their work and report to Council by December.

OATH OF OFFICE

City Clerk Sheryl Morgan administered the Oath of Office to Commissioners present.

PURPOSE OF CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

City Attorney Jacqueline Sommer reviewed Section 12.8 of the current Charter outlining the establishment and timing for the Charter Review Commission report.

DETERMINATION OF OFFICES

City Attorney Sommer led the discussion determining the desired officers for the Commission.

SELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Mayor called for nominations from the floor for the office of Chair, Vice Chair, Co-Chair.

Commissioner Bonney nominated Commissioners Lauer and Pratt to serve as Co-Chairs of the Charter Review Commission. No further nominations were made. Motion seconded by Commissioner Via. Mayor Ross asked for a vote to approve the nominations. The Commission approved the nomination of Commissioners Lauer and Pratt to serve as Co-Chairs of the Charter Review Commission by acclamation.

CITY SUPPORT

City Clerk Sheryl Morgan and Assistant City Administrator Christine Cates outlined the support the City Staff Liaisons will provide,

including administrative, research, and information relating to current policies and practices.

MEETINGS

City Attorney Sommer outlined the details of the Sunshine Law, open meetings, public notices, procedures for conducting meetings, conflicts of interest, as well as receiving and addressing comments or questions regarding proposed changes. Ms. Sommer asked members to contact the City Clerk as early as possible to advise if they will be absent for a meeting. Minutes will be taken and distributed for approval at the following meeting, which will include redlined changes to the Charter reviewed. Ms. Sommer suggested that a final vote be made on the version of changes that will be recommended to the Council for submission to the voters.

Co-Chair Lauer suggested that when the redlined changes are being made, that we include a reference as to what raised the question (comment from the public, question from Commission member, etc.).

Commission Via requested that all meetings be scheduled as soon as possible so the Commission members can block dates or move schedules as needed.

Co-Chair Lauer encouraged Commission members to speak up if there is a section of the Charter that they feel does not make sense as written. The section should be addressed by the Commission to consider clarification.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:28 p.m., there was no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ross adjourned the meeting.

CITY OF BLUE SPRINGS – CHARTER
REVIEW COMMISSION

_____, Co-Chairman

Sheryl Morgan, City Clerk

From: [Dale Carter](#)
To: [Sheryl Morgan](#)
Subject: Charter Review Commission
Date: Monday, July 16, 2018 3:19:52 PM

To the Members of the Charter Review Commission:

Thank you for your service. You are providing, in my opinion, a very necessary process for the betterment of the government of Blue Springs. I would ask for three specific things as you consider amendments to the current Charter.

1. That we have definitive Checks and Balances between the Mayor and the Council. In my opinion, ALL Mayoral appointments should receive the advice and consent of the City Council. Those appointed positions should also be subject to removal by the Mayor AND a majority of the City Council OR by a majority of the Council acting on its own initiative. See City Attorney and City Prosecutor for examples of positions appointed with no Council oversight and removal ONLY at the initiation of the Mayor. (Sections 3.14 & 3.15)
2. Section 12.8, The Charter Review Commission also needs clarification. As stated, this is a function of the City Council with no role for the Mayor. Your Review Commission is made up of members appointed by each City Council member. The Mayor appointed three members. If that's what we want to do, it should say that in the Charter. As it reads now, the Mayor should get no more appointments than a City Council member (as of the last review, the Mayor was added as a full voting member of the City Council).
3. Lastly, I would ask for simplicity in the ballot language. The last process produced long, confusing ballot language. Let's make whatever we do this time easy to understand.

I wish you luck as you go through the Charter and make your recommendations to the City Council on better practices for our governance of the town we all love!

Sincerely,

Dale Carter
Councilman - District 1