



SANDY SPRINGS

GEORGIA

Charter Review Commission Summary Minutes

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Meeting Agenda

6:00 PM

The Charter Review Commission Meeting will be held in person in the Barfield Conference Room at Sandy Springs City Hall (1 Galambos Way, Sandy Springs, GA 30328).

Live-stream:	Public Meeting Portal (CivicClerk): https://sandyspringsga.civicclerk.com/web/home.aspx Zoom Webinar: http://spr.gs/2021crc
Teleconference:	Phone: (646) 558-8656 Webinar ID: 838 2000 5723
Public Comment:	http://spr.gs/publiccomment

I Call to Order

Chair Sterling called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II Roll Call and General Announcements

Members present: Vice Chair Tochie Alford Blad, Chip Collins (arrived at 6:03 p.m.), Tricia Gephardt, Melody Kelley, Tom Mahaffey, Sunny Park, Suleima Millan-Salinas, Andrea Settles, Ronda Smith and Chair Gabriel Sterling

III Ruling on a Quorum

Assistant City Clerk Karina Reyna confirmed a quorum of members was present.

IV Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Member Melody Kelley, seconded by Member Ronda Smith, to approve the meeting agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V Approval of Meeting Minutes - June 3, 2021 Charter Review Commission Meeting

Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Member Andrea Settles, seconded by Member Tom Mahaffey, to approve the June 3, 2021 Charter Review Commission Meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

VI New Business

CRC2021-021 Public Comment on the Charter

1. Michael Baron
2. Mary Baron
3. Andy Bauman

CRC2021-022 Discussion of Recommended Changes

Term Limits



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Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Member Andrea Settles, seconded by Member Ronda Smith, to not make any changes to the term limits. The motion failed (4 to 6).

Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Member Tricia Gephardt, seconded by Vice Chair Tochie Blad, to have a limit of two consecutive terms for the mayor and a limit of four consecutive terms for councilmembers beginning in 2025. The motion failed (4 to 6).

Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Member Chip Collins, seconded by Vice Chair Tochie Blad, to have a limit of three consecutive terms for the mayor. The motion failed (5 to 5).

Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Member Ronda Smith, seconded by Member Andrea Settles, to provide for no term limits for the mayor or city councilmembers. The motion carried (6 to 4).

Mayor and Council Salaries

Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Member Andrea Settles, seconded by Member Ronda Smith, to increase the councilmember salary to \$25,000. Member Melody Kelley recused herself from the vote. The motion carried (9 to 0).

Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Member Tricia Gephardt, seconded by Vice Chair Tochie Blad, for the councilmember pay increase be effective upon approval of the State Legislature. Member Chip Collins offered a friendly amendment, seconded by Vice Chair Tochie Blad, to make the councilmember pay increase effective the first day of the next fiscal year. Member Tricia Gephardt accepted the friendly amendment. Member Melody Kelley recused herself from the vote. The motion carried (9 to 0).

Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Member Chip Collins, seconded by Member Andrea Settles, to increase the mayor salary to \$50,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Staggered Terms

Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Member Chip Collins, seconded by Member Andrea Settles, to not include a recommendation for staggered terms. The motion carried (6 to 4).

Oath of Office

Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Member Melody Kelley, seconded by Member Suleima Millan-Salinas, to amend the Oath of Office to include “and its inhabitants.” The motion failed.



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Sec. 3.02. - City manager; appointment, qualification, and compensation.

Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Member Tricia Gephardt, seconded by Vice Chair Tochie Blad, to amend Section 3.02 of the Sandy Springs Charter as follows: “The mayor shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the council, for an indefinite term an officer whose title shall be the “city manager” and the city manager shall serve at the pleasure of the council **to further the interests of all residents regardless of race or class**. The city manager shall be appointed without regard to political beliefs and solely on the basis of **his or her** their executive and administrative qualifications with special reference to **his or her** their educational background and actual experience in, and knowledge of, the duties of office as hereinafter prescribed.” The motion failed (4 to 6).

Sec. 3.08. - City attorney.

Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Vice Chair Tochie Blad, seconded by Member Melody Kelley, to amend Section 3.08 to “The mayor shall nominate and the city council shall confirm by majority vote of the city council a city attorney, together with such assistant city attorneys as may be deemed appropriate, and shall provide for the payment of such attorney or attorneys for services rendered to the city. The city attorney shall be responsible for representing and defending the city in all litigation in which the city is a party; may be the prosecuting officer in the municipal court; shall attend the meetings of the city council as directed; shall advise the city council, mayor, other officers, and employees of the city concerning legal aspects of the city's affairs; and shall perform such other duties as may be required by virtue of his or her position as city attorney. The city attorney shall review all contracts of the city but shall not have the power to bind the city. **The rates or salaries paid to any city attorney shall be approved in advanced by the city council.**” The motion failed (4 to 6).

Revenue Bonds

Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Vice Chair Tochie Blad, seconded by Member Melody Kelley, to create section 5.07, titled “Revenue bonds.” that states “Revenue bonds may be issued by the city council limited by the stated ability by the City to repay said debt, as state law now or hereafter provides. Such bonds are to be paid out of any revenue produced by the project, program, or venture for which they were issued.” Chair Gabriel Sterling offered a friendly amendment, seconded by Member Chip Collins, to amend the motion to remove the sentence “Such bonds are to be paid out of any revenue produced by the project, program, or venture for which they were issued.” Member Melody Kelley and Vice Chair Tochie Blad accepted the amendment. The motion carried (9 to 1).

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Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Member Tricia Gephardt, seconded by Member Melody Kelley, a third Charter Review Commission be established in 2027 following the second Charter review. The motion failed (4 to 6).

Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Member Chip Collins, seconded by Member Andrea Settles, the next Charter Review Commission to reconvene in 2030. The motion carried (6 to 4).

Sec. 2.03. - Vacancy; filling of vacancies; suspensions.

Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Member Andrea Settles, seconded by Member Chip Collins, to amend Section 2.03 of the Sandy Springs Charter as follows: “The office of mayor or city councilmember shall become vacant upon the incumbent’s death, resignation, forfeiture of office, or removal from office in any manner authorized by this Act or the general laws of the State of Georgia. A vacancy in the office of mayor or city councilmember shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by a special election **to be held at the next available date for a special election pursuant to state law** if such vacancy occurs 12 months or more prior to the expiration of the term of that office; **provided, however, that if such special election cannot be lawfully held at the next available scheduled election pursuant to state law, the city council or those members remaining shall appoint a successor to serve until such time as the special election can be lawfully held at the next available scheduled general primary or general election and a candidate is duly elected and sworn into office.** If such vacancy occurs within 12 months of the expiration of the term of that office, the city council or those members remaining shall appoint a successor for the remainder of the term. This provision shall also apply to a temporary vacancy created by the suspension from office of the mayor or any city councilmember.” The motion carried unanimously.

Pronouns throughout Charter

Consensus of Members. Review summary of changes provided by Member Ronda Smith at the July 1, 2021 Charter Review Commission Meeting.

Catch-all Emergency Section

Consensus of Members. Continue discussion of a catch-all emergency section at the July 1, 2021 Charter Review Commission Meeting.

Signage

Motion and Second. A motion was made by Member Suleima Millan-Salinas, seconded by Melody Kelley, to amend Section 1.03. - Powers and construction, Part 24 (Planning and Zoning) as follows: “To provide comprehensive city planning for development by zoning; and to provide



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subdivision regulation and the like as the city council deems necessary and reasonable to insure a safe, healthy, and aesthetically pleasing community, **including signage and outside advertising.**”

Consensus of Members. Continue discussion of the proposed Section 1.03. - Powers and construction, Part 24 (Planning and Zoning) amendment at the July 1, 2021 Charter Review Commission Meeting.

Flooding Protections

Consensus of Members. Discuss a new flooding protections section at the July 1, 2021 Charter Review Commission meeting.

Rules of the Court

Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Vice Chair Tochie Blad, seconded by Member Tricia Gephardt, to amend Section 4.06 of the Sandy Springs Charter as follows: “The judges, by majority vote, shall have authority to make reasonable rules and regulations necessary and proper for addressing the **lawful** operations **and due process required** of the municipal court. The clerk of the court, as administrator of the court, shall prepare reasonable rules and regulations necessary and proper to **manage secure** the efficient and successful administration of the municipal court **consistent with the Uniform Rules of the Court of the State of Georgia as amended from time to time.** All **administrative** rules and **procedures** shall be subject to the approval of the city council.”

Consensus of Members. Continue discussion on the proposed amendment to Section 4.06 at the July 1, 2021 Charter Review Commission meeting.

VIII Adjournment

Motion and Vote. A motion was made by Member Tom Mahaffey, seconded by Member Andrea Settles, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.