

Town of Milton
Special Town Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
Milton Library, 121 Union Street
February 21, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Mayor Don Post.

Present: Councilman Harris
Councilwoman Melson
Councilman Prettyman
Councilwoman Betts
Councilman Frey
Mayor Post
Deanna Duby, Secretary for Ad-Hoc Charter Review Committee
George Dickerson, Town Manager

Absent: Councilman Dvornick

Meeting purpose is to discuss the Proposed Charter Revisions that have been presented by the Ad-Hoc Charter Review Committee. Mayor Post read the proposed charter changes beginning with Section 15 and continued in sequential order to Section 27 throughout the meeting. The following are the comments given by members present at the meeting.

Section 15: Mayor Post: In Section 15 (a) we shouldn't strike the words "appoint all committees". Section 15 (b) the content is fine but it needs to be word smith to flow better. Councilman Prettyman: feels we should strike the words "unless requested by the presiding officer to provide pertinent information, and then may not vote on the item" in the fifth sentence down in that section. Everyone agrees. Councilman Prettyman: (Section 15 (c)) Why does it need to say sunset date? Deanna Duby: Put that in so that the Mayor and Council have a right to say to a committee here is the time in which you have to do your work so it doesn't go on and on. George Dickerson: I just want to make sure that the wording isn't limiting the Mayor's powers. Deanna: "No, we were just trying to avoid repetition and arrange the all the sections under 15."

Section 16: No comments or suggestions were noted for Section 16 (a). Mayor Post: "I feel that the "as may be convenient and will not interfere with the regular routine of business of the Town" should be left in and not taken out." All Council members present agreed. Noble Prettyman: "I would like to see it written in there that some sort of notice is put in there, such as 24-hours notice, 8 hours notice, etc." Mayor Post: "I think we should take out the words registered voter in section 16 (b). Also, add the word Town Clerk or Town Manager so they will be available in the event the others listed are not." George: "I will reword this section." No comments or suggestions were noted for Section 16 (c). Everyone is okay with Section 16 (d) and the striking of (e).

Section 17: Councilwoman Betts: "In Section 17 (a) shouldn't it be other than the Treasurer because the Finance Director does a lot of that." Councilman Harris: "I think at the original time the Town Charter was created there was no Finance Director at the Town of Milton. I think we should strike where it is stated about depositing the funds." George: "For the purpose of the Treasurer on the Council the first

sentence is relevant. The Treasurer will assure that these happen. He/she or his/her designees shall deposit or deposit possibly deposit... The Treasurer or his/her designees..." Mayor Post: "Put signers back in." Deanna: "And then just strike the words Town Council members." Deanna: Suggests in section 17 (b) that in the second sentence striking the words he/she and putting in the Town Manager instead. Councilwoman Betts: "Shouldn't the first sentence in section 17 (c) say the Treasurer or his/her designee?" Mayor Post: "Yes." Councilman Frey: "Do we need to add or his/her designee to the first sentence in Section 17 (d)?" Mayor Post: "The 250,000.00 is a blanket coverage amount." No action taken on (d). Section 17 (e) and (f) accepted as proposed.

Section 18: Councilman Frey: Section 18 (a). "Are we going to strike elected again?" Mayor Post: Section 18 (b). "We will strike elected in all sections." Mayor Post announced Councilwoman Betts was leaving at 6:41 p.m. Councilwoman Melson: In Section 18 (c). "Should it state that they should submit a background check." Mayor Post: "I think that it should be word smithed in their somewhere. It needs to be spelled out in this section because it is a part of the law." No comments on Section 18 (d) and (e). Section 18 (f) needs to be reworked so that it states Town Manager and Town Clerk or their designee instead of Treasurer. No comments on Section 18 (g) and (h).

Section 19: George: The blue verbiage included on your document is the approved verbiage that was sent to Legislative Hall. Accepted sections 19 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) as written for the General Assembly in the blue verbiage.

Section 20: Accepted sections 20 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) noting that (i) through (n) had been removed from the Charter.

Section 21: No comments or suggestions in this section.

Section 22: George: We need to check and see if it is legal to extend the one mile to three miles.

Section 23: No comments or suggestions in this section.

Section 24: Councilman Frey: "Object to the bidding process, this is a contractual appointment by the Mayor." George: "I feel that Tom Sombar has done an excellent job. He is always ready to answer our questions. I ask that you consider leaving in the wording in the first sentence that states, 'appoint an accountant to be the auditor of'". Deanna: "The committee was concerned about if there was a time when something shady was going on if you have the same auditor year after year you wouldn't have fresh eyes looking at mistakes or something intentional. This is a separate issue from the competitive bidding." Councilwoman Melson: "I vote that we stay with the old charter and the way it was written." Councilman Frey: "I agree with that, too." Mayor Post: suggests word smithing old and new section 24, possibly remove the bidding process but keep the posting of finds.

Section 25: Councilman Frey: "Before you waste your time reading this section I feel it is the same as the previous section that it is a contractual appointment by the Mayor." George: "Would you like us to blend the old and new together in this section and readdress it later?" Mayor Post: "Yes."

Section 26: George: "Let's check this section 26 (a) for a rate increase limit." No comments on sections (b), (c), and (d). George: Feels that it may be time to have a town assessment completed to fix the tax

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rates to what budgetary needs are. It has been twelve years since a tax assessment done. It may be a good idea to have it worded in the Town Charter that a town assessment be done a minimum of every 10 years. Councilman Harris: “Is it fair that we bring the citizens of the Town up to their assessed rate all at once or gradually.” Mayor Post: “I don’t want to get into a big discussion regarding tax assessment tonight.” Councilman Frey: “I think it needs to be stated four public places and include Town Hall.” George: “The reason I mentioned this is I have Curt Riley writing a proposal on what it will look like and what it will take.” Mayor Post: “This section (e) should be word smithed removing places posted except Town Hall and make it four places instead of five. The assessment is something we can put on a regular Town Council agenda to go over at that time.” No comments on sections (f) and (g).

Section 27: No changes made to section (a). No comments or suggestions for section (b), (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5). Mayor Post: “I would prefer it if someone could come up with a different wording in section (6) where ‘physical plants’ is written.” No comments or suggestions on section (c) and (d). No changes made to section (e).

Mayor Post: “Next meeting is March 7, 2007.” Stopped at Section 28.

Adjournment: 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Powers
Executive Secretary