

City of Gardner  
Gardner, MA 01440

GARDNER CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes  
February 3, 2014

The Gardner Charter Review Committee met in the First Floor Conference Room at City Hall on February 3, 2014 to discuss the redraft of the Legislative Article, a paper by the University of Vermont on gubernatorial terms (very applicable to mayoral terms), a draft of the executive article; and, a draft of the school committee article.

Present: Andrew N. Boucher, Chair; Stephen McGoldrick, Consultant to the Committee; Arthur E. Young; Al Lafreniere; Patricia Jandris; David Curran; Cleo Monette; Leonette Travers, Vice Chair; Charles Leblanc, via telephone; and Tanya Barnett, Secretary.

Absent: Edward Yablonski

#### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Upon review of the newly drafted Legislative Branch, in Section 2-2: President and Vice-President, Election; Term; Powers. Line 24 "... the council shall elect from among its members a president and vice-president who shall serve for 2 year terms." The Committee agreed to the 2-year term.

#### EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Before discussing the term of Office, the Committee reviewed The *Vermont Legislative Research Shop* published by The University of Vermont regarding changes in gubernatorial term lengths.

Term of Office (Line 9 of the draft): The committee recommends a 4 year term for the Mayor.

Section 3-2 (Executive Powers, Enforcement of Ordinances). Line 26 of the draft: Committee agreed that the Mayor should be able to attend all meetings as ex-officio member, but not be able to vote.

Section 3-3 (Appointments by the Mayor). Line 4 change the word from "review by the city council..." to "confirm" by the city council...

Line 15 (Department heads may be removed at the sole discretion of the mayor.) The committee recommends this be stricken from this section.

#### Section 3-4 (Temporary Appointment to City Offices)

As discussed in the January 6, 2014 meeting, the Committee approved that the Clerk is elected by the City Council; and, the Treasurer/Collector of Taxes, the Auditor, and the Administrative Officers be appointed by the Mayor.

Discussion on number day the vacancy can be filled. Question whether or not it is 60 day appointments with 150 days maximum. No decision on this issue.

Section 3-6 (Approval of Mayor, Veto) Discussion was held on Line 12 through 16. “If the city council, notwithstanding such disapproval by the mayor, shall again pass the order, ordinance, resolution or vote by 2/3 vote of the full council, it shall then be deemed in force, notwithstanding the failure of the mayor to approve the same”. Committee recommended the 2/3 vote.

Section 3-9 (Vacancy in Office of Mayor) The Committee recommended that whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of mayor by death, removal, resignation or any other reason during the 1<sup>st</sup> through 41<sup>st</sup> months of the term....the city council shall call a special election.....

If a vacancy occurs during the 42<sup>nd</sup> month through the end of the term....the president of the city council shall become acting mayor....

#### ARTICLE 4 - SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Section 4-1 (Composition; Term of Office; Eligibility)

The committee recommends that staggered terms to be left in as is written now.

(b) Term of Office – Committee recommends 4 year term for each elected school committee member.

Section 4-2 (School Committee Chair and Vice Chair)

The Mayor if the Chair of the School Committee. The Committee recommends that there should be a Vice Chair with a one-year appointment.

Section 4-5 (School Committee Powers and Duties)

Committee agrees to leave this section as is written.

Chair Boucher is in the process of arranging for a public meeting in mid-February.

Discussion will be held on administrative organization of the city, financial procedures, elections article, and citizen participation provision at another meeting. The city does not have recall policies now. Discussion will also be held on initiative referendum.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2014 at 5:00 P.M., in the First Floor Conference Room at the City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tanya Barnett  
Secretary