

**THE VILLAGE OF DEXTER
CITY CHARTER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014 MEETING**

A. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Chairman Hansen at the Copeland Board Room located at 7714 Ann Arbor Street in Dexter, Michigan.

B. ROLL CALL: Phil Arbour, Jack Donaldson, John Hansen, Matt Kowalski, Mary- Ellen Miller, Thom Phillips, Michael Raatz, and James Smith. Phil Mekas was absent.

Also present: Courtney Nicholls, Assistant Village Manager and Carol Jones, Village Clerk, Jim Carson and Donna Fisher, Village Trustees; Lee Knapp, Martha DeCamp, and JD Boydston, residents and Jim Pruitt of the Heritage News.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion Phil Arbour; support Jack Donaldson to approve the agenda with the addition of comments from residents under the Charter Construction section.
Unanimous voice vote approval with Mekas absent.

D. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting – April 2, 2014
Motion Phil Arbour; support Matt Kowalski to approve the minutes as presented.
Unanimous voice vote approval with Mekas absent.

E. NON-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION

Martha DeCamp inquired about a term in the charter – ad valorem and looking for a summary of governance differences between a city and a village. Ms. Nicholls gave the definition for ad valorem and explained that the differences will most likely be highlighted prior to the November election.

Jim Carson of thanked all of the Commissioners for their commitment to the charter preparation.

Donna Fisher, JD Boydston and Lee Knapp also expressed thanks to the Commissioners for their work.

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

G. CHARTER CONSTRUCTION

1. Final Review of Proposed Charter

Reviewed the prepared comments from Daryl Albright and responses from Attorney Tom Ryan. Many of the comments had already been corrected or addressed. Motion Mary-Ellen Miller; support Jack Donaldson to remove the name of Sun Times from Section 16.05 (a) and add the wording “official paper of record for the Village of Dexter”.

Unanimous voice vote approval with Mekas absent.

Reviewed the prepared comments from JD Boydston and responses from Attorney Tom Ryan. Mr. Boydston was present and his comments were discussed. The following changes were agreed upon: (a) Section 9.09 change the last line to read...”The auditor’s audited financial statements shall be made available to the public in such form as will disclose pertinent facts concerning the activities and finances of the city government.” (b) Section 10.20 add the word tax between property and is to read...”The City Treasurer may also sue the person to whom a personal property tax is assessed, in accordance with the powers granted by state law.” (c) Section 12.08 change the last line the section from... “or for any other purpose permitted by state law” to read “in accordance with Section 12.03”. Changes agreed upon by commissioners.

Motion Mary-Ellen Miller; support Phil Arbour to add the term ad valorem to the list of definitions in Section 15.11.

Unanimous voice vote approval with Mekas absent.

Also suggested was to place quotation marks around the word estoppel in Section 15.11 (h).

2. Consideration of: Resolution to send the draft to the Attorney General

Motion Phil Arbour; support James Smith at the April 9, 2014 meeting of the Charter Commission it was resolved, that the Charter Commission of the Village of Dexter does hereby adopt the foregoing proposed City of Dexter Charter and the Clerk of this Commission is hereby instructed to transmit the same to the office of the honorable Richard Snyder, Governor of the State of Michigan in accordance with the provisions of the statute, for his approval.

Ayes: John Hansen, Philip Arbour, Jack Donaldson, Matthew Kowalski, Mary-Ellen Miller, Thomas Phillips; Michael Raatz and James Smith.

Nays: None

Absent: Phillip Mekas

Motion carries.

3. Consideration of: Cancellation of remaining April meetings

Motion Michael Raatz; support Matt Kowalski to cancel the remaining April meetings.

Unanimous voice vote with Mekas absent.

I. OTHER ITEMS AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONERS

None

J. AGENDA PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held once feedback is received from the Attorney General.

K. NON-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION

None

L. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Phil Arbour; support James Smith to adjourn at 7:24 PM.

Unanimous voice vote approval with Mekas absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol J. Jones
Clerk, Village of Dexter

Approved for Filing: June 18, 2014