

**THE VILLAGE OF DEXTER
CITY CHARTER COMMISSION**

Thursday, September 11, 2014

******* 6:30 pm – Special Meeting *******

DEXTER SENIOR CENTER – 7720 ANN ARBOR STREET

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
1. Special Meeting – August 7, 2014

D. NON-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION
Those addressing the Commission will state their name, and address. This section is limited to 5-minutes per participant or 10-minutes for group representatives.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Review of Educational Material

F. NON-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION
Those addressing the Commission will state their name, and address. This section is limited to 5-minutes per participant or 10-minutes for group representatives.

G. ADJOURNMENT
Adjournment will be at or before 8:30 p.m. unless a continuation is ordered by a majority vote of the Commission.

**THE VILLAGE OF DEXTER
CITY CHARTER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2014 MEETING**

A. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Chairman Hansen at the Copeland Board Room located at 7714 Ann Arbor Street in Dexter, Michigan.

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

Also present: Courtney Nicholls, Acting Village Manager

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion Phil Arbour; support James Smith to approve the agenda as presented. Unanimous voice vote approval with Donaldson, Kowalski and Phillips absent.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting – June 18, 2014

Motion James Smith; support Phil Arbour to approve the minutes as presented. Unanimous voice vote approval with Donaldson, Kowalski and Phillips absent.

D. NON-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION

None

E. NEW BUSINESS

Motion James Smith, support Michael Raatz to confirm that the number of votes that each voter shall be allowed to cast for the City Council race shall be six. Unanimous voice vote approval with Donaldson, Kowalski and Phillips absent.

Motion by Phil Arbour, support James Smith that in accordance with Section 4.18 of the draft City Charter if the third and fourth highest vote getter in the City Council race receive the same number of votes the recipient of the three and one year term shall be determined by lot.

Unanimous voice vote approval with Donaldson, Kowalski and Phillips absent.

F. NON-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION

None

G. ADJOURNMENT

Motion James Smith; support Phil Mekas to adjourn at 6:25 PM.

Unanimous voice vote approval with Donaldson, Kowalski and Phillips absent.

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney Nicholls
Acting Village Manager, Village of Dexter

Approved for Filing:

Proposed City of Dexter Charter

Table of Contents/Highlights from Each Section of the Draft Charter

Preamble – This is a general statement that serves as the introduction to the document.

Powers of the City – This section establishes the boundaries as those set by the Boundary Commission and provides broad language that states that the city will take on the powers allowed by State Law.

City Council – This section outlines the powers, duties and terms of City Council. To run for an elected position a person must be a resident of the city for a minimum of one year prior to the date of the election. Terms will remain four years for Mayor and City Council. The City Clerk has been changed from an elected to appointed position. This section also outlines the procedure for adopting ordinances.

Administrative Services – This section creates the position and outlines the duties of the City Manager, Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor, Attorney, and Planning and Zoning Administrator. It also establishes the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals and requires that the city provide police and fire protection. Police and fire protection can continue to be provided by contract (as it is now with the Washtenaw County Sheriff and Dexter Area Fire Department). Other positions and boards can be established by Council as needed.

Financial Management – This section outlines the process for adopting the annual budget, making amendments to the budget and creating a Capital Improvement Plan.

Elections – This section establishes the election procedure for the city. Much of this section is dictated by State Law. Due to State Law city elections will be held in November of odd years. Mayor and council positions will remain non-partisan. Candidates are required to get the signatures of 15 registered voters to be eligible to file for elected office.

Taxation – This section states that the millage rate cannot exceed 17.5 mills, of which a maximum of 12.5 mills can be for operating and 5 mills for streets. The actual millage rate will be set by the City Council each year. The other sections establish the procedure for assessing property and collecting taxes, which is largely dictated by State Law.

Special Assessments – This section provides that the City Council is responsible for establishing an ordinance that outlines the procedure for the creation of special assessment districts.

Borrowing – This section provides guidance on borrowing money, including requiring public notice and ensuring that the funds are used only for the project they were borrowed to support.

Purchases, Sales, Contract and Leases – This section addresses purchasing and establishes the rules for bidding and entering into contracts.

Utilities, Franchises and Permits – This section establishes that the city has a right to own public utilities (currently water, storm sewer and sanitary sewer) and enter into franchise agreements.

Miscellaneous – This section covers general topics such as definitions and the process for charter amendments.

Transition – This section explains the steps necessary for the final transition from the village to the city, including the establishment of the initial terms of office for the elected officials.