

**THE VILLAGE OF DEXTER
CITY CHARTER COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2013**

A. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairman Hansen at the Creekside Cafeteria located at 2615 Baker Road in Dexter, Michigan.

B. ROLL CALL: Phil Arbour, Jack Donaldson, John Hansen, Matt Kowalski, Mary- Ellen Miller, Thom Phillips, Michael Raatz, and James Smith. Absent – Phillip Mekas. (Arrived at 6:36 PM)

Also present: Courtney Nicholls, Assistant Village Manager; Carol Jones, Village Clerk; Joe Semifero, Village Trustee; and Mary Fialkowski, Village resident.

At this point, Chairman Hansen moved up item I-1, the Agenda Template, for discussion. Discussion included but was not limited to following the basic format of the Council agenda with some changes; use of pre-arranged participation and public hearings; and timing as to when items will come back before the commission as in the second reading.

Motion Phil Arbour; second Michael Raatz to accept the proposed format of the agenda.

Prior to the vote on the motion, a discussion was held on the amount of time allowed for speaking at the meetings with the suggestion that individuals or groups who speak during the pre-arranged participation may not speak on the same topic at a public hearing but could address the commission at the non-arranged portion or submit written comment to be included with the packet.

Motion Phil Arbour; support Michael Raatz to approve the amended Agenda Template with the addition of addressing the commission.
Unanimous voice vote approval.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion James Smith; support Phillip Mekas to approve the agenda for December 4, 2013.
Unanimous voice vote approval.

D. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting – November 18, 2013

Motion Jack Donaldson; support Phil Arbour to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 18, 2013 as presented.
Unanimous voice vote approval.

E. PREARRANGED PARTICIPATION

None

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

I. OTHER ITEMS AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONERS

1. Consideration of: Agenda Template (see above)
2. Consideration of: Rules of Procedures

Discussion followed on the rules of procedures. The following items were considered:

- Amend the rules of procedures that the commissioners agree to serve without compensation.
- A budget be developed for the Commission.
- Vacancy on the Commission.

Motion Mary-Ellen Miller; support Jack Donaldson to fill a vacancy the Commission will advertise the opening via the Village e-mail update, Facebook page and website as well as in print in the Village's paper of record, The Sun Times News. Applications will be received and reviewed by the Commission. A nomination and selection process will occur at the Commission meeting. The affirmative vote of five member's shall be required to fill a vacancy.

Unanimous voice vote approval.

Motion Jack Donaldson; support James Smith to fill a vacancy if members on the Commission fall below seven.

Unanimous voice vote approval

Motion James Smith; support Phil Arbour to pass the amended Rules of Procedure on compensation, budget, vacancies, and amount of time allocated for speaking at the meetings of the Charter Commission.

Unanimous voice vote approval.

3. Discussion of: Draft Timeline to the November 2014 Election

Motion James Smith; support Phil Arbour that we adopt the proposed Draft Timeline as the Timeline for the November 2014 Election.

Unanimous voice vote approval.

G. CHARTER CONSTRUCTION – FIRST READINGS

1. Consideration of: Using the National Civic League Model Charter as a Template

Motion James Smith; support Phillip Mekas to use the National Civic League Model as a template for the City of Dexter Charter.
Unanimous voice vote approval.

2. Discussion of: Charter Preamble

Discussion followed and the following is what was agreed upon: *We the people of the city of Dexter, under the constitution and laws of the state of Michigan, in order to secure the benefits of local self-government and to provide for an honest and accountable government do hereby adopt this charter and confer upon the city the following powers subject to the following restrictions, and prescribed by the following procedures and governmental structure. By this action, we secure the benefits of home rule and affirm the values of representative democracy, professional management, effective political leadership, citizen participation, diversity and inclusiveness and regional cooperation.*

3. Discussion of: Powers of the City

Discussion followed as what to include or limit as the powers of the city. The following was agreed upon under the powers of the city.

Section 1.01 Powers of the City.

The city shall have all powers possible for a city to have under the constitution and laws of this state as fully and completely as though they were specifically enumerated in this charter.

Section 1.02 Construction

The powers of the city under this charter shall be construed liberally in favor of the city, and the specific mention of particular powers in the charter shall not be construed as limiting in any way the general power granted in this article.

Section 1.03 Intergovernmental Relations.

The city may participate by contract or otherwise with any governmental entity of this state or states of the United States in the performance of any activity which one or more of such entities has the authority to undertake.

H. CHARTER CONSTRUCTION – SECOND READINGS

None

J. AGENDA PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT MEETING

1. Proposed Budget for the Charter Commission
2. Article 2 of Charter – Council

Motion Phil Arbour; support Phillip Mekas to include the following two items in the December 11, 2013 meeting agenda: a proposed budget for the Charter Commission and to begin work on Article 2 of the charter.
Unanimous voice vote approval.

K. NON-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION

Joe Semifero, Village Trustee, spoke of the Village's pension and retirement planning and that the Village does have an unfunded liability with these plans and that they are dependent upon the market. These issues could be a lot easier to deal with if included in the charter. He also stated to be careful of putting things into ordinances versus putting them into a charter as ordinances can be more easily changed than a charter.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Motion James Smith; support Phillip Mekas to adjourn at 8:10 PM.
Unanimous voice vote approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol J. Jones
Clerk, Village of Dexter

Approved for Filing: December 11, 2013