

CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GEORGIA

Charter Commission

August 1, 2022, 6:00 PM
City Hall, 5440 Fulton Industrial Blvd., South Fulton, GA 30336



William "Bill" Edwards, Chair
Judge Kenya Johnson, Vice Chair
Benny Crane
Dedrain "Dee" Franklin
Doree Henry
John Herring
Daphne Jordan
Cecily Cole Martin
Suzanne Ockleberry
Marshall J. Taggart, Jr.
Emilia C. Walker

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Approval of Meeting Agenda
6. Approval of 7/19/2022 Meeting Minutes
7. Discussion: City Charter Sections 1.10 -3.30
8. Open Discussion
9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 16, 2022, 6:30 PM

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City Charter Commission
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August 1, 2022



Attendees:

- Benny Crane**
- William “Bill” Edwards, Chair**
- Dedrain “Dee” Franklin**
- Doree Henry (Arrived at 6:12 PM)**
- John Herring**
- Judge Kenya Johnson, Vice Chair**
- Daphne Jordan**
- Cecily Cole Martin**
- Suzanne Ockleberry**
- Marshall J. Taggart, Jr.**

Staff:

- Corey Adams, Sr., City Clerk**
- Reginald McClendon, Assistant City Attorney**
- Katherine Vernet, Assistant City Attorney**
- Renardo Paschal, Deputy City Clerk**

Meeting Summary Minutes

Chair Edwards called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

The invocation was provided by Mr. Crane.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited unison.

The roll call was conducted. New appointee Emilia Walker was present at the beginning of the meeting but left due to an emergency.

The oath for membership on the Commission was administered to Daphne Jordan and Doree Henry.

Mr. Crane moved the approval of the July 19, 2022 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taggart. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Taggart moved the approval of the meeting agenda as printed. Ms. Jordan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Crane moved that Corey Adams, City Clerk serve as the parliamentarian for the Charter Commission. The motion was second by Mr. Herring. The motion was approved 8-2. Ms. Ockleberry and Ms. Franklin voted in opposition.

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Ms. Jordan began the discussion with comments regarding Section 1.12 (10) Ethics.

Ms. Ockleberry noted that her comments for Sections 1-3 were provided in SharePoint prior to the meeting.

Ms. Ockleberry moved that a map of the City indicating the boundaries of the City (including street-level detail) should be included in Section 1.11 as Appendix A for the simplicity of understanding for the general public. The motion was seconded by Judge Johnson. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Ockleberry recommended that the Commission review Section 1.12 (b.1) and (b.9). Ms. Ockleberry expressed an opinion that the two sections were similar and b.1 may be able to be consolidated into b.9. After further discussion, the Commission decided not to combine the sections and leave them separate.

Ms. Ockleberry recommended that the Commission review Section 1.12 (b.40.A). Discussion was conducted regarding whether millage rate limits and whether the five-year prohibition against changing the millage rate should be removed.

Mr. Taggart moved that b.40.A be amended to include the language “lower or higher” as follows:

(A) For all years, the millage rate imposed for ad valorem taxes on real property for operating budget purposes shall not exceed 13.469 unless a “*lower or higher*” limit is recommended by resolution

Ms. Henry seconded the motion. After further discussion, Mr. Taggart withdrew his motion.

Mr. Crane requested that the Commission be provided all Charter amendments made since the adoption of the original Charter.

Chair Edwards recommended that the Commission review Section 2.11 to consider adding a requirement for the mayor and councilmembers to provide their legal address at least once per year.

Judge Johnson moved that a new section (h) is added to Section 2.11 that requires that the mayor and city councilmembers submit at least once per year on or before June 30 their current legal residential address to the City Clerk to continuously establish their city residency.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Henry. Ms. Jordan offered a friendly amendment to the motion to require proof of residency. The amendment was accepted by the maker of the motion. The motion was approved 8-1-1. Ms. Ockleberry voted in opposition. Mr. Taggart abstained.

Mr. Crane moved that a new section (i) is added to Section 2.11 that identifies the acceptable documents required for proof of residency mentioned in the new section (h) as previously

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approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Henry. A suggestion was made to table this discussion until proper language could be drafted for consideration. Mr. Crane withdrew his motion.

Ms. Ockleberry recommended that the Commission review Section 2.10 (a). Discussion was conducted regarding whether an at-large councilmember should be considered.

Ms. Ockleberry moved that a councilmember at-large is added to Section 2.10 (a) to read as follows, "(a) ... shall be vested in a city council to be composed of a part-time mayor and seven part-time councilmembers of which one will be at-large." The motion was seconded by Mr. Herring. Ms. Ockleberry provided the reasoning that one member of the City Council will be at-large and have the entire city as a consideration as opposed to just representing one district. Mr. Herring withdrew his second. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Chair Edwards recommended that the Commission review Section 2.12 (c) for discussion regarding vacancies created on the city council.

Judge Johnson moved that Section 2.12 (c) is amended to add language that allows the city council to appoint an interim councilperson until the next legal election can be held. The motion was seconded by Mr. Herring. The motion was approved. 5-3-2. Ms. Jordan, Ms. Henry and Mr. Crane voted in opposition. Ms. Ockleberry and Mr. Taggart abstained.

Ms. Henry moved a substitute motion that Section 2.12 (c) is amended to add the wording "or more" to the section as follows: "...however, if such vacancy occurs within 12 months 'or more' of the expiration of the expiration of the term of office..." The motion was seconded by Mr. Taggart. The motion failed 4-6. Chair Edwards, Judge Johnson, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Ockleberry, Ms. Martin and Mr. Crane voted in opposition.

Ms. Ockleberry recommended that members use SharePoint or an e-mail to provide their comments prior to the meeting.

Judge Johnson moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ockleberry. The motion was approved by unanimous consent. The meeting concluded at 8:02 PM.

Note: Video of the meeting is available on Youtube and verbatim minutes are being developed.