

CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GEORGIA
City Charter Commission
City Hall, 5440 Fulton Industrial Blvd., South Fulton, GA 30336
September 6, 2022



Attendees: **Benny Crane**
 William “Bill” Edwards, Chair
 John Herring
 Cecily Cole Martin
 Marshall J. Taggart, Jr. (Arrived at 6:16 PM)

Staff: **Corey Adams, Sr., City Clerk**
 Reginald McClendon, Assistant City Attorney
 Katherine Vernet, Assistant City Attorney

Meeting Summary Minutes

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

The invocation was provided by Assistant Chaplain Pastor Barbara McKee.

Chairman Edwards asked for a moment of silence in observance of the passing of the mother of Dedrain “Dee” Franklin.

The roll call was conducted. Dedrain “Dee” Franklin, Doree Henry, Judge Kenya Johnson, Daphne Jordan and Suzanne Ockleberry were absent. A quorum was not present.

Chairman Edwards began the discussion with Section 4.13 regarding the City Clerk. Chairman Edwards recommended that the City Clerk be placed back under direct supervision of the City Council as opposed to the City Manager. Chairman Edwards shared a document outlining several reasons for the change. Additionally, Chairman Edwards advise that the City Council was also taking similar action at its next regular Meeting. Chairman Edwards asked the Clerk to note to bring this item up for a vote when a quorum is present.

Mr. Crane discussed the current selection process for the City Attorney which began at Section 4.12.

Chairman Edwards discussed the selection process for pro tem judges which is covered in Section 5.11.

Mr. Taggart questioned whether the body was content with the City Manager selecting the Finance Director. (Section 4.14) Chairman Edwards recommended that the body vote on whether the City Council should approve department directors. Mr. Crane expressed concern about maintaining a city manager-city council form of government. Chairman Edwards asked the Clerk to note to bring this item up for a vote when a quorum is present.

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Chairman Edwards informed the body that the Legislative Delegation has requested the recommendation of the Charter Commission as soon as possible for consideration during the pre-filing period for the next Legislative Session. The body agreed to work to complete the Charter review by the October 4, 2022 and host a public hearing on the proposed changes at the October 18, 2022.

A discussion was held regarding Section 6.29 Audits. The discussion involved the types of audits the City currently has performed on its finances.

A discussion was held regarding approval of contracts in Section 6.30. The body noted that a recommendation will be made to encourage the enforcement of this section consistent with the Charter. Mr. Crane recommended that the body develop a list of concerns or recommendations to the administration for improvement (executive Summary). Mr. Crane indicated that some discussion items are not in the purview of the Charter Commission.

Chairman Edwards discussed Section 6.32 regarding the disposition of city property -feasible versus non-feasible. Mr. Taggart requested that the language referenced by Chairman Edwards is provided to the body as a reference.

Chairman Edwards discussed the Ethics Complaint process as outlined in Section 6-A.1. The body asked the Clerk to note to bring this item up for a vote when a quorum is present. Recommendations were made to define the selection process to include two selections by each councilmember and one appointment by the mayor. The selection by each councilmember should be one attorney and one citizen. The mayor's selection may be an attorney or a citizen.

Chairman Edwards discussed Section 7.18 regarding the empaneling of the Charter Commission. The concern expressed was whether the Commission should meet every 5 years. Chairman Edwards asked the Clerk to note to bring this item up for a vote when a quorum is present.

Chairman Edwards adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.

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