

**CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GEORGIA**  
**City Charter Commission**  
**City Hall, 5440 Fulton Industrial Blvd., South Fulton, GA 30336**  
**August 16, 2022**



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**Attendees:**           **Benny Crane**  
                              **William “Bill” Edwards, Chair**  
                              **Dedrain “Dee” Franklin**  
                              **John Herring**  
                              **Judge Kenya Johnson, Vice Chair**  
                              **Daphne Jordan**  
                              **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

Chairman Edwards called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

The invocation was provided by Mr. Crane.

The roll call was conducted. Doree Henry and Cecily Cole Martin were absent. Daphne Jordan was present at the beginning of the meeting but left the meeting early.

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

Ms. Ockleberry moved the approval of the August 1, 2022, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Crane. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Edwards began the discussion regarding reconsideration of the topic of at-large councilmembers.

Ms. Ockleberry moved that Section 2.10A is revised to read that there shall be a part-time mayor and seven part-time councilmembers of which two will be at-large. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taggart. The motion was approved 7-1. Mr. Crane voted in opposition.

Mr. Crane moved that previous vote be reconsidered. The motion did not receive a second. The motion died.

Mr. Crane requested a point of personal privilege and explained the potential issues with changing from districts to at-large positions. The statement was made for the record.

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Ms. Ockleberry moved that residency criteria is not included in the Charter and that it remains as it is because of the ability for one to file an ethics complaint or action in Superior Court if a violation is perceived to have occurred. The motion was ruled out of order by the Assistant City Attorney; thus Chairman Edwards ruled the motion has died.

Mr. Taggart moved that the Charter include the residency criteria as used by the Fulton County School System as acceptable proof of residency for the mayor and councilmembers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Herring. The motion was approved 7-0-1. Ms. Ockleberry abstained.

Ms. Ockleberry moved that Section 2.14 is amended to provide that compensation and expenses for the mayor and council will be identified and listed in the Charter. The motion did not receive a second and died.

Chairman Edwards discussed the position of City Clerk under Section 4.13. Chairman Edwards recommended that the City Clerk is placed back under the City Council as opposed to the City Manager. This discussion was paused until a later time.

Judge Johnson moved that Section 2.16 A is amended to remove the words “mayor and councilmember.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Taggart. Ms. Ockleberry moved that a substitute motion be made to amend the section to remove “other appointed officers” only from the section. Judge Johnson acknowledged a conflict in the Charter and agreed with the rationale as presented by Ms. Ockleberry and seconded the substitute motion. The substitute motion was approved 6-0-1. Ms. Franklin abstained.

Mr. Crane inquired as to what section of the Charter can be amended to address violations by “other appointed officers.” as outlined in the Charter section 2.15. The Assistant City Attorney requested time to research what officials are specifically covered in State law and reply to Mr. Crane. Chairman Edwards suggested that the body revisit this area after the legal department conducts their research. Ms. Franklin and Ms. Ockleberry had additional areas to discuss in this section.

Judge Johnson recommended that the Commission review Section 3.13 B. Judge Johnson suggested that only 5 members of council can call a special called meeting and delete the mayor. Judge Johnson withdrew the motion.

Ms. Ockleberry recommended that the Commission review for consistency the number of councilmembers needed to call for a meeting. In 3.13 B, the requirement is 5 members and 3.18 only requires 4 members. Ms. Ockleberry moved that the requirement to call a meeting is changed to 4, as opposed to 5. Ms. Ockleberry withdrew the motion.

Ms. Ockleberry moved that in Section 3.22 B10, that it be stricken to remove the authority of the mayor to select the city manager, city attorney, city clerk and chief judge. In its place, a personnel

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committee should be formed to make a recommendation. The motion did not receive a second and died.

Judge Johnson moved that Section 3.15 is amended to prohibit abstentions as choice in the voting structure. The motion did not receive a second and died.

Ms. Ockleberry moved that Section 3.23 B1 is amended to mandate that if there is recommendation to remove the City Manager, it must be done at a regular scheduled meeting with proper notification to the public. The motion did not receive a second and died.

Ms. Ockleberry moved that Section 3.25 1 is amended to add language that specifying that city employees' salaries and compensation would be set according to the city budget and pay and classification plan. The Assistant City Attorney informed Ms. Ockleberry that this action is covered by current city ordinance. The motion was withdrawn.

Ms. Ockleberry moved that throughout the Charter for consistency of language, especially Section 3.25, the term suspend or terminate should be used instead of suspend or removal. Judge Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-2. Chairman Edwards and Mr. Crane voted in opposition.

Ms. Ockleberry outlined several areas of the Charter where typographical errors were present, specifically sections 2.16A and 3.15A. Chairman Edwards advised that a motion is not necessary and recommended that members identify errors in SharePoint and corrections will be made in the final document.

Mr. Taggart inquired about Section 3.28 and what are the consequences for violation. Mr. Taggart moved that violations of this section are spelled out in the section as an ethics violation and a reference made to Section 6-A1. The motion was seconded by Judge Johnson. The motion was approved 4-3. Mr. Crane, Ms. Ockleberry and Ms. Franklin voted in opposition.

Ms. Franklin moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ockleberry. The motion was approved by unanimous consent. The meeting concluded at 8:22 PM.

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