

**CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GEORGIA**  
**City Charter Commission**  
**City Hall, 5440 Fulton Industrial Blvd., South Fulton, GA 30336**  
**October 4, 2022**



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**Attendees:**            **Benny Crane**  
                              **William “Bill” Edwards, Chair**  
                              **Dedrain “Dee” Franklin**  
                              **John Herring**  
                              **Judge Kenya Johnson, Vice Chair**  
                              **Daphne Jordan (Present via Zoom at 6:07 PM)**  
                              **Cecily Cole Martin**

**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 6:00 PM.

The roll call was conducted. A quorum was present. Doree Henry, Marshall J. Taggart, Jr. and Suzanne Ockleberry were absent.

The invocation was administered by Mr. Crane.

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

Mr. Crane moved the approval of the September 20, 2022, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Herring. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Edwards requested that the clerk review the recommended cumulative changes to the city charter as approved at the September 20, 2022 meeting.

The Clerk distributed a summary of all recommendations which totaled 12. Each item was reviewed by the body.

Section 1.11 - No changes were recommended

Section 2.10 A - No changes were recommended

Section 2.11(Recommendation 1) - No changes were recommended

Section 2.11(Recommendation 2) – Suggestion was made to combine with previous recommendation listed above for 2.11

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Section 2.12 (c) – Judge Johnson recommended that language is added to specify that in the event of a vacancy, each councilmember may recommend no more than one nomination for the vacant position, the nomination must be district specific, unless the vacancy occurs in one of the at-large districts and each nominee must be eligible to run for office as prescribed in Section 2.10. The body concurred with the recommendations.

Section 2.16 A – Judge Johnson moved that failing to maintain residency in the city is added as an additional reason for removal from office. Attorney McClendon affirmed that this provision is provided for in State law; however, there is no prohibition for including the item in this section. The motion was seconded by Ms. Franklin. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Crane raised an inquiry regarding the reasoning behind the striking of “other appointed officers” from this section. The clerk read the summary minutes of the action previously taken. The clerk agreed to provide the verbatim minutes for the body to refresh their recollection regarding the action taken.

Mr. Crane moved that the body amend the previous action and add “or other appointed officers as provided in the charter”. The motion died for lack of a second.

Section 3.25- No changes were recommended

Section 3.28 - No changes were recommended

Section 4.13- No changes were recommended

Section 4.14 - Chair Edwards recommended that the body include the Human Resources Director and the Assistant City Manager in the charter in the same manner as the finance director is selected in Section 4.14. Chair Edwards made a motion to add a section to the charter for the positions of Assistant City Manager and Human Resources Director. The motion was seconded by Mr. Herring. The motion was approved unanimously. The language for each position will be “The city council shall confirm the appointment of the Finance Director, Human Resources Director and the Assistant City Manager by the city manager” in each section.

Section 5.11 - Judge Johnson moved that language is added to require a residency requirement in the City of South Fulton for the chief judge of the municipal court. The motion was seconded by Ms. Franklin. The motion was approved 5-1. Chair Edwards voted in opposition.

Section 6-A.1 – Judge Johnson moved that Section 6.A.1 is amended to add a requirement that to file an ethics complaint in the City of South Fulton, the filer must be a resident, an elected official or the city clerk of the City of South Fulton. The motion was seconded by Ms. Franklin. The motion was approved unanimously.

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In response to Mr. Crane’s inquiry, Attorney Vernet confirmed that Section 6-A.12 spells out the disciplinary actions afforded to the ethics panel upon determination of a violation of the ethics code.

Mr. Crane also noted for the record that language should be added to state that the clerk “shall” initiate an ethics complaint if a violation occurs. No action was taken.

Section 6-A.4 - Judge Johnson moved that line e of Section 6-A.4 is amended to reflect that each ethics panel have at least one attorney and one citizen on each ethics panel. The motion was seconded by Mr. Crane. The motion was approved unanimously.

Judge Johnson moved that line e, (2) of Section 6-A.4 is amended to strike “with no less than three of those years dedicated to general civil litigation practice.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Crane. The motion was approved unanimously.

Section 7.18 - No changes were recommended

The city clerk reminded the body about the prior discussion that the next meeting will include a public hearing on October 18, 2022. Chair Edwards requested that notification is widely disseminated to the public and that the document is available for public review. Mr. Crane requested that the clerk reach out to past citizens who have provided public comment and invite them to return. Chair Edwards requested that the clerk clearly identify the public comment rules for the hearing to include:

- Two minutes per speaker
- No sharing of time
- Comments must be germane to the charter
- Limit public hearing to one hour

Mr. Crane moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion was approved by unanimous consent. The meeting concluded at 7:19 PM.

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