

CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GEORGIA
City Charter Commission
City Hall, 5440 Fulton Industrial Blvd., South Fulton, GA 30336
October 18, 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 (Arrived at 6:06 PM)**
- 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 6:00 PM.

The roll call was conducted. A quorum was present. Cecily Cole Martin was absent.

The invocation was administered by Mr. Crane.

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

Mr. Taggart moved the approval of the October 4, 2022, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Herring. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Edwards opened the public hearing. Speakers were allotted two minutes each. Three speakers provided public comment. Chairman Edwards requested that the City Clerk read the charge as listed in Section 7.18 of the City Charter.

Public Comment

Councilmember Helen Z. Willis

Section 7.18; Requested that language is included to specify that no current city elected official should be able to appoint themselves to the Charter Commission.

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Appointment of Department Heads: Recommends that the City Manager be allowed to build their team as they deem appropriate. Submitted research regarding organizational structures of various manager-council forms of government.

Michael Venable

Section 210.A: Expressed opposition to two at-large districts unless all council districts are made to be at large subject to vote by the entire city.

Section 4.14: Expressed concern that only certain positions were selected for review and approval by the City Council. If this review is to occur, all department heads should be reviewed and confirmed by the City Council.

Councilmember Catherine Rowell (written comment)

Section 210.A: Expressed concern regarding having part time councilmembers given that the work and time is often 30-40 hours per week.

The Commission debated part time versus full time councilmembers and whether it was appropriate. Several Commission members suggested that if this is the will of the City Council to transition to full time status, this action can be accomplished through Home Rule procedures.

Ms. Ockleberry moved that Section 4.11 (d) is amended to prevent any city elected official from serving on any board, commission, or authority by striking the language prior to the first comma in this section. Judge Johnson seconded the motion. The City Attorney opined that this would not be the appropriate section to express the Commission's intent.

Ms. Ockleberry amended her motion to add the language in Section 4.11(d) excluding the language prior to the first comma into Section 7.18. The amended motion was seconded by Mr. Taggart. The motion was approved 8-0-1. Judge Johnson abstained.

Chairman Edwards advised that the Commission would review the proposed changes and allow members who may have missed prior meetings to provide input for the Commission's consideration.

Ms. Ockleberry moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Henry. The motion was approved by unanimous consent. The meeting concluded at 6:44 PM.

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