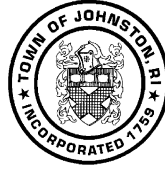


Town of Johnston Charter Review Commission

Richard DelFino, Jr. Chairman
Fred Iafrate, Vice- Chairman
Charles I Ainabe
Joseph Andriole
Ronald Bianchi
Karen Clark, Esq



Nicole Corbin, Esq
Stephen Mandarelli
Susan Mansolillo
Robert Piscione
Taylor Russo
Randy Urena
Arnold Vecchione

Johnston Charter Review Commission

Minutes

January 11, 2024

Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919

I. Meeting Called to Order & Roll Call

Chairman DelFino called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Town Clerk, Vincent Baccari, Jr took a roll call

All members were present except for Ronald Bianchi and Steven Mandarelli

Also, present were: Allan Fung, Esq, Paige Macnie, Esq & Vincent P. Baccari, Jr, Town Clerk

II. New Business

- **Approval of the minutes from the January 4, 2024 meeting (Vote may be taken)**

Fred Iafrate made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 4, 2024 meeting

The motion was seconded by Robert Piscione

Motion carried by unanimous vote

- **Discussion of Article V entitled “Town Clerk” (Votes may be taken)**

Chairman DelFino took each sub-section of Article V individually and asked if there were any recommendations:

Section 5.1 Appointment; term of office: No changes were recommended

Section 5.2 Vacancies: No changes were recommended

Section 5.3 Qualifications: No changes were recommended

Section 5.4 Presiding Officer: No changes were recommended

- **Public Comment on Article V**

There were no comments from the public on Article V

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- **Discussion of Article VI, entitled “Town Solicitor” (Votes may be taken)**

Section 6.1 Appointment; Assistants; term of office: A short discussion ensued regarding if the Solicitor is also the Solicitor for the School Committee

At this point Chairman DeFino had to excuse himself and temporarily relinquished the duties of Chair to the Vice-chair, Fred Iafrate

Section 6.2 Qualifications: No changes were recommended

Section 6.3 Compensation: No changes were recommended

Section 6.4 Duties: No changes were recommended

Section 6.5 Written opinions to be public: It was recommended to remove subsection 6.5 due to a conflict with attorney/client privilege

Section 6.6 Special Powers: A discussion ensued regarding weather to add language pertaining to the School Committee

- **Public Comment on Article VI**

There were no comments from the public on Article VI

- **Discussion of Article VII, entitled “Probate Judge” (Votes may be taken)**

Section 7.1 Appointment; term of office: No changes were recommended

Section 7.2 Qualifications: Discussion ensued regarding removing the requirement of having to be an elector in the Town and placing the word “preferred” in it

Section 7.3 Compensation: A recommendation was made to remove the word “clerk” from the first sentence

Section 7.4 Vacancies: A discussion ensued regarding having the Municipal Court Auxiliary judge fill in for the Probate Judge in case the Probate Judge is not able to temporarily perform his/her duties. It was also discussed to have language to appoint an auxiliary probate judge to be ready on an as needed basis in which the Solicitor would hear cases if both the Probate Judge and Auxiliary judge were not able to perform his/her duties

- **Public Comment on Article VII**

There were no comments from the public on Article VII

- **Discussion regarding scheduling of future meetings and sections to be discussed (Votes may be taken)**

Future dates and potential sections for review for the next meeting were discussed

The next meeting will take place on January 18th, 2024 for the review of Articles VIII & IX

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The meeting after the next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2024

The Chairman noted that the former RI Auditor General, Ernest Almonte has offered to make a presentation before the commission to outline a comparison of salaries of Mayor's and Town Council Members around the State

Joseph Andriole made a motion contact Ernest Almonte for some dates for him to attend a special meeting at which the only item on the agenda will be a presentation for the comparison of compensation and benefits for the positions of mayor and town council

The motion was seconded by Arnold Vecchione and Fred Iafrate

The motion passed by unanimous vote

III. Adjournment

Joeseph. Andriole made a motion to adjourn

The motion was seconded by Susan Mansolillo

The motion passed by unanimous vote

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Submitted by:

Vincent P. Baccari, Jr., Town Clerk