

Village of Oakwood  
Charter Review Commission  
March 10, 2020  
Minutes

Attendance

<b>Jim Climer-Law Dept</b>	Amos Berry Jr-Council President
<b>Noral Copeland-At large</b>	Gloria Blevins-Ward 1
<b>Jackie Graves-Ward 2*</b>	Audrey Severns-Ward 3
<b>Joel Hladky-Ward 4</b>	Andrea Lowe-Mayor
<b>Dan Stanton-Mayor</b>	Deb Hladky-Clerk of Council

*\* Arrived after roll call*

Absent

**Nicole Goode-Ward 5**

**Climer** opened the meeting at 7:03pm

**Mayor** greeted the commission and thanked them for their service. He reviewed distribution facilities which are popping up in communities and do not bring in revenue. He explained 80% of the Village revenue comes from payroll taxes. Property taxes only bring in 5.5% with 70% going to the schools and 22% to the County. We changed the Charter to not permit distribution facilities in the Village. He offered a few suggestions for change to the Charter which will be discussed during the upcoming meetings for consideration of the CRC. He explained the two issues on the May ballot. He further explained a current project which is slated to bring in \$1 million dollars to the Village annually. The developer is donating funds for Oakwood Scholarships and Summer Camp. He thanked the commission again for taking the time to redefine and transform the Charter to be more effective.

**Climer** explained he has come to love this community more and more. Our deadline to be conclude is June 1, 2020. He reviewed the purpose of the CRC and gave some suggested changes the commission will entertain.

Section 6.01 Regular and primary elections – **Climer**: There has been a change in state law. In a presidential year the primary is held in March instead of May.

Section 7.14 Publication – **Climer**: The Clerk suggested amending publication to one place and posting on the Village website instead of the five locations currently. **Clerk**: Most people do not know where the postings are located. She listed the five locations.

Section 8.04 Hearings and Appeals – **Climer**: This provides a right of appeal to any employee terminated or disciplined. Council and I are working our way through the Employee Handbook. Council reaffirmed Oakwood is an at-will employer. The Charter is in opposition to that. Employees do not have the right to appeal to Council. Council can come into play politically, but not legally. There are other legal ramifications. **Berry** asked about at-will. **Climer** explained a person can be terminated for no reason or any reason as long as it is not a prohibited reason, except those who are under the union contract.

Section 10.06 Civil Service and Village Employees – **Climer**: We need to make this consistent.

Article 10 Rezoning Process – **Climer** explained we have a lot of development in the village. The rezoning process is daunting. This process almost cost us very good deals. The process goes to Council for three readings which takes about six weeks, unless special meetings are held. It is referred to the Planning Commission (PC) for a report which includes a 15 day legal notice prior to the public hearing. Council entertains recommendation from PC and a public hearing takes place with a 30 days legal notice. It takes up to six months to a year to get through the process, then the Board of Elections must receive the referendum at least 90 days in advance of the election. We cannot hold a special election any longer, the ballot issue must be on a primary or general election. The publication and election processes are expensive as well. **Severns**: So you are suggesting streamlining the process. **Climer**: Nobody wants to have their vote taken away, but we have two sets of hearings in this process. We are making a recommendation to this commission

to eliminate one of the hearings and possibly allowing Council to pass the legislation under emergency measure and under suspension of the rules by a vote of 75% majority of Council passing it on one reading. This will shorten the process by six weeks.

#### *Other Suggestions*

**Climer:** The Mayor is also suggesting making the pay of a newly elected Mayor less for the first two years. After that, Council makes the decision to bring the pay up to that of an experienced Mayor. Another suggestion is if a sitting Council member runs for a different office, they give up their existing seat. There are a few others. **Joel Hladky** asked if the commission will consider the pros and cons of changes to give a better picture of the changes. **Climer:** I will be happy to do that. You will have a red line copy of changes.

**Climer:** In the next 30 days please go through the Charter and point out things you wish to discuss for possible change. **Copeland** suggested reading through the entire Charter. It is a living document similar to the U.S. Constitution. One section may build on another. One of the last times we met, we went line by line which doesn't have to occur every time the CRC meets, since we meet every five years. **Climer** mentioned much of the Charter is boiler plate and is required by State law. Not all things can or should be changed. I listed my five top priorities. I have three-four more for you to consider. Feel free to bring up other possible changes. That is why we are here.

#### *Meeting Schedule*

**Climer:** Our next meeting is April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The commission agreed to meet the following dates to complete the process.

April 8<sup>th</sup> 7pm

April 22<sup>nd</sup> 7pm

May 6<sup>th</sup> 7pm

May 20<sup>th</sup> 7pm

June 3<sup>rd</sup> 7pm

Meeting adjourned 7:50pm

Submitted by,

Debra Hladky, MMC

Clerk of Council

Charter Review Commission Secretary