

**MANDEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER
MINUTES FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING OF MAY 8, 2014**

The Public Hearing was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Clay Madden at 5:50 p.m.

PRESENT: Clay Madden, Rick Danielson, David Ellis, Carla Buchholz, Ernest Burguieres

ALSO: Mayor Villere, Chief Richard, Edward Deano, Victor Franckiewicz, Louise Kidd, Gretchen McKinney, David Folse, Tammany West, Timothy Dunn, St. Tammany Farmer

Other Topics Without Recommendation

1. Change the City's Fiscal Year

Mr. Danielson proposed changing the fiscal year to January through December. Mr. Oliveri stated that he would need to check with the legislative auditor on the process of how to transition into a new fiscal year. He predicted that the City's audit costs would increase because it is a more popular timeframe for both public and private entities. Mr. Franckiewicz stated that the fiscal year could be changed by ordinance. Mr. Burguieres suggested coordinating the city's fiscal year with the parish cycle. The Mayor stated that he preferred the current September through August cycle. The Council agreed to do further research, through the administration and possibly the MFOC, and if need be, address a change through an ordinance.

2. Council Authority to Call Mayoral Recall Referendum

The charter provides a process to recall any elected official of the city government by the electors of the area under section 6-03. The recall procedure is the same as the general laws of the state, except that the number of electors on a petition to recall, as specified in the charter, shall be twenty-five (25) percent of the total electors of the area. There was no consensus to change this provision in the charter.

3. Lifetime Term Limits for the Council and Mayor

Mr. Madden proposed three terms for life (12 lifetime years) for both the Council and the Mayor. Mr. Franckiewicz stated that prior service could count towards the limit; the provision could be made retroactive if that is what the voters want. The only thing you cannot do retroactively is shrink a current term of elected officials. Mr. Madden stated that his intent, when he introduced this ordinance originally, was to pick a future date and have everyone start at the same time. Mrs. Buchholz stated that she thought the voters should have the right to vote for who they want; case in point this last election where all incumbents lost. Mr. Deano commented that the most recent action on term limits (nationally) has been to strike it down. Of the 21 states with term limits, 6 have been struck down since 2001. Mr. Burguieres stated that ultimately the voters should decide on lifetime term limits; it is a pure democratic action. Mayor Villere stated that if the council creates a new law, they should not include themselves, retroactive terms should apply. Mr. Danielson stated that he would like to eliminate musical chairs and increase the council terms from two to three, but not impose lifetime terms limits. Mr. Franckiewicz stated that this ordinance could stand alone or be combined with the ordinance to eliminate "musical chairs" and extend terms for the council from two to three. Mr. Burguieres suggested applying term limits to appointed positions (Boards and Commissions). Mr. Madden stated that was a separate topic that could be addressed at a later time by ordinance.

4. Charter Protection for the City's Comprehensive Plan

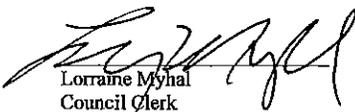
Ms. Becky Rohrbough, Lakeshore Drive resident, stated that she was in favor of including this topic as a charter amendment. She asked if the amendment could also provide charter protection for the city's historic district ordinance. Mr. Franckiewicz stated that this was his suggestion and a question he asked the council during his interviews. Currently there are no mandates that the city have either (comprehensive plan or historic district). Mr. Deano stated that zoning is based off the adoption of a comprehensive plan and allows for Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Franckiewicz stated that there was no council interest for this provision so he did not draft an ordinance for this amendment.

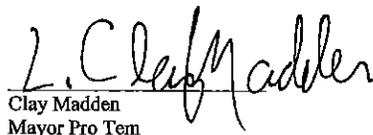
5. City Council Compensation

Mr. Danielson suggested a compensation package that is equal for all five council members, set by ordinance and includes a combination of salary and benefits as determined by each council member. Each council member would be able to determine the percentage of salary and the percentage of health benefits that would make up their total compensation package. Mr. Franckiewicz stated that the current language in section 2-04 refers only to salary and prohibits the current city council from giving itself a raise. The health benefits could be increased or decreased without offending the charter. There are two issues which could be addressed; (1) the definition of compensation and (2) the mechanics of distributing compensation. Benefits could not be cashed out (in the form of a raise in salary) during the current term. However, the compensation package (salary plus benefits) could be addressed by ordinance and take effect during the next term or on July 1, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.


Lorraine Myhal
Council Clerk


Clay Madden
Mayor Pro Tem