

Law & Legislature Committee Meeting

February 27, 2023

Present: Nick Smith, William Carrow II, Shaun Flatter, Ryan Paisley, Mary Ellen DeBenedictis, Recording Secretary Sue Muncey, Town Manager Robert Cote, David Ross, and Jonathan Burnett were in attendance.

Mr. Paisley brought the meeting to order at 8:33 p.m.

Mr. Paisley gave a background on this project. He was assigned this task by the Mayor to revise and update the Town Charter. Mr. Paisley stated he read all the charters from all the municipalities and the State's charter. The intent was not to reinvent the wheel, but to meet the changes of the 21st century. Mr. Paisley thanked the Mayor and the Town Manager for participating in the meetings at the Public Works Building. This consisted of months of researching, planning, and drafting.

Mr. Carrow thanked the Mayor, Mr. Paisley, and Mr. Cote for the hours of work. Mr. Carrow questioned 1.2 Boundaries. We have portions in New Castle County. Should they be included? Mr. Paisley stated that is an excellent point. Mr. Carrow asked about Article 3, Section 3.3 – should we change to three? Mr. Paisley stated that is a difficult area. Mr. Paisley read Title 22 of the Delaware Code - subsection on charter reforms. He recommends running by Scott. Mr. Carrow asked what is the problem with it? Mr. Paisley stated Subchapter 6 – it can be changed, but would be sticky. Reforms need to bring us up to date. Mr. Paisley wouldn't want to sully it by one thing to hold it up. Mr. Carrow stated the other side of the coin – come back in a couple of years later and they asked why didn't you do this before. Mr. Paisley stated that is a valid point. Mr. Carrow asked if Mr. Paisley could have a conversation with our elected officials. Mr. Paisley stated he doesn't have a problem with asking. Mr. Carrow asked about Article 11 fiscal year – changing the fiscal year from July to June. Mr. Smith stated the other side of the sword – accounting audits need to be finished. Mr. Carrow asked about 12.2 live in town limits. Mr. Paisley said it states a domicile. Mr. Smith stated this will go to Scott. Scott will draft a resolution. Mr. Paisley stated it will go to Representative Carson and has to pass by super majority vote.

Mr. Smith made a motion to send the charter as presented in written form to the Town Solicitor. Ms. DeBenedictis seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Paisley for his work.

Mr. Paisley adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Recording Secretary,

Sue Muncey