



January 26, 2017
CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS
Charter Review Commission
3rd Floor Music Hall- City Hall
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY BOB TURNER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**DISCUSSION OF CHARTER PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE ROLE OF COUNTY
SUPERVISORS, ETHICS PROVISIONW, THE CITY
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE THE IDENTIFICATION OF
DEPARTMENTS AND LAND USE BOARDS, VACANCIES, THE
RECREATION COMMISSION AND THE CITY CLERK**

ADJOURN



January 26, 2017
CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS
Charter Review Commission
3rd Floor Music Hall – City Hall
7:00 PM

PRESENT: Ann Casey Bullock
Gordon Boyd
Laura Chodos
Devin Dal Pos
Elio DelSette
Pat Kane
BK Keramati
Robert Kuczynski
Mike Los
Barbara Thomas
Robert Turner

ABSENT: Jeff Altamari
Matt Jones
Minita Sanghvi
Beth Wurtmann

STAFF: Tony Izzo

RECORDING OF PROCEEDING

The proceedings of this meeting were taped for the benefit of the secretary. Because the minutes are not a verbatim record of the proceedings, the minutes are not a word-for-word transcript.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Robert Turner called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Robert Turner opened the meeting for public comment.

Harold Hagemann, 206 Circular Street, Saratoga Springs said he is here tonight to voice support for what the committee members have done and he recognizes the hundreds of hours that the committee has put in to this and he appreciates the work involved. He personally supports the City Manager-Council form; particularly the idea of separating administrative from legislative functions. He supports bringing in a City Manager, an individual with expertise in

management and leadership which is what this City needs. He also supports the idea of 7 districts, 4 from specific neighborhoods and 3 at large. He is also in favor of holding an independent election on this issue. He understands that many people feel that the Tuesday after Memorial Day is not the most opportune; it is the responsibility of the citizens to pay attention and participate. It should not matter when the voting is held. He said he has lived in Saratoga Springs since 1980.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Chair Robert Turner closed the public comment period at 7:08 p.m.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Robert Turner said that the Commission is fortunate to have the assistance of a lot of people in City Hall. Marilyn Rivers, Director of Risk and Safety is helping with the purchasing requirements to hire Robert Batson from the Albany Law School Government Center as our Drafting Attorney, Susan Armstrong has been posting all of the Commission's meeting agendas and minutes and because she is taking another position, Commissioner Madigan has been helping to identify someone else in IT that will continue that process. He thanked Tony Izzo for providing his video equipment and taping the meetings when they are on the third floor of City Hall.

Barbara Thomas asked if there could be a link from the City's website to the Charter Commission's website. Robert Turner said that he would request that. He announced that Rob Kuczynski has been working on setting up a new domain for the Charter Commission's website. Rob Kuczynski said it is www.saratogaCharter.com and before it is up and running, he needs his systems administrator to do the final set up. Pat Kane asked if other websites could have links to the Commission's website and Rob Kuczynski responded that no permission is needed, it is easy to set up a link. Robert Turner commented that the more websites that link to a particular site, the more likely that site will come up in a google search.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission did not approve the minutes.

UPDATES FROM SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRS

BK Keramati said he has nothing new to report, nothing has happened since Tuesday.

DISCUSSION OF POWERS OF THE MAYOR AND APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF A CITY MANAGER

Robert Turner distributed a hand out stating that it essentially summarizes the pros and cons of both forms. It includes a comparison of a pure strong Mayor form with a pure council manager form and this is an ideology that's best reserved for brochures; most governments fall between the two extremes. You want to have a balance between the expertise and special management skills of an administrator with the political and policy leadership skills of a full-time Mayor. While most discussion focuses on the form of government, it is important to note that the form of government shapes the politics we have. This form stresses transactional politics which facilitates brokerage among different interests. The emphasis in a Mayor Council form is political leadership rather than administrative. Regarding the administration itself, it is politically sensitive which is ideal in a Mayor Council form. Responsiveness is often facilitated by political affiliation.

The politics shifts away from an adversarial nature; it looks a lot like the way the politics is between the governor and the legislature in New York State.

Robert Turner explained that the Council City Manager has more collaborative civic authority combined with coordinated institutionalized administration. Everyone gets together in the beginning of the year and determines the priorities and there's an exchange back and forth between the City Manager and the Council and this is the way Jason Molino, City Manager of Batavia, spoke about government, emphasizing neutrally equal access and responsiveness. He spoke of their infrastructure issues stating that focus is on the streets that are the most deteriorated, not on the area where the most votes come from. Robert Turner commented that this is a really important component that is often left out of the discussion on Mayor-Council vs. Council-City Manager.

BK Keramati said he is trying to understand the academic parts of this, political power, different power. He questioned whether it depends on whom the employees report to, who their boss is. If their boss is a professional City Manager and he is devoid of politics, then that would really color the way City Hall works rather than if the boss who hires and fires people is some elected official who is politically put in place.

Robert Turner said that is a fair synopsis. They would say it is transactional politics. In the City Manager form, the emphasis is not on transactional or political sensitivity.

Devin Dal Pos said this is something we should use with the public. It is the best example he has heard that explains how they look at things so differently. Ann Bullock said it makes perfectly good sense that there is a quantitative difference.

Barbara Thomas explained that the City Manager of Batavia described how they use a particular index borrowed from another government entity to measure and rate the roads and conditions and the location of clusters of roads that need similar work because it is more efficient to pave a lot of roads at once. They used really objective data to decide where they were going to concentrate their road improvements. Robert Turner said that their method takes the politics out of the equation and it is a good response to any council member who wants their districts roads to be repaired first.

Pat Kane said if this method was used for other issues, it would be easier for budgeting including fleet management. If you put some science behind this, you know what you have and what needs fixing, it could help you build a realistic budget, not just a budget you want.

Robert Turner said it changes how politics is conducted; it gets away from a politician saying they will take care of certain streets because the residents there support him so when they talk about this collaborative civic authority coordinated institutionalized administration, we ideally get this norm of priorities based on real need. He said that here in this City a politically sensitive administration is the reason that some neighborhoods do not have sidewalks. Gordon Boyd said that some neighborhoods refused to have sidewalks installed. He said that Geyser Crest has no sidewalks and because the streets are narrow, some people have paved a portion of their lots, which was a solution but it was not welcomed by the Southside Neighborhood Association.

Ann Bullock commented that this gives politicians a chance to say no to special requests stating that it is not personal, it is because there are quantitative reasons for what we do and how we do it because there is a system in place to handle those things.

Gordon Boyd said it was insightful that the City Manager of Batavia related City investments to property value explaining that improvements to their City led to repairs and improvements by residents to private property similar to the concept behind the Community Development Block Grant program.

Devin Dal Pos said from a City management standpoint it makes perfect sense. It is also a challenge for us from an outreach perspective to overcome the resistance we are going to get from the politicians' reluctance to release the power they have to cater to those situations.

Ann Bullock said we should be lobbying for the city to adopt a plan like Batavia's. This is the first time we have heard that something like this exists and although there are professionals out there that know about this, somehow it has not filtered into Saratoga Springs because we do not have professionals running it. The other piece is that a program like this would give the politicians cover if they wanted it, to say no without looking like they are blowing someone off. The politician can say we have a process and this is how it works because it is something outside the political sphere. There are two pieces that the city of Saratoga Springs is missing completely right now.

BK Keramati said that politicians can say here is the process, if you want to fix things faster, we will need more money.

Robert Turner said you are maximizing the economic aspect. The system is only as good as the elected officials; if a majority of the City Council did not want to use the pci index, they could put pressure on the administrator. So the system would not work. There is not perfect system. You can't take the politics out of it but it is important to be cognizant that a system is only as good as the people in it; it shifts the politics into a more neutral fashion where it is guided more by need than by favoritism.

Gordon Boyd said if they want the whole City in better shape than they have to take the whole City into account, not just their neighborhoods.

Robert Turner said that there are significant differences in levels of political discern among parts of this City. There are certain districts that vote at three times the level of other districts and a majority of political contributions are from only four districts which is lopsided and when you examine these things closely, you realize it is actually a problem and the index is one process that provides a way to minimize that.

Pat Kane said that the selling points of the International City Managers' Association are efficiency and effectiveness; the City would be better run, it would be easier to get things done. The elements that need to be promoted are that within the system of a City Manager, there would be an intensified ability to reduce conflict and create an environment conducive to problem solving. There will always be local politics, but the desire is for pragmatic problem solving, not bickering.

Devin Dal Pos said the challenge with our current system/Commission form is the result of the slate; you never know how it ends up.

Pat Kane mentioned that within New York Municipal Home Rule Law Section 37 a municipality has the ability to apply for reimbursement of funds spent on bringing a new Charter to referendum. He said that funding from Albany and Washington will shrink; the Nation's infrastructure and that of New York State is getting old and needs repair. Robert Turner agreed stating that Loughberry Lake was created in 1870; infrastructure costs are getting expensive; these issues make decisions more difficult. The goal is to adopt things that will minimize conflict. BK Keramati wants a system that works through conflicts to reduce them if not totally resolve them.

Role of the Mayor in a Council/Manager System

Robert Turner said that questions have been raised on the role of the Mayor in a Council Manager System. He said that in Newburgh, the Mayor is ceremonial, gives speeches, has no administrative or budget authority; they simply chair the City Council meetings, hold the City Seal and can marry people. He said when we were discussing the City Manager form; we were never proposing a weak Mayor.

Rob Kuczynski said he looked at salaries of Mayors and he is trying to track down several other Cities. He believes that the amount of effort put into a position is determined by the compensation and we should empower the Council in the Charter.

Robert Turner commented that you want strong leadership if you have a City with conflicting demands; in that situation you would want a stronger Mayor for coalition building; he is not sure how important that would be for Saratoga Springs.

BK Keramati said it is important to have a political leader that can speak for the City. The City Manager is good for administrative function, leadership within the building, setting policy. The Mayor should have political power.

Barbara Thomas said most state law makes the Mayor the one who signs and approves documents and reaches out to meet others and serve on regional boards such as the CDTA, and Regional Planners. The Mayor should serve on the Council, propose the agenda and interact with groups in the community.

Pat Kane asked who should get together to develop a strategic plan because we are a diverse City and we need a dynamic Mayor. Often the Mayor kicks off local conferences and welcomes people that come here to attend conferences, seminars and meetings.

Gordon Boyd wants to require the Mayor to make connections with the State, particularly because Saratoga Springs includes SPAC, the State Park, and NYRA; we need someone representing the City's interests and making connections with the State leaders separate from an administrative role.

Laura Chodos thinks the Mayor should be elected to serve full time. Robert Turner said there is value to having the mayor full time and connecting with local non-profit groups and shifting to a Council Manager form empowers the Mayor to lead free from concerns about the administrative functions within City Hall.

Rob Kuczynski said this is a great argument for having the Mayor serve as one of the County Supervisors; the Mayor will not have to be concerned with day to day functions. People are

drawn to leaders; power comes from perception; the Mayor is a leader. We have heard from former Mayors that people come into City Hall and they look for the Mayor.

Robert Turner said that the last two Mayors we have interviewed were strong and effective in administrating their agenda. They have been able to meet people, get the pulse of their community to determine what needs to be done and what direction to go in.

The Commission agreed that the Mayor would be elected directly by the public.

Term and Term Limits

Robert Turner asked about term length because the current Mayor and each of the former Mayors of Saratoga Springs that the Commission interviewed thought that the two year term was frustrating; nothing is a two-year project, the Mayor needs more time to make decisions and complete projects. Two-year terms are overwhelming for a City this size.

Gordon Boyd said that the County Clerk and County Treasurer serve three year terms. Barbara Thomas likes five-year terms. Elect people in a year that you re-district and then in ten years you re-apportion again. Pat Kane said that staggered terms would be tough to do with an odd number of years in a term. Robert Turner mentioned that there could be term limits. A Mayor could have 8 years which would be two 4-year terms.

BK Keramati said we are going from the current Commission form to a new form, a Council-Manager form and presenting a new system of government to the public should be as simple as possible without too many provisions and changes. Do we have a reason at this point to limit the number of terms? Laura Chodos agreed with keeping it simple; the voter will tell you what they want- they vote people out of office, limiting the term. Devin Dal Pos believes in term limits.

Gordon Boyd said term limits would be in keeping with the Commission's desire to elicit more participation in the system. We could have staggered terms so the maximum could be 14 years which is lengthy. Term limits may be attractive to voters.

Robert Turner said that term limits are useful to get some fresh blood in office, then he thinks about effective Mayors and that it would be a shame for them to have to step down because of term limits.

Rob Kuczynski said we have seen departments change over time, depending on who was elected. In a council-manager form, especially concerning budget negotiations, the need for elected official to have budget experience is significantly reduced.

Gordon Boyd said that with term limits, you can serve the full limit in one position then run for another position. Robert Turner said that someone could run for one position such as a neighborhood district, serve the limit then run for an at-large position. Devin Dal Pos said that would keep it away from being the boss of one side.

Salaries and health benefits

Laura Chodos asked if the Mayor would get health benefits. Pat Kane said we need accurate numbers as to the cost of health benefits.

Robert Turner said that one question to decide is whether we set a salary in the Charter or if we set only the process in the Charter. Gordon Boyd suggested setting the initial salary. He said

the legislative body could set their own salaries. There is state law governing that process; it does not allow legislative bodies to increase salaries during their term of office.

Appointment of Boards and Commissions

Robert Turner said that next is an institutional issue of the appointment of Board members with Council approval. There might be a difference between land use boards and the ethics board. There can be more flexibility with commissions and advisory committees. He said that anyone can form a Commission; the power to form an official City committee should go to the Mayor.

Gordon Boyd said that an important reform that will affect how the City does business is having the land use boards appointed with City Council confirmation. The Mayor has control now and this can impact campaigns. The Mayor has to be elected several times before Board members switch. The reform that should be considered is to require Council confirmation of appointments. Many of the Boards have the power to take your money and impact citizens so the appointments to those boards should not be made by one person.

Devin Dal Pos said there is an issue in the City now that is problematic and that is economic development. We are in dire jeopardy of losing a major employer in this City that pumps money into downtown and part of the problem has to do with the land use boards' approval process. The City's development and permit process is not administrative. Economic development is important here and uncertainty permeates when people walk through the door to get permission to build something. Land Use Boards decisions severely impact economic development. It is so critical to the tax base of the City that you must nurture it. He said there was a recent County Planning conference at the City Center for the region and economic development was one of the primary subjects discussed. The workshop was designed to help planning board and zoning board members understand the impact of their decisions on economic development in any city. It is huge and if it becomes difficult and a problem to develop their project in one community, the developers typically go elsewhere because every town, village and City in New York State are in competition with each other and if you do not understand that you should not be near the administration of those things. The tax base of the City is something to be cherished, protected and nurtured and if you do not do that, the city would end up like so many others that have fallen off the grid.

Gordon Boyd said the tax base here is favorable once you get the approvals and permit and are in business, but it is getting to that point that is problematic. The environment, approval and permitting process is much more difficult here than in other nearby cities. When we make it difficult for developers, they compare the cost of building here, including the approval process, with that of other communities. The tax rate here is favorable, lower than most other cities in the area but getting to the point where you have a business here is challenging. Devin Dal Pos agreed and added that it is the uncertainty and lack of clarity and direction that are the problems; in Utica, they received approval in fifteen minutes to build a grocery store and the entire planning board shook their hands and welcomed them.

BK Keramati said that the Mayor has the power to appoint members to the City's land use boards now. Gordon Boyd said that there is no Council approval or confirmation required now. Pat Kane said that we should let the City Council know that openings on Land Use Boards will occur and this would give the City Council the opportunity to recruit. Once you have people in wards/districts, it lends them to spend more time in the community and they could bring more people in to get them involved. Pat Kane said that is another reason why a change in the form of government will promote more community involvement. Gordon Boyd said that the Mayor would talk to a District Council member and that would foster involvement and communication.

Robert Turner said that much of politics is recruiting. Once you have districts, they will get to know their community. There are so many gifted and talented people here that would most likely be brought in to become more involved in their community because of neighborhood districts.

Pat Kane said that a lot of people do not want to be involved now, under the current system because of the way things are. If there is a change in the form of government, you will see a lot more people eager to become involved.

Robert Turner reminded the Commission that they need to discuss now or later whether a Board is created in the Charter or in the Code.

Full time or part time Mayor

Robert Turner said that all of the City's former Mayors that were interviewed stated that they put in an average of 50 hours per week. Devin Dal Pos said that all former Mayors were administrative and legislative in the old form. Robert Turner agreed that the administrative responsibility is minimal in the new form, primarily limited to appointments. The majority of their time will be spent meeting with people. Barbara Thomas said in the current form the Mayor is involved but has a deputy. Devin Dal Pos recommended that the Commission decide on time once the positions are defined.

Barbara Thomas has a problem with the Mayor being a County Supervisor. She hopes that at some point, our County would change from having a Board of Supervisors made up of Town and Village leaders to a separate legislative board.

Pat Kane said that people are going to move into positions and we will define their responsibilities. We have to think about salary. Could the County pay for half the benefits; it is hard to expect the Mayor to be full time and also serve the County as a Supervisor.

Robert Turner said we are limited in our information. He asked if someone would be willing to speak to a former or current Supervisor; and he hoped someone would speak with one of the other towns where the Mayor also serves as a County Supervisor such as Phil Barrett, for example. We need to speak to someone with similar experience.

Gordon Boyd said there may be some unforeseen issues in that proposal; he is not sure whether the taxpayer wants to pay a Mayor for full time when they are also serving the County. He is also unsure how to rotate the elections between the staggered terms: 4 on 4 years, 3 at large; the power is almost equal. Another scenario is a Mayor, 2 at large and 4 districts; the two at large would have staggered terms. Another thought is that is hard to run elections in only three districts at the same time because he does not know how you would set up rotation. He said that districts should run at the same time. Pat Kane said that he has received feedback that districts are not as popular as we think. Robert Turner said that we are creating a conceptual blueprint that we will give to the drafting attorney. There are some non-substantial things we need to decide then we can hold a community listening session stating this is what we are thinking, how do you feel and that becomes a way for us to hear the results. The people we are speaking with now may not be representative of the average citizens of this City. Many people we talk to daily are more engaged than the average Saratogian. We have used solid constitutional principles.

Pat Kane said that the heads of political parties are reacting against districts; they may be able to influence people against it. One person does not like the May 30 special election and some do not like districts.

Barbara Thomas said that it is more important to go to a Council-Manager form; too many other changes may kill the whole thing. Robert Turner said there is not a single line in this charter that would put us over or sink it. If people tell us in a public forum that they do not like line X, we could remove it.

Pat Kane said he would rather not wait until the blue print process to finalize something then pull it; we are committed to changing the form of government, he is becoming less confident that districts are good to put in place now because they might be a deal-killer. Laura Chodos asked if we should conduct a poll or a survey. Devin Dal Pos asked why the Districts are not in the best interest of the City.

BK Keramati said that to understand the process, we want to spell out to the public what we have agreed to, but there are certain issues that we need a reaction to from the public, so if we go to the public we should be very clear about the things we have decided but we need to let them know there are certain issues in particular that we need their feedback on before we decide. Robert Turner agreed that is an excellent approach.

Gordon Boyd said we need to hear from more people than we have spoken to already. So far, districts seem to have less appeal than seven at-large offices. To him, the thing that is less appealing about having 7 at-large council members is the lack of specialization, character and diversity. Rob Kuczynski said that is the same problem we have right now with the Supervisor elections only exacerbated.

Robert Turner said that one of the things people like about the Commission form of government is that they believe if they have a problem with something, they know where to go to solve it. Personally, he likes the idea of people having a neighborhood representative they can go to.

Gordon Boyd likes a combination; some degree of variety, but more accessibility. District campaigns are also cheaper. Robert Turner said if you had 4 seats, there are 8 races, and the top 4 vote-getters get in.

Pat Kane said he is all for it, but we may need to get across the finish line first. Mike Los asked if the Commission should present what it truly believes is best for Saratoga Springs or do we present what might fly.

Pat Kane said he is shocked at the response of party bosses to the idea of neighborhood districts. He thought they would support the idea because of cost and the fact that it would be easier on the candidate. Gordon Boyd said there is a flip side to having a lot of people want to be involved and that is that the party bosses lose a little control; they do not want to find candidates, they want to pick a candidate.

Robert Turner said there is a need for insight from Supervisors currently filling both roles. Elio DelSette feels that having the Mayor of this City serve as the County Supervisor simultaneously is too much. Gordon Boyd said that Supervisors are a creation of the County, a separate government entity. Devin Dal Pos said the dual roles would give the Mayor more clout. Pat Kane said the success of Saratoga Springs would re-engage at the County if the Mayor was sitting there. Robert Turner said he has also heard that when required to wear both hats, the

tendency is that one position gets a little less attention than the other, particularly if the individual is asked to serve as Chairman of a Committee or as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Gordon Boyd noted that one cannot be a fiduciary of the County and the City at the same time because there are too many conflicts of interest, too many conflicting issues including sewer taxes, regional issues and water issues. He understands that more modern guys say yes to that. Devin dal Pos said that is because it would give them more clout at the table than they currently have.

Robert Turner suggested postponing the decision on the County supervisor issue.

BK Keramati stated that the City Council as a legislative body has a monitoring responsibility about how the City government is running. Robert Turner said they make laws, they set the budget. BK Keramati asked if that monitoring function would be spelled out in the Charter. Robert Turner said yes, that is one of the things that Bob Batson can help with when he comes. He can provide some variations and the benefit or negative impact of each; that is the kind of constitutional legal question he would defer to Mr. Batson.

Constitutional Issues pertaining to City Managers

Robert Turner distributed an exhaustive review of some of the constitutional issues affecting City Managers and there are six appointment factors to consider:

- 1) Who appoints the City Manager, the Mayor or the City Council? The City Council is by and large the norm and that is the preference of the International City/Council Management Association (ICMA). Robert Turner advised that some people say it should be with a super-majority but he has found through research that a supermajority is a bad idea. Gordon Boyd said that is because the majority to appoint would be the same number as the majority to remove.
- 2) What is their term of office? Robert Turner said the norm is "at the pleasure of the City Council". Research indicates that you never want a blank slate of years.
- 3) Whether or not there should be a binding contract. Robert Turner said it seems that when the Council-Manager form of government fails it is when there is bitter in-fighting and frequent turn-over and unpleasant politics with in the City Council and as a result the City Manager often becomes a casualty of that. He does not believe there is anything that can be done to prevent that. Some have given the City Manager a guaranteed contract, which he feels is a bad idea. Gordon Boyd said that the Saratoga Housing Authority got into trouble with that and they ended up having to buy the person out which cost a lot of money. Pat Kane suggested sticking to one year contracts because it is a good standard on both sides of the table. If the City Manager is doing a good job after one year, the contract is re-negotiated and most likely with a raise. If the City manager is not doing a good job, they can be done at the end of the year-long contract.
- 4) Who sets the compensation for the City Manager? Robert Turner said it is usually the City Council and sometimes it is in the Charter and sometimes it is not; he does not have a strong opinion either way. Gordon Boyd said that when the job is advertised, a range should be included and they decide on qualifications and experience accordingly which allows some flexibility. Robert Turner said the ICMA has a model contract which is 40 pages long and it is really exhaustive about how these things are considered.
- 5) Can you appoint anyone to be a City Manager and how closely do you have to follow established criteria established? Robert Turner said he spoke with two professors, one who is a former City Manager and they both said it is important to include professional criteria; otherwise it becomes tempting to put a good friend in because he has the votes at the table. He said you want the provision of specific requirements within the contract.

The argument against it is that if you are a small city with a limited budget, you might not be able to afford the best candidate. That should not be a problem in Saratoga Springs. Robert Turner said it is worth placing a pretty high standard such as a specialized degree with a specific amount of practical experience. He is not sure if an ICMA certification requirement should be in the Charter or in the contract. There could also be an alternative requirement of a Bachelor's Degree with five to ten years of experience. He stated that all of these are important constitutional decisions and we need to include qualifications and specifications of the City Manager in the Charter.

- 6) Residency Requirement Robert Turner is not sure about residency requirements; it might be a good idea to require the City Manager to live in the City. Gordon Boyd mentioned that residency is not a requirement for Public Safety personnel. Robert Turner said we have it for the deputies; we would have it for the City Manager. There is a difference for people that provide a service. Gordon Boyd noted that the price of property within this City could drive that decision. Ann Bullock said we have to consider that when we discuss compensation. Gordon Boyd said if the job is a professional job, it should not matter where the person lives. Laura Chodos suggested having an option of a waiver available. Gordon Boyd said that a person might come from a place like western New York with a pocket full of equity yet they are unable to afford to buy something within the City limits. Pat Kane said you could see the other side of that if someone comes from downstate after selling their house for \$800k. Gordon Boyd said we are setting up an arbitrary consideration with a residency requirement.

Tony Izzo advised the Commission members to research the Public officer's law because it names persons that must reside within the municipality in which they are appointed. He can't remember if the title was "local public officer" or "local public official" but the definition within the Public officers' Law should be reviewed and it will tell you whether the official you are considering is required to live in the City or not.

Robert Turner said that the next time we meet we will take up the issue of removal. On the list of things to be discussed is the role of the County supervisor, Ethics, districts, specifically at large and rations, Departments and whether they are to be included in the Charter or not and whether to mention Land Use Boards within the Charter. Gordon Boyd said some departments may be required by state law. Robert Turner said he will research to determine the options regarding people/departments that must be in the Charter, vacancies, forfeiture of office and double office holding.

Laura Chodos suggested reviewing what is in the current Charter regarding the Mayor's responsibilities. Robert Turner said many of those currently in the Charter can be cut out because a lot of it is administrative. Ann bullock said that we should examine those powers and determine how we want to address them. Robert Turner said that is something that Bob Batson can help with.

BK Keramati said the only things in the Charter should be what are absolutely essential. Robert Turner said that Bob Batson may give us two or several ways to do something and we can weigh the advantages and disadvantages of each. He will give us a broader perspective.

The next meetings will be Thursday February 2 and Monday February 6, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

City of Saratoga Springs Charter Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 26, 2017

There being no further business, Rob Kuczynski moved and Devin Dal Pos seconded to adjourn the meeting. Robert Turner adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Nancy L. Wagner
Clerk

Accepted: 3/20/2017