

**August 9, 2012**  
**Ad Hoc Home Rule Study Committee**

The Ad Hoc Home Rule Study Committee held a meeting in Conference Room C of the Municipal Building beginning at 7 p.m. Members present included: Geoff Hurd, Kevin Kearns, Mary Larsen, Nancy Carroll, Chris Cahillane, and Bradley Kitlowski. Bill Matthews chaired the meeting via a conference telephone. Municipal Manager Steve Feller and Solicitor Phil Weis also attended the meeting.

There were no citizens present at the meeting. Mr. Feller noted that the meetings have been properly advertised and posted in the paper and on the Municipal web site.

Mr. Kearns moved, and Ms. Larsen seconded to approve the minutes from the June 28, 2012 meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

Solicitor Weis gave the Committee an overview of the relevant sections of State law pertaining to amending a home rule charter. In summary, any amendment must be approved by the voters. The question(s) can be put on either a general or primary election ballot. There is also a provision for residents to initiate a ballot question through petition. In this case, the Ad Hoc Committee will submit a list of proposed changes to the Commission. The Commission will then adopt an ordinance describing the proposed changes and ballot questions. This ordinance must be sent to the County Elections Department at least 13 weeks prior to the election. The County frames the final ballot question(s). There is a limit of 75 words per question. Mr. Weis recommended that the questions be split up so that voters can decide on the specific item that is being proposed.

The Committee then began a “section by section” review of the existing provisions in the Charter. They made an initial review of Articles 1, 2, and 3 of the Charter. There was extensive discussion about the various provisions related to advertising requirements. The Committee, through Mr. Feller, asked Mr. Weis for some legal advice on the options for using alternative technology to properly notify the public. There was also extensive discussion about Section 321 of the Charter dealing with indebtedness. The Committee asked Mr. Feller to prepare a document showing the per issue cap calculation and provide examples of how the cap would have impacted borrowing for major capital improvements.

The Committee decided to:

- Cancel the meeting previously scheduled for August 30
- Reschedule the next meeting (#3) to be held on Wed., Aug. 29 beginning at 7:15 pm. (Mr. Ferguson is invited to attend this meeting)
- Schedule a future meeting (#4) for Wed., Sept 19 beginning at 7 pm

The Committee felt that Mr. Weis’ input was very valuable, and asked him to attend future meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.