

The President called the special meeting to order at 3 p.m. after the Invocation, given by Dave Waddington, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners responded: Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Blake Harris, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington.

Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to excuse Mike Meinzer. The President declared the motion passed.

City staff present: Brendan Heil, Michelle Reeder – Finance Director, John Orzech – Assistant City Manager, Stuart Hamilton – IT Manager and Kelly Kresser – Interim Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to accept the communication received. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

AGENDA

ITEM #1 – Submitted upon Petition

AMENDMENTS TO CITY CHARTER CHANGING THE NUMBER OF COMMISSIONERS ELECTED AT LARGE AND BY WARD AND CHANGING THE PERCENTAGE OF VOTES NEEDED FOR THE RECALL OF A COMMISSIONER

Budgetary Information:

Ordinance No. 21-123: It is requested an ordinance be passed **providing for the submission to the electors of the City of Sandusky proposed amendments to the City Charter to change the number of at large commission seats from seven (7) to three (3) and elect four (4) by ward and to change the percent of votes needed to recall a commissioner from ten percent (10%) to fifteen percent (15%);** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Blake Harris, the commission voted to pass this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Brendan Heil said this proposed ordinance is being requested to accept the citizen petitions submitted, contingent upon the validity of the signatures, and to submit them to the Erie County Board of Elections (ECBOE) for placement on the November 2 ballot. The citizen petitions were received at 3:30 p.m. on Monday. Our Charter and the Ohio Constitution requires this action upon receiving valid signatures of ten percent of the previous total vote in the previous municipal election (or 351 valid signatures). The legislative authority is required to submit the petition for the ballot at the next upcoming municipal election which will be November 2. This is the first step and the petitions were reviewed by Michelle Reeder and Brendan Heil per our charter requirements and then passed along to the ECBOE the next day (Tuesday). The ECBOE now must verify and confirm the validity of the signatures and provide a final signature count to determine whether the ten percent threshold has been met. We also asked the ECBOE for a determination about their deadline by which petitions must be filed and to clarify if it is required to include the petitions as well as the authorizing ordinance with the ballot language; they were unable to provide an answer before this meeting started tonight. In an abundance of caution, this draft ordinance is being presented and is contingent upon the ECBOE certifying enough valid signatures have been submitted, to comply with their deadlines and avoid any confusion or ambiguity regarding placement on the November election ballot. Legislative authorities have very little discretion in determining the validity of the actual language and it is not a subjective decision. We are required by our Charter to submit for placement on the ballot so long as the procedural requirements are met. The ordinance contains the actual ballot language, verbatim, as submitted in the petitions.

Dennis Murray said this is being done in such a way so as it is more likely to be placed on the ballot (than not). He would like to explore what the contingency is because we really do not want to have this done in such a way to avoid having to incur the costs of holding a special election. The ECBOE has to do its job and verify the signatures which then get paired with the petitions they approved. Brendan Heil said the ECBOE has ten days to verify the signatures and they have informed us they expect this to be done by tomorrow or Friday. Upon this verification, this ordinance would become effective and they would then be required to submit the ballot language for the November election. Dennis Murray stated this petition process is an important and sacred right and he will vote for passage although he does not agree with the proposal and will vote it down as a citizen of Sandusky.

Dick Brady thanked Brendan Heil and John Orzech for working to prepare this legislation and schedule this special meeting in the past 48 hours so the process could continue and the deadlines met. A 'no' vote will not derail this; it is our intention to get this to the ECBOE by 4 p.m. today so the process can continue.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Blake Harris, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Blake Harris, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to adjourn at 3:10 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.



Kelly L. Kresser
Commission Clerk



Richard Brady
President of the City Commission