

Charter & Ordinance Committee Report Chair; Melinda Humphrey

Hi Henry, please include the following minutes in the packet for Monday's meeting, as well as Charles' email below, Will's draft and the memo from the Mayor. Thanks

Tuesday May 31, 5:30-6PM

Charter and Ordinance Committee, AGENDA: Recall Provision

Committee members in attendance: Dave Allaire, Sharon Davis, Ed Larson, Chaired by Melinda Humphrey

Others: Attorney Charles Romeo, Will Notte, Chris Etori, Gordon Dritschilo, Gail Johnson

The Committee met to discuss the potential addition of a recall provision to the Rutland City Charter.

President Notte noted that while he'd thought of a recall provision in years past, what prompted the discussion recently was a candidate for Alderman in this year's election with news of criminal background that came out after folks had started submitting absentee ballots. Some voters had expressed concern to the City Clerk over this and requested their ballots back. Discussion touched on the existence of recall provision charter language in other parts of the state (see list of towns and links to Charters in Charles Romeo's email below) and had it been used, the City Attorney's understanding is that it had not. Board Members also shared mixed opinions of whether or not they were in favor of a recall provision and if the existing two year term limit is enough to prevent the need for one.

Alderman Larson asked if a Mayor could veto a recall petition- Attorney Romeo explained that if a recall provision were to be included in the charter, then once a petition were presented to the city, a town meeting vote must follow. The petition itself is not a Board action, so the Mayor can not veto it.

Members present discussed President Notte's draft language and provided him with additional questions and feedback... such as including specific reasons for recall in the petition itself and whether or not only actions taken by a person after elected could be considered.

Our charter is part of state law, so any changes or additions to it must be voted on by Town Meeting Ballot.

Group consensus was that more time and discussion is needed to decide if charter language is needed. This item will be left in committee, President Notte will address questions and consider feedback, then provide an updated draft to be presented at a future committee meeting.

This report is for information only.
