

City of Kent Charter Review Commission Meeting

320 S. Depeyster St., Kent, OH 44240

April 29, 2025

MINUTES

Present: Jason Gartland; Darlene Rocco; Tom Mahon; Dawn Albright; Barb Hipsman-Springer; Julie Hurd-Schmidt; Craig Berger; Jeff Roeger; Jen Mapes; Don Schjeldahl; Jasmine Jefferson; Kai Carpenter; Adam Stephens; Brian Bialik

Also Present: Todd Milton; Emma Kelly; Hope Jones, Law Director; Kathy Coleman, Clerk of Council

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- At 6:02, the meeting was called to order by Hope Jones.
 - Hope explained the overall intention of the Charter Review Commission, reviewed the format for subsequent meetings, and provided a tentative meeting schedule.
 - The Charter Review commissioners gave brief introductions about themselves and their interest in the commission
 - After discussion, Adam Stephens and Julie Hurd-Schmidt were elected as chair and vice-chair, respectively, by a unanimous voice vote.
 - Discussion regarding possible review topics included:
 - Updates to dated language in the charter
 - Ranked choice voting
 - More specificity in charter language regarding ward division
 - Financial review in order to build more sustainability for the City
 - Hope reminded commissioners that the charter provides a high-level overview of the city's governance and does not address how resources are used.
 - After discussion about the voting process, it was decided to utilize straw polls at the end of each proposed amendment to gauge the general inclination of the commissioners, but formal voting would be done after all articles have been reviewed.
 - Hope advised the commissioners that the next meeting would be held in the new city hall council chambers on May 13, 2025 at 6:00pm, and Articles I-IV would be discussed.
 - The meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm.