



CITY CHARTER REVIEW AD-HOC MEETING MINUTES
April 15, 2021

The scheduled meeting of the Ontario City Charter Review Ad-Hoc Committee was called to order by Chairman Ken Hart at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 15, 2021, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Committee members present were Ken Hart, John Kirby, Sam Baker, Susann Mills, Jaime Taylor, and Robert Wheatley. Michael Miller arrived at 6:22 p.m.

Members of staff present were Adam Brown, Peter Hall, Tori Barnett, and Larry Sullivan.

The meeting was recorded, and copies are available at City Hall.

Ken Hart led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

KIRBY moved, MILLS seconded, to adopt the minutes of the April 1, 2021, Charter Review Committee Meeting. Roll call vote: Hart-yes; Kirby-yes; Baker-yes; Miller-out; Mills-yes; Taylor-offline; Wheatley-yes. Motion carried 5/0/2.

CHARTER REVIEW

Chairman Hart stated he had asked Jackson Fox to appear to discuss the proposal he made to the Council regarding the sales tax.

Jackson Fox, Ontario, stated: *I have no prepared comments, thanks. My whole issue was with the 1% sales tax, and I went to the Council and asked them to look at the City Charter and I would like to see it to where any sales tax that is proposed for the City of Ontario should go in front of the voters. And the reason was seven people on the former Council did that, just seven people. I'm really happy to see now a committee that this current Council is reaching out to the community because it was really a hard thing. We had to gather money, form a non-profit PAC, and gather enough signatures in order to get it in front of the voters and it did get in front of the voters and everyone knows, it got voted down as soon as the people got their voice heard. I even had to sue the City of Ontario. That's not enjoyable at all. It's the second time I've had to do that, and I don't like doing it. But I won each time. So, anyway, like I say, I'm really happy that this Council is reaching out to the community, formed a committee of community members, and is asking for input.*

Member Mills stated she agreed that it should go out for a vote, and she was hearing that from a lot of people in the community. Any type of sales tax, if ever brought back on the agenda to be voted on, that it definitely go to the city for a vote, not just the Council.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Charter Matrix Review

Chairman Hart expressed his appreciation for the hard work that had gone into pulling the information together for their side-by-side. He noted there were some additional hand-outs with notes on them and asked if they were already incorporated into the matrix or were they additional items.

Adam Brown, City Manager, stated staff had received comments through that day, so everything should be included in the new set of sheets except for the last hand-out, with the highlighted portion. The two-page document he had tried to incorporate into the matrix, but there were some questions and commentary included, so it was easier to print that out for them to read as opposed to putting it on the matrix. On the matrix, where committee members wanted to discuss a section, he had highlighted those rows in yellow.

