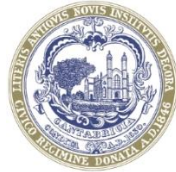




City of Cambridge

COF 2024 #107
IN CITY COUNCIL
August 5, 2024



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Paul Toner
City Councillor

July 30, 2024

To Mayor Simmons and Members of the Cambridge City Council:
The Government Operations, Rules and Claims Committee held meetings on Wednesday June 5th from 3:00 to 5:00 and Tuesday, June 25th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Both meetings began with public comment and were followed by a discussion of the Charter Review Committee (CRC) recommendations, the challenges of some of the recommendations, and how best to manage the process moving forward. Although 8 out of 9 councillors were present at both meetings, I urge you all to review the videos of these two meetings to help us in moving forward as a full council.

June 5th Video and Materials:

- https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/768?view_id=1&redirect=true
- https://cambridgema.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=4541

June 25 Video and Materials:

- https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/781?view_id=1&redirect=true
- https://cambridgema.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=4557

At the June 25th meeting the Government Operations and Planning Committee voted on three recommendations to the full council for our August 5th City Council meeting. The first is for the full council to only take up recommendations that received a 2/3rds vote from the CRC as per our adopted ordinance (3 in favor, 1 present, and 1 against). The second recommendation is that the council should require a 2/3rds majority of the council for moving forward with any changes to be sent to the Attorney General and/or Legislature, and residents on a future ballot (3 in favor, 1 present, and 1 against). Finally, the committee unanimously recommended to the full council that the mayor create a special committee of the whole or hold a Special City Council meeting, to lead the work moving forward, including, but not limited to:

- Developing a plan for scheduling meetings and engagement of the public on the issues
- Engaging the members of the charter review committee in further dialogue about their recommendations
- Discussing the process of filing any required home rule petitions and their likelihood of passage with our state delegation.

- Creating the process for discussing other ideas for the council to consider that were not recommended by the CRC (i.e. changing schedule for reviewing the charter, length of terms, etc.)

Attached are policy orders for the Council to vote on and consider at our August 5th meeting. I look forward to discussing these ideas with the full Council at our summer meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Toner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Toner
Chair, Government Operations, Rules, and Claims Committee