

The City of Lee's Summit
Action Letter - Draft
City Council Rules Committee

Thursday, April 4, 2019

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

City Hall

220 SE Green Street

Lee's Summit, MO 64063

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Carlyle called the City Council Rules Committee Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Staff in Attendance:

Brian Head

Jina Bellamy

Present: 4 - Chairperson Trish Carlyle
Councilmember Phyllis Edson
Vice Chair Bob Johnson
Councilmember Diane Forte

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Forte made a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Motion Passed 4-0.

4. Approval of Action Letter

A. [2019-2660](#) Approval of the Action Letter

Councilmember Forte made a motion to approve the Action Letter from March 7, 2019. Councilmember Edson seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

5. Public Comments

There were no outside guests and no public comments.

6. Items for Discussion

A. [2018-2462](#) Discussion related to expanding the number of Council districts.

Councilmember Johnson opened the discussion as he originally brought this item before the Committee at a previous meeting as he would like to make it easier for citizens to run for office. He started by referencing the table that was provided in the packet focusing on comparable cities. He would like to see the Council districts expanded from 4 to 5 with two representatives from

each district. He would like Staff to draft language assuming this would go to the voters in 2020.

The Committee discussed his proposal with the following points:

1. Appearance to Public: Councilmember Forte and Councilmember Carlyle were both concerned with making revisions so soon after the Charter was approved by the voters.

Brian Head mentioned we've had 4 Districts with 2 Councilmembers since the previous Charter. He also reminded the Committee that the Council can propose Charter Amendments whenever they choose.

2. Councilmembers needing to recuse themselves from vote: Councilmember Johnson mentioned that whenever someone has to recuse themselves (by State Law) 1/9 of the voters on the Council are taken out (11% of the voters), a portion of the constituents are not represented.

3. Changing the districts: Councilmember Carlyle asked who would be in charge of realigning the districts?

Councilmember Johnson stated that when reapportion happens in 2021, district boundaries are going to be redrawn and would just need to be drawn around 5 Districts instead of 4. He stated by Charter, the Council decides the boundaries and in the past, Council appointed a Committee to finalize the boundaries.

There was brief discussion on the upcoming Census and how much the population has changed and that would be considered at the same time as the reapportion. According to Councilmember Johnson that makes this the perfect time to suggest the district change.

Brian Head mentioned that should the City be redistricted, one candidate would have to run for two years and one for four. A provision would need to be added that didn't apply the term limit based upon the two year term. Because you have to be elected to two full terms. That initial person could serve as much as ten years under the current term limit. There would also need to be some transition provisions included giving guidance to the reapportion committee to make sure the original intent was followed.

Councilmember Carlyle, was concerned about the terms being shorter for one candidate and how they would have to put in the same amount of money and time as the candidate that ran for four years and then have to turn around and do it all again. She mentioned six districts instead of five for an even number.

She further expounded on how important it is that once someone is elected to the Council that Committee Chair and Staff not set any meetings prior to 5:00

p.m. if all Committee members for that particular Committee are not available (not just a quorum). She feels everyone should have an opportunity to have their voice heard.

Councilmember Edson mentioned that maybe one candidate would like the shorter term as a new councilmember to determine if that is really what they wish to do long-term.

Staff suggested language to be considered if going forward: "The Council shall cause the City to be reapportioned to five districts with as near as practical, the same number of voters in each district while attempting to establish boundaries along major thoroughfares and other natural barriers and breaks understanding you can't split a county precinct."

Councilmember Edson felt that it is ultimately up to the voters if the Council decides to add it to a ballot and she supports whatever they decide.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion (see below). A vote was taken and then more brief discussion. Councilmember Carlyle would like to see two options by Staff - one with five Districts and one with six. Staff mentioned that either way, there will still be staggered terms and someone will have to serve two years vs. four.

Councilmember Carlyle's original vote stands. Motion did not pass.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to have the Committee ask Staff to prepare an ordinance which establishes, at the next reapportionment 5 Council Districts comprised of 2 Councilmembers each. Councilmember Edson seconded the motion. Vote was: Councilmember Carlyle nay, Councilmember Forte nay, Councilmember Johnson aye, Councilmember Edson aye. Vote was 2-2. Motion did not pass.

B. [2019-2661](#) Points of Order and Debate Discussion

After brief discussion regarding Roberts Rules of Order being restrictive and often times confusing.

The members of the Rules Committee asked staff to create a set of rules and bring a draft "working" document to the June 6, 2019 meeting. The item will be called "City Council Rules of Order".

This Discussion Item was read into the record.

7. Roundtable

Councilmember Forte:

Councilmember Forte mentioned a concern with having Council meetings on Tuesdays when they fall on election days (typically April, August and November).

A suggestion was made to shift the meeting dates by one week and hold them on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays instead of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays on the months when there are elections.

It was decided to have someone mention it during Council Comments at a Council meeting and if everyone is in agreement, the Clerk would create a resolution and make the change to the future calendars.

Brian Head:

Brian Head distributed the newly updated City Council Rules and Procedures Quick Reference Guide April 2019 Edition. He asked the Committee to review it and let Staff know if they had any changes or suggestions prior to distributing it to the full Council.

Councilmember Forte:

Councilmember Forte wanted to discuss the Committee meeting times, mentioned earlier by Councilmember Carlyle. She agrees that standard meeting dates and times should be convenient for all the members of a committee and not just a quorum of it's members.

Councilmember Carlyle clarified her previous comment stating that her first year as Councilmember, she was unable to attend a Committee meeting due to work commitments. However, meetings were still held because a quorum of the members could meet at the set dates and times. She would like to see that changed. She mentioned that she would like to see that no meetings begin prior to 5:00 p.m. if the full Committee is not available.

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of restricting meeting dates and times. After brief discussion, Councilmember Carlyle clarified that she didn't want "no Committee meetings" held prior to 5:00 p.m. She would like to see that once Committees are formed, the Chair finds a standard date and time for Committee meetings to be held that works for all the Committee members and not just a quorum of members. If the day and time chosen doesn't work for one of the Committee members, they continue looking for another date and time that does. If no date and time works for everyone, maybe the Committees will have to be switched up. She understands that there may be conflicts but doesn't want to start out with one.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the previous ordinance regarding the use of alternates on the Committee. Staff mentioned that there was a one year ordinance that allowed the alternate to be considered the 3rd or 4th member of the Committee (with voting rights). That ordinance expired and went back to the original ordinance where the alternate serves to fill in for a quorum but has no voting rights. Staff also mentioned that the Mayor Pro Tempore can also serve as an alternate with no voting rights.

8. Adjournment

Chairperson Carlyle adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

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