

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

Thursday, January 3, 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 meeting to order at 6:00 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 as written. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Edson. Vote: 4-0. Motion passed.

4. Approval of Action Letter

- A. [2018-2463](#) Action Letter for November 1, 2018 City Council Rules Committee Meeting

Councilmember Forte made a motion to approve the Action Letter from the November 1, 2018 Rules Committee meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Edson. Vote was: 4-0. Motion passed.

5. Public Comments

There was no one from the public in attendance.

6. Items for Discussion

- A. [2018-2461](#) Discussion related to procedure for selecting a new Councilmember following a vacancy on the City Council.

City Attorney Brian Head gave a brief update on the item. He mentioned that Councilmember Forte made a request at a previous Rules Committee meeting

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to add the current process of filling Council vacancies to an agenda for discussion. Mr. Head mentioned that there really wasn't a process in place and a Resolution was used in the past when filling a vacancy. The Committee had asked Mr. Head to draft information as a starting point for discussion.

Councilmember Johnson inquired regarding number 8, asking if it had been used in the past or if it was a new suggested item. Mr. Head mentioned he had added the item as he had used in the past to help with someone getting an absolute majority.

Number 8) is as follows: " In the event that no candidate receives a majority of the votes of the remaining members of the Council, including the Mayor, then only the candidates with the two highest vote totals will remain in nomination and all others will be removed. In the event there is a tie resulting in more than two(2) candidates remaining in nomination then those candidates and any other candidate receiving the next higher number of votes shall remain on the ballot and ~~up to two additional roll calls may be taken as described in the section 7 above. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes of the remaining Councilmembers, including Mayor, after the third (3rd) ballot then the Mayor shall declare the nominations null and reopen the floor to nominations and the process shall repeat.~~"

Councilmember Johnson felt strongly that no matter how long the process may take, he believes ultimately it is the body's responsibility to make the choice of who fills the vacancy no matter how long it takes.

Councilmember Forte felt that number 8 could be useful if needed as some individuals may not change their vote and it would be hard to reach majority.

Councilmember Edson referenced Charter language that when someone is nominated they stay on the Council until the next municipal election and she would like to see that Charter language changed to have the person nominated stay on the Council until the term is filled.

Councilmember Carlyle mentioned that future Councils will have the ability to change the process should they see the need.

After more discussion that this process may need to be guidance and not necessarily a rule, the consensus was to strike "up to two" and the last sentence (see striked out language above) and have Staff bring the process back to the next Rules Committee meeting as a Resolution.

This Discussion Item was continued to the City Council Rules Committee due back on 2/7/2019

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

Councilmember Johnson started the discussion. He mentioned that from his

previous experience in the election process that he would like to take "large money interest" out of the process thereby allowing others the opportunity to run for office. This would also make smaller districts and be more personable for council and their constituents. He would like to go from 2 councilmembers in 4 districts to 8 districts with one Councilmember in each district.

City Attorney Brian Head was asked to give a report on how the Charter came to the conclusion of leaving the current 4 Districts with 2 councilmembers. He recalled that there were ideas tossed around, however, there really wasn't a strong feeling one way or the other so they didn't change how we are currently doing it.

Councilmember Edson would like to see the districts split in half and felt it would be more of a "neighborhood feel" with smaller districts. She also mentioned that waiting until the 20/20 Census before making a change. Councilmember Johnson agreed and that a change in districts would not take effect until the 2022 election.

Councilmember Forte mentioned a concern that if splitting the districts, the Councilmembers may become "one district oriented". She sees the advantage of having constituents in a different area than just where she lives and it makes her a better Councilperson.

Councilmember Carlyle liked the idea of making it easier for anyone to run, but feels that anyone can run, they just have to work hard enough.

After discussion, Chairperson Carlyle asked Staff to obtain the Charter Commission's notes regarding Council Districts and was curious on the what the citizen's on the Strategic Planning Committee will think.

This Discussion Item was continued to the City Council Rules Committee due back on 2/7/2019

7. Roundtable

Councilmember Johnson would like to have a future agenda item regarding our voting system when it comes to electing Councilmembers. He gave an example where Maine has a rank voting system where you choose more than one nominee as a first choice and second choice. He would like to find out what other Cities have done.

Brian Head stated that he would have to do research to determine if changing they way people vote is allowed by statute and will also look into "rank voting" and bring it back to the next Rules Committee meeting.

8. Adjournment

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Chairperson Carlyle adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

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