



**Board Minutes
November 12, 2019**

1. Call to order.

Sydney Hargroder called the meeting to order with a quorum present. The following board members were absent. Marge Madariaga, Timothy Varlack, Perry Roberts

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Sydney Hargroder led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag

3. Comments from the public.

There were no comments from the public.

4. Approval of minutes of the October 22, 2019 meeting

Steven Byrum-Bratsen made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2019 meeting. Michael Holton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Discussion and possible action on various topics regarding the establishment of a Home Rule Charter.

Art Pertile, with Olson & Olson was introduced to the Commission. He was asked to provide his expertise on various aspects of a City Charter.

Mr. Pertile talked about the costs of elections when electing by districts. The cost overall to do the election will be more because the

election of the Council is by district and the County, running the election will be different than other cities, and costs will therefore be higher. He suggested that the first time adoption of a charter keep it operating as closely to the general law city processes as possible and keep it simple. He stated his opinion that for a city the size of Iowa Colony, there is no real advantage to electing Councilmembers by district.

However, if you have districts, you need to be certain to use a demographer, to get the population distribution and division of the size correct. Get out in front of that so you can show the positive long-term effect. And, likewise, have it mapped correctly. The Commission should be certain the district boundaries are legally correct. Also, have something besides numbers, including other historical and geographical characteristics to tie to the boundaries.

Finally, Mr. Pertile recommended the Commission may decide to require districts, but not try to draw the boundaries of the districts. That would be the responsibility of the City Council.

Mr. Pertile also recommended not putting the right for recall and referendum or initiative in the Charter. Because election numbers are typically so small, a relatively small number of petitioners can determine the outcome of an election and to allow that small number to force something on the ballot is not good policy.

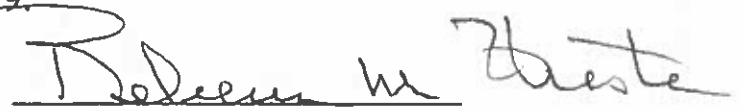
Mr. Pertile was asked about his opinion of eminent domain. He said that is simply a fear tactic, and by constitution public bodies have the right to do that. You cannot limit the right of eminent domain, constitutionally. The government must pay just and fair compensation. It is not required that the right of eminent domain be even placed in the Charter.

The Commission thanked Mr. Pertile for his expertise and candor as it relates to the efforts of the Commission to draft a Charter for the voters to decide upon.

After further discussion, it was agreed the Lake Jackson City Charter would be used as the “go-by” for the future meetings.

Next meeting is November 20 at 6:30. Following meeting will be December 3 and December 17.

Approved on the 20th day of November, 2019.


Rebecca Hester, Secretary