

Present: Lou Ognisanti (chair), Mayor Joyce Seals, Larry Coulouris, Joe Turner, Irene Hensinger, Leola Wilson, Kathryn Rood, City Attorney Thomas Fancher, City Clerk Diane Herman, City Assesor Lori Brown, City Manager Darnell Earley, and Julia Darnton (MSU Extension, recording).

Mr. Ognisanti allowed questions following the first part of the presentation to allow those present to ask questions about the process of the committee.

Mr. Jesse question about the process number of issues that would be on the ballot and cost of the changes to the committee.

Example from East Lansing Michigan – AG did approve – more than 100 issues on one ballot. Charge of the committee is to get the recommended changes. The City Council or AG would make the changes. The information give to the committee is that everything can be on one ballot. It is permissible and legal to put the changes together. Mr. O cannot answer the question.

If the whole charter would be changed would be one matter and one issue. That is a different process. Mr. Og respects question and understand but does not know the answer. It can be done in one body.

There is no intention to make recommended

Rick Jekel – specifically – fine citizens of the community. Some input from citizens of the community – how seriously was the input considered.

Answer – Mr Og. All public input was considered important some came but did not speak. The beginning was for public input. Mr. Jesse made a presentation at a meeting.

Mr. Jekel Specifically – he was at a meeting one simple question to be considered – improvement for the city of Saginaw and the city government. The process of complaints is a closed system. He would hope that it could be considered – possible an ombudsman could be part of the charter. Part of the minutes.

Other questions

A number of recommendations many are technical and not really very substantive. Clear up language that would be inconsistent with state law or to clear up language. Three important changes –

Section 27 – manager removal with a vote of 2/3rds of the council instead of a simple majority. Serious step and should require more than a majority vote.

(PRESENTATION)

Why is there a change – 1936 \$2000 limit safely say that in 73 yrs. \$2G is not the same as it was in 2009 dollars the amount would be more than would be recommended a figure that can allow the administration to make changes when necessary.

Next significant change – tax cap and dollar cap Section 45.

Presentation of February 23<sup>rd</sup> on the website and condensed here.

Questions from the public:

Mr. Jesse the method of selecting council people – as good a system as exists. Understanding that the manager wants to move this over to state law and if that happens that could put political parties back into the process.

There has been no recommendation to the selection of council members. The committee discussed many things but there was no recommendation for the election of anyone.

Mr. federspiel thank you to the committee for the work on the charter revision. The diligence of the committee and the hard work for the city. Thank you.

Mr. Johnny Sanders let a city manager go.

Perhaps the rationale is not there . need at least 6 people to vote to remove the city manager. How many people to make a decision to hire the manager. Hiring is different than removal – the council should think long and hard about the decision . If the manager does not have 2.3 of the people

MR. Sanders – need 5 and up the number to one more.

Removing the city manager is the most important administrator in the city the judgement of the city council can be impetuous and that can be swayed by a number of factors. Another layer of deliberation. If council people need to get rid of the manager –

Keep it the same way – it would be hard to get fired. Parol from prison.

Thank you.

Mr. Jekel The city income tax is separate from the charter. As a poor citizen he would pay more in the taxable value and without accounting for the income tax.

Present – has the charter committee thought about dissolving the city of Saginaw – not the charge of the committee. What is the purpose of the city. In time state procedure would be the take over of the city byt the State. The values of the property are falling the income tax – what is the reason for someone to live in the city – hope that doesn't happen.

Paying more if taxable value is under 25,000 and hopefully better services for that. All property taxes. There would be a increase for the rubbish fee. The cut off is \$25G. In the last year

howmany houses have sold and what has been that value. Hard to find any house over \$50000. Sales file would give more information. East side values a lower. On page 5 of the presentation

Mr jekel does not believe that this would improve the services of the city. Who votes and people will look at what is in this for him. Mr. Ognisanti summarized Mr. Jekel is saying the for people with lower taxable values they will see a net increase and they may not want to vote in favor of the proposal.

Mr. turner – the committee has not recommended any millage rate. One of the issues is that 100million is not being taxed for police and fire. The committee is recommending a removal of the tax caps of the city. This would cure an inequity. Wehre there is a flat rate – poorer properties would pay relatively mor ehtan richer properties. That wouldbe a fairer system . a reduction in taxes for just about everyone.

Mr. Scharffe: preface – the comment will not reflect any future vote on the revisions on the charter. Working with the school boards with a lengthy policy books for school districts. Understand what you have been through to move the process forward. Commend you fo the time spent and for the work that they have done. Points - language of the revision would be gender neutral wherever possible. Change to he or she and weher possible to refer to title and remove the title and put administrator in charge of imply that by charter you would have to maintain that change in the charter. – leaving the staffing of that position to the discretion of the person. Capitalization of title manager, city, city council those should be capitalized. Those are within the discretion. Support the increase int eh discretionary spending – superintendents have a similar role with a policy by the board – a formula in the state school code contracts and well over 20,000 brings us forward and will bring more efficiency to the government.

Question on 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote to remove a manager. That will be an issue elsewhere if it should happen that council is not fully staffed. 2/3<sup>rd</sup> s might become cumbersome.

Rubbish fee. Ask that as the committee goes through. Recycling included during the budget received a call today from a member on superior st. and collecting the recycling whether anything will be done for additional collection points the commitment would be to take up the issue have people bring the question forward. Congratulations on your work and wonder job and commendation.

Mayor Seals – election of city council members under elections changes to adhere to state alw and would allow for the paying of the fee instead of getting signatures. Section 2 elections. Wouldn't change but would add to possibilities. Under section 2.

Larry Campbell. Mr. Campbell commend for due diligence of the committee. Question – tax cap would he vote for that .. mr. jekel unless there is education among people with present economy that would challenge him to vote for the change. Projections would reflect the cap going up and down that would affect that area and make it a fair system for everyone.

2/3rds dealing with contracts – what additional homework – do other municipalities.

Provide more stability takes out the element of personalities.

Mr. Campbell - propose meeting – notifications code of ordinance change to that system – expanding notice for people to give better notice.

Do some research on this and get back to him on that issue.  
Explanation of that notification would still come from the clerk's office

Back to presentation. Invalidated portions. Eliminated or removed.

Allow city manager to assign duties as needed to encourage efficiency. Given the manager the ability to combine positions.

Open again for public comment.

Mr. Earley to get information out to the public and make sure that the committee can do so so that people present have the information. Not their role to campaign for the presentation. There are some fundamental facts to meet the timeline to present this document to citizens. Worst case scenario - \$57 annually. Some idea that without caps the government cannot operate effectively.

When a city manager is hired with the experience knowledge and training about how to manage cities. It is in the manager's best interest to get the tax caps lifted. Everything is for the best interest of the city to insure that there are stable service delivery systems. Adequate public safety to help people invest in the city. And to provide the stability. One of the things that was not a factor is a public safety millage in 2011 and the last levy would be in 2010 and ask for a renewal of the public safety millage. Much more tenuous in 2006 if that has to be renewed separately from the question of the budget the council will leave that to the manager to

Struggling to present a 0 growth budget to the council and still hampered by ability to raise taxes that is mirrored and reflected by the current year's budget. Mr. Earley has to keep the city running under two scenarios for the next 5 years zero growth budget for the city. Or having the ability to make choices when there are decreasing resources. Not to his benefit to change the tax structure. It is a benefit to every citizen in Saginaw and the surrounding communities. There are some communities where the surrounding areas have isolated themselves from the city.

He doesn't want to see a situation where the city is unable to provide for the citizens. Huge hole in the ceiling here in the city hall there is not money to fix the hole in the ceiling. Vehicles are cobbled together by the city. And work with what they have but sooner or later that is not going to be good enough zero growth budget will not be good enough.

Anyone can come in to the office and show the public what it takes to run this city and to be able to run the city with stability. Keep the 57 or does that go to stabilize the city. Those are the facts.

Mr. Dale N. Oakley.

Comment in the paper about tearing down or remodeling the water works buidlign can't see tearing the building down. Can't it be remodeled – that is not the purview of the city. Refer to the council – not in the plan of the city.

Mr. Coulouris – two things. The dollar cap 3.8 million is all the money the city can raise. Salary is limited by the owner – no overtime and keep the salary the same over time. How does an individual live on the same amount for their whole life. Stifles the ability of the city to profit from needed changes. The costs of business would take longer. Personla property tax on equipment own or leasing equipment those people do not pay any portion of the public safety millage. An additional 6 mills on the people paying personal property tax – income the city does not currently have.

First of 5 meetings next at 6pm at boys and girls club at Merrill park . review of the meeting schedule. Last on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Address and issue by Mr. Jesse cost associated with the committee. MSU is not being paid. No money has been expended from the city.

Meeting adjourned at 5:03pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Darnton