

JOHNS CREEK CHARTER COMMISSION
INTRODUCTION MEETING
MINUTES REVIEW
January 17, 2012 / 7:30pm

The City of Johns Creek Charter Commission held its first meeting for organizational setup and swearing in on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at 7:30pm. The meeting was held at Fuse BOX located at 11030 Medlock Bridge Road, Suite 120 in Johns Creek, Georgia 30097. In attendance were Charter Commission Members: John Buckett, Bob Frame, Cleve Gaddis, Susan Grissom, Robert Horne, Tim Jennette, David Kornbluh, David Meskell, Emmett Shaffer; Charter Commission Legal Counsel Dick Carothers; Charter Commission City Professional Justin Kirouac, Charter Commission Secretary Donna Geisinger; City Manager John Kachmar; City Attorney Bill Riley and City Clerk Joan Jones.

John Kachmar welcomed the group and introduced City Clerk Joan Jones to administer the Oath of Office. After the reading of the Oath and the “I will” of the Members, each Member signed a copy his/her oath, which was witnessed by Ms. Jones.

John Kachmar asked each Charter Member to introduce himself/herself to the group and then Mr. Kachmar introduced Mr. Kirouac & Ms. Geisinger. Mr. Kachmar briefly described the functions of Mr. Kirouac and Ms. Geisinger inside the process of the Commission. Legal Counsel Dick Carothers was introduced by Mr. Kachmar and his legal role explained to the Commission. Mr. Kachmar explained the hierarchy of the Commission and the role Mr. Lyle Sumek will take as the “facilitator.”

Mr. Kachmar spoke about the City Charter of Johns Creek and how the language differs from other new cities. The Commission was asked to read the Charter before the next meeting, but to abstain from “self-interpretation.” Mr. Kachmar further explained that the Charter over the last five years has enjoyed mostly “clean-up of conflicts.”

Mr. Kachmar introduced City Attorney Bill Riley who reviewed his recent correspondence regarding the legalities involved as a Commission Member. These instructions included: no email – subject to FOIA requests; four or less may gather but not more; can be at the same functions/places but should avoid congregating; as Members of the Commission, now subject to City’s Record Retention policy, so no documents may be destroyed and must be kept a minimum of four months following the conclusion of the Commission; Records Retention Manager will meet with Members following the completion for debrief on documents; refrain from speaking directly to City Staff, requests made for information should be funneled through Ms. Geisinger; Members have no “public” voice at this time and should refrain from making public comments at other City meetings/functions; without prior permission from the Commission, Members should refrain from making public remarks to the press; explained non-political goals of enabling ordinance.

Mr. Kornbluh inquired about the lack of wording regarding a chair or vice chair for the Commission. Mr. Riley explains how the ordinance was created with a facilitator in mind.

Mr. Riley explained the two goals of Council with the enabling ordinance: 1) Allow Commission to focus with structured public comment which will come during a minimum of two public hearings; and 2) to ensure context of contact with Mayor and Council to be in the public arena. There should be no conversation about the Charter at all between Members and City Council or the Mayor.

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Mr. Kachmar spent some more time giving examples of other charter commissions he had been involved with and the meeting was opened to questions from the Members.

Commission has requested a copy of the original City Charter with “red-line” changes.

Minutes of each meeting will be published on the Johns Creek City website after being approved by the Commission.

Minutes will be provided to Commission for review and approval..

Other requests were tabled until the meeting with Mr. Sumek on January 25, 2012, when votes could be utilized. These included length of meetings, information from other charter commissions, and requests for elected individuals to appear.

The meeting was brought to a close at 9:09pm.

Attest,

Donna M. Geisinger
Charter Commission Secretary