

2016-0157

INTRODUCED BY: PAUL J. HOGAN, PE, COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE, DIVISION B

A resolution calling for the creation of a Home Rule Charter Review Committee that is to review the St. Charles Parish Home Rule Charter and is to provide the Parish Council with recommendations on charter amendments that the Committee finds warranted for consideration by the Parish Council in order to provide for the betterment of the local governance of St. Charles Parish.

WHEREAS, the St. Charles Parish Home Rule Charter has been in place for more than thirty-six years; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of St. Charles Parish to periodically undertake a complete review of the Home Rule Charter to identify any potential amendments to the Home Rule Charter which may be warranted and worthy of presenting to the citizens of the Parish for their consideration and approval thereof; and,

WHEREAS, the last time the citizens of St. Charles Parish were afforded the opportunity to consider and propose changes to the Home Rule Charter was 27 years ago back in 1989.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT WE THE MEMBERS OF THE ST. CHARLES PARISH COUNCIL do hereby authorize and approve the creation of a Home Rule Charter Review Committee, (herein referred to as "the Committee") that is to be composed of non-elected citizens of St. Charles Parish consisting of ten (10) members that are to be confirmed by the St. Charles Parish Council with each Councilmember and each Councilmember At Large nominating one (1) individual and the Parish President nominating one (1) member. One (1) individual is to be considered for appointment to the Committee by recommendation of any Councilmember and confirmed as an alternate member to fill vacancies on the Committee should a vacancy arise. In making the appointments, consideration shall be given to give representation to industry, labor, education, the professions, consumers, agriculture, youth and minorities. Each member shall be a registered voter of St. Charles Parish and shall serve without pay and shall not be reimbursed for their expenses of attending to the business of the Committee. In the event of the death or the inability or unwillingness of a member to serve, the vacancy shall be filled with the alternate member. Should additional vacancies occur, alternate members shall be selected in the same manner that the original alternate member was selected but shall be selected at a special meeting of the Council to be called in order to address the vacancy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no employee of an appointing authority or any person who has had a contractual relationship with any appointing authority during the year immediately preceding creation of the Committee serve as a member of the Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall have full authority to review the complaints of the voters of St. Charles Parish in written form and to propose draft amendments to the Home Rule Charter based upon those written complaints and those based upon suggestions of the committee members themselves.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the recommended charter amendments that are to be forwarded to the Council for consideration shall be approved by a majority vote of the membership of the Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee shall conduct a minimum of three (3) public meetings in the Council Chambers which are to be open to the public and open for public comment and input.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee shall report to the St. Charles Parish Council with recommendations of proposed amendments to the Home Rule Charter on or before a date to be determined by the Council and provided to the Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee shall elect a chairman from among its membership by majority vote of its total membership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that unless a quorum is present, the Committee shall not take any binding or final action on any item. A quorum shall be defined as a majority of the total membership of the Committee. The approval of a majority of the total membership shall be required for the Committee to take official action on any matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee shall conduct its business pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order and/or may adopt such other procedural rules as it deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any proposed charter amendment recommendations shall be presented to the Council for the Council to review and to determine which, if any, shall be placed on the ballot for consideration by the voters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any proposed amendments shall be listed separately on the ballot and shall require a majority of the votes cast for approval for each of the charter amendments.

The foregoing proposed resolution was postponed indefinitely on November 13, 2017, by the following vote:

YEAS: BENEDETTO, WILSON, CLULEE, GIBBS, WOODRUFF, BELLOCK,
FISHER-PERRIER

NAYS: HOGAN

ABSENT: FLETCHER

2016-0157 Postponed CHARTER COMMISSION (10-17-17) (L_11-13-17)