

City of Mount Vernon Charter Review Commission
Meeting Date: September 17, 2025
Mount Vernon City Hall, Mayor's Conference Room

- I. Call to Order
 - A. Meeting called to order at approximately 6:10pm by Haley Pilgrim

- II. Roll Call
 - A. Commission Members present in the room
 1. Rosia Blackwell-Lawrence
 2. Anitra Hadley
 3. Mary Kingsley
 4. Eileen Lambert
 5. Geeta Morris
 6. Kevin Morrison
 7. Haley Pilgrim
 8. Monica Whiting-Hogans
 - B. Commission Members present on zoom
 1. Brian Dwyer
 - C. Commission Members absent
 1. Kareen Bell
 2. Tamala Boyd
 3. Susan Lally
 4. Delores Lopes
 5. Erin McGarry
 6. David Rogers
 - D. Quorum Established with 8 Commission Members present in room
 - E. Official Guests present in the room
 1. Hon. Shawyn Patterson-Howard, Mayor, City of Mount Vernon
 2. Brian Johnson, Corporation Counsel, City of Mount Vernon

- III. Review of Proposed Policies and Procedures
 - A. A draft of the proposed policies and procedures was distributed and presented by Eileen Lambert. Commissioners reviewed and commented on the draft proposal. Comments/recommendations included:
 1. Adding a voting procedures section
 2. Adding a section on budgeting and financial reporting
 3. Adding language around presenting charter amendment proposals that do not require a referendum for legislative action
 4. Adding language on the requirement to take and approve minutes
 5. Other minor language changes and edits
 - B. Eileen Lambert to amend the policies and procedures as discussed and re-distribute via email to the full Commission prior to the next meeting. Ms.

Lambert requested additional edits to be proposed over email prior to the next meeting of the Commission.

- C. Commission Members agreed to vote on the policies and procedures at the next scheduled meeting.
- D. Corporation Counsel, Brian Johnson instructed the Commission Members to include items to be voted on with the agenda document that is presented to the public ahead of the next meeting.

IV. Election of Commission Chair

- A. Nominations were opened for the election of a new Commission Chair
 - 1. Mary Kingsley nominated Haley Pilgrim to serve as Commission Chair. Monica Whiting-Hogans seconded the nomination.
 - 2. A call for additional nominations was made. No other nominations were proposed.
 - 3. Haley Pilgrim accepted the nomination
 - 4. The Commission voted and Haley Pilgrim was elected via unanimous vote (9-0)

V. Review of Charter Amendment Proposals for Legislative Action

- A. Anitra Hadley distributed and reviewed the subcommittee report that detailed possible charter amendment proposals that can be passed via legislative action.
- B. Commission Members acknowledged the collaboration between the Administration and Department Heads/Commissioners and the Charter Review Commission in working to move forward charter amendments that were originally proposed by the “Green Team.”
- C. Commission Members requested and Corporation Counsel agreed to provide guidance on the process of passing charter amendments via legislative action vs. permissive or required referendum.
- D. Mary Kingsley noted that the Elimination of the defunct Recreation Board should also be proposed.
- E. The subcommittee noted that the work to finalize proposals would continue over the next few weeks.

VI. Public Comment

- A. Members of the public present in the room
 - 1. Michael Justino
 - 2. Vince Ferrandino
 - 3. David Reich
- B. Members of the public weighed in on the Charter Review Commissions discussion. Comments included:
 - 1. Consider including a recommended subcommittee structure in the policies and procedures

2. A note that a Parking Authority previously existed in Mount Vernon and was needed going forward. A note that the Zoning Board is currently addressing issues related to parking variances.
 3. Acknowledgement and thanks to Michael Justino for his contributions to the Green Team subcommittee proposal recommendations
- C. Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard thanked the Commission for their continued collaboration and work in reviewing the Charter. The Mayor agreed to provide draft ordinances to the Charter Review Commission as they were drafted.

VII. Adjournment

- A. The Charter Review Commission meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30pm.
- B. The next meeting of the Charter Review Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 6:00pm in the Mayor's Conference Room.