



## CITY of NOVI CITY COUNCIL

**Agenda Item 3**  
**January 21, 2014**

**SUBJECT:** Consideration to adopt resolution regarding additional direction to and additional members for the Charter Review Committee.

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** City Manager

**CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

City Council established the Charter Review Committee in March, 2013, directing it to study the Charter of the City and make recommendations for potential improvements and amendments thereto. The Charter Review Committee met over a period of months and in April, 2013, established a list of 19 potential changes to the Charter for consideration by the electors of the City over a period of time and over a number of elections. In May, 2013, the Charter Review Committee adopted a resolution proposing five specific, initial amendments to the Charter, relating to gender neutrality, publications, posting of ordinances, withdraw of funds, and the City's general administrative plan.

At its August 12, 2013, meeting, City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the submission of those questions to the electors at the November 5, 2013, election. At the election, three of the five proposals were approved by the voters.

The original charge to the Charter Review Committee contemplated that the Committee would be ongoing and would continue to make additional recommendations to the City Council over time. In light of the recent election, however, it may make sense to add additional members to the Committee for additional perspective.

It is the expectation that the Charter Review Committee will not review the Charter as a whole again, but review the previously established list of potential changes provided by the Committee. New suggestions could also be reviewed. In order to have ballot proposals placed on the August 5, 2014 Election, the written findings and recommendations of the Charter Review Committee shall be submitted to the City Council by April 1, 2014 and no later than July 1, 2014 in order to be placed on the ballot for the November 4, 2014 Election.

Attached is a resolution for City Council's consideration that would direct the Charter Review Committee to meet again to discuss additional recommendations to the City Council for the August 5, 2014 and/or November 4, 2014 elections, and would also add two members to the Committee, to be appointed by the Mayor in the same manner that the current two citizen members were initially appointed.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Consideration to adopt resolution regarding additional direction to and additional members for the Charter Review Committee.

	1	2	Y	N
Mayor Gatt				
Mayor Pro Tem Staudt				
Council Member Casey				
Council Member Fischer				

	1	2	Y	N
Council Member Markham				
Council Member Mutch				
Council Member Wrobel				

CITY OF NOVI

COUNTY OF OAKLAND, MICHIGAN

**RESOLUTION REGARDING ADDITIONAL DIRECTION TO AND ADDITIONAL MEMBERS FOR THE  
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a Meeting of the City Council of the City of Novi, County of Oakland, Michigan, held in the City Hall of said City on \_\_\_\_\_, 2014, at 7:00 P.M. Prevailling Eastern Time.

PRESENT: Councilmembers\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: Councilmembers\_\_\_\_\_

The following preamble and Resolution were offered by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_.

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Novi finds that a study and review of the existing City Charter should be conducted to determine the advisability of amending and updating aspects of the Charter in accordance with the law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. On March 11, 2013, the City Council established a Charter Review Committee consisting of 7 members, including Mayor Gatt, Councilmembers Wrobel and Casey, the City Manager, the City Clerk, and two electors of the City, Fil Superfisky and David Landry, appointed by the Mayor.

2. Over the ensuing months the Charter Review Committee reviewed and studied the existing City Charter.

3. After reviewing the entire Charter, the Committee at its April 30, 2013 meeting identified 19 areas that could be potentially updated or changed. The City

Attorney compiled a list of rough draft ballot questions for items to be considered as a Charter Amendment, totaling 23 draft ballot questions.

4. At its May 14, 2013 meeting, the Committee discussed and voted question-by-question on which amendments should be included on the November 5<sup>th</sup> ballot. The Committee unanimously decided that 5 areas needed to be addressed through the Charter Amendment process: **Gender Neutrality, Publications, Posting Ordinances, Withdrawal of Funds, and General Administrative Plan.**

5. The City Council at its August 12, 2013 meeting subsequently adopted a "Resolution Authorizing Submission of Charter Amendment Ballot Proposals to Electors," submitting 5 ballot questions to the City's electors on the November 5, 2013 ballot.

6. At the election, 3 of the 5 proposals were approved by the voters.

7. There remain a number of recommendations from the Committee for review by the City Council.

8. The City Council has determined that it would be beneficial if the Committee would reconvene to examine its work and recommendations to date, for the purpose of reporting back to City Council with additional recommendations for placement of Charter Amendment questions on upcoming ballots.

9. The City Council has further determined that it would be beneficial if additional members were added to the Committee, and more specifically members of the public — i.e., additional electors to be appointed by the Mayor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Charter Review Committee is directed to reconvene to review and discuss additional recommendations to the City Council for the placement of additional ballot questions at upcoming elections, with the scheduling of such meeting(s) to be determined by the Committee after

consultation with the City Administration, including the Clerk's office with regard to available elections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT two additional members shall be added to the Committee, to be appointed by the Mayor.

**AYES:**

**NAYS:**

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

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Maryanne Cornelius, City Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Novi at a regular meeting held this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maryanne Cornelius, City Clerk  
City of Novi