

Charter Review: Public Hearing and Line-By-Line Review

Somerville MA City Council
May 24, 2023

Tonight's Agenda

Anticipated Schedule

Reminder of Procedure

Public Hearing

Scrivener's Changes

Line-By-Line Review, including Recommendations and Requests

End of the Schedule

- **In-Person, May 24**
 - Concluding Public Hearing
 - Line-by-Line Review
 - Final Amendments and Vote to Refer
- **In the Fall**
 - Mayor's review and return to City Council
 - Review for submittal to the state house

Resources and Process

- **Subject Matter Experts: Collins Center consultants**
 - Legislative Policy Analyst **Brendan Salisbury** serving as City Council liaison
- **Subject Matter Experts: Charter Review Committee members**
 - Bev Schwartz (member) and Anna Corning (Mayor's Office), liaisons
- **Online Document repository: tinyurl.com/hashtagCharterReform**

Parliamentary Procedure

- **Deliberation**

- Largely focused on the current topic area; Rules of the Council prevail

- **Amendments are “in order”**

- Amendments to the text before us this evening are in order.
- A final text will result which may be referred for approval.

Public Hearing

- Written Comment is always welcomed at cityclerk@somervillema.gov
- Public Hearing has been held open for live or online testimony tonight
- Speakers in Chambers: please sign in on the sheet.
- To request to speak this evening remotely, please use the Raise Hand function in GoToMeeting and you will be recognized after in-person speakers.

Scrivener's Changes

Proposed Charter Text - Scrivener's Errors.docx

- Vote to substitute this version and vote to adopt changes redlined therein

“Scriv Plus”

Proposed Charter Text - Council Requests and Analyst Recommendations.docx

- Foundation for our line-by-line review
- Includes items with language requests voted previously, to be adopted by amendment
- Includes items recommended for adoption by the Clerk’s Office for discussion and potential adoption by amendment
- This document will be the official working document

“Scriv Plus” Visualization Tool

xref-charter-v5.html

- Document with Scrivener’s Corrections adopted
- Includes markup for items contained in Council Language Requests and Clerk’s Recommendations for easy reference
- Anticipated for use on-screen for simpler step-by-step review