

**PONTIAC CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**

**Chair, Tamekia Ramsey**  
**Vice Chair, Kermit Williams**  
**Norbert Burrows**  
**Gill Garrett**  
**Bryan Killian**  
**Lucy Payne**  
**Scott Stewart**  
**Bruce Turpin**  
**Jose Ybarra III**

**PONTIAC**

The HEART of Oakland County



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47450 Woodward Ave. Pontiac, MI 48342 Phone: (248) 758-3200 Website: <http://www.pontiac.mi.us>  
Sheila Grandison, MiPMC, Deputy City Clerk

16<sup>th</sup> Session

**MEETING AGENDA**

**August 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Location: City Council Chambers**  
**Pontiac City Hall**  
**47450 Woodward Ave. Pontiac, MI 48342**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Authorization to Excuse Commissioners**
- IV. Amendments to and Approval of the Agenda**
- V. Approval of the Minutes**  
July 20, 2023
- VI. Discussion on Forms of Government: Mayor and Council**
- VII. Discussion on Training Dates**
- VIII. Public Comment**
- IX. Closing Comments**
- X. Adjournment**

**V.**

# **Minutes**

**Official Proceedings  
2022 Pontiac Charter Revision Commission  
15<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Call to order**

A Meeting of the 2022 Charter Revision Commission of Pontiac, Michigan was called to order by Chair Tameka Ramsey at the City Hall Council Chambers, 47450 Woodward Ave Pontiac, MI 48342 on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 6:05 p.m.

**Roll Call**

**Members Present** – Gill Garrett, Brian Killian, Tameka Ramsey, Scott Stewart, Bruce Turpin, and Kermit Williams.

A quorum was announced.

**Excuse Commissioners**

23-36 **Motion to excuse Commissioners Norbert Burrows and Lucy Payne for personal reasons.** Moved by Commissioner Stewart and second by Commissioner Williams.

Ayes: Garrett, Killian, Ramsey, Stewart, Turpin, and Williams,

No: None

**Motion Carried**

**Amendments and or Approval of the Agenda**

23-37 **Motion to approve the agenda.** Moved by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Stewart.

Ayes: Killian, Ramsey, Stewart, Turpin, Williams, and Garrett

No: None

**Motion Carried**

**Approval of the Minutes**

23-38 **Motion to approve meeting minutes from July 13, 2023.** Moved by Commissioner Garrett and second by Commissioner Stewart.

Ayes: Ramsey, Stewart, Turpin, Williams, Garrett, and Killian

No: None

**Motion Carried**

Commissioner Jose Ybarra III arrived at 6:14 p.m.

Review of last meeting Articles I-III (3.111); will start with Article 3.112 at the next meeting.

Commissioners discussed forms of Government: Strong Mayor, City Manager and Hybrid, Council Districts: seven (7) districts two (2) at large; five (5) districts two (2) at large and bi-weekly City Council Meetings instead of weekly meetings but no vote was taken.

**Public Comment**

1. Darlene Clark

July 20, 2023 Draft

**Closing Comments** – Commissioner Jose Ybarra III, Commissioner Gill Garrett, Commissioner Brian Killian, Vice Chair Kermit Williams, and Chair Tameka Ramsey made closing comments.

**Adjournment**

Chair Tameka Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

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Sheila R. Grandison  
Deputy City Clerk

DRAFT

**VI.**

**Forms of  
Government**

# Types of Government



# Types of Government

- Strong Mayor
- Mayor-Council / City Manager
- Weak- Mayor
- Hybrid: Strong Mayor / City Administrator

# Strong Mayor

- The strong mayor form of government is most often employed in larger US cities where the mayor must be a political player on the state and national level. Strong mayor cities vary in precisely how much power the mayor wields in comparison to the city council, .
- The mayor is the chief executive officer of the city. There is no city manager as there is in the council-manager form of government. Instead, city department heads report directly to the mayor.
- The city council serves as the legislative body. The mayor's interaction with the council is determined by local laws. In some cities, the mayor presides over the council, and in other cities the mayor has nothing to do with official council actions. Some cities give the mayor the veto power over council decisions

# Strong Mayor

- The mayor administers the day-to-day operations of the government
- *'Under the strong mayor form, a popularly elected mayor is the chief executive officer, and that individual personally chooses key administration officials. It is unlikely that mayors are elected for their education and management skills, or for their experience in administering budgets, managing people, and assessing organizational service delivery. Instead, a mayor's effectiveness generally depends upon the ability of the people working in the mayor's office to carry out those functions.'* Darnell Earley, ICMA-CM, MPA
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# Council/City Manager

- o In an age when local governments in general, and urban local governments in particular, have been subject to increasing fiscal stress as a result of receding federal and state aid together with a more regulatory environment that has made municipal management more complex, the council-manager system has risen to dominance in the United States. In a council-manager system, policymaking is vested in elected representatives and management in an appointed professional manager.

# Council/City Manager

- Under the council-manager form of government, council members and often the mayor are elected directly by the voters. If not directly elected, the mayor is selected by and from among the council. Together, the mayor and Council, hire an experienced city administrator
- The manager is the chief executive officer of the municipality and reports directly to the entire governing body, which serves as a policy making board of directors.

# Council/City Manager

- In the council-manager form, policymaking is vested in elected representatives and management in an appointed professional manager.
- The mayor, or chairman, of the council and council members are the leaders and policy makers elected to represent the community and to concentrate on policy issues that are responsive to citizens' needs and wishes. A manager is appointed by the governing body to carry out policy and ensure that the entire community is properly served. If the manager in question does not respond to the governing body's wishes, it has the authority to dismiss that manager at any time.

# City Manager/City Administrator

- More than 80 per cent of all cities (mayor and manager) in the survey reported having appointed a chief official, like a city manager. This means that many mayor-council cities have a city manager-like chief administrative officer who answers to the mayor or the council.

## Weak Mayor / Council

- In a weak-mayor-council system, the council is both a legislative and an executive body. Council members appoint administrative officials; they make policy; they serve as ex officio members of boards; and they prepare the budget. With this, Mayor powers are “weak” because they lack effective executive power and restriction on the ability to appoint and remove officials, and lack veto powers.

# Hybrid Strong Mayor/City Manager

- The city manager would report to the mayor but would have independent authority to make decisions without mayoral approval.
- The mayor would hire the city manager, subject to council approval.
- The council and mayor both would have firing power - the mayor through direct action and the council by a supermajority vote.
- The mayor, or chairman, of the council and council members are the leaders and policy makers elected to represent the community and to concentrate on policy issues that are responsive to citizens' needs and wishes

A combination of At Large and District representation is designed to optimize the vote or representation of the individual voter. At large is designed to assure that representation is global in nature assuring votes that are for the benefit of the whole. The district representation is to assure that local neighborhood issues are addressed via district representation. District representation was designed to assure minority populations, that may be concentrated in certain "districts", to have representation in the governance of a municipality

- Empirically at large representatives are more likely to represent the city as a whole vs the peculiar interest of district representation.
- 80 % of cities have some form of at large representation. The majority of cities are exclusively at large.
- Second most popular in cities 5,000 - 1,000,000 is at large in combination with district representation.
- The goal in having at-large representation is to provide for representatives that are beholden to the whole jurisdiction, who will not be biased by local issues.
- By choosing five districts and two at large representatives we are attempting to maximize the power of the individual voters. We are allowing the voters to maximize their influence in a way that balances their concerns for local and city wide issues.
- Paul H. Edelman Professor of Law and Mathematics Vanderbilt, University has theorized that the power of an individual voter is maximized when the number of at- large representatives is approximately the square root of the total number of representatives. (7 representatives = 2.64) (5 reps = 2.23) Not sure how its calculated but its basically 2 at large.
- The goal in having at-large representation is to provide for some representatives beholden to the whole jurisdiction, who will not be biased by parochial local issues.
- On the other hand we may not want so many at-large representatives that local issues can be ignored. By choosing the number of representatives to maximize the power of the individual voters we are

**allowing the voters to maximize their influence in a way that balances their concerns between the local and the global issues.**

- **A Lack of district organization breeds lack of trust in government.**

## HYBRID FORM OF GOVERNMENT

**Mayor (Chief Executive)**                      **Deputy Mayor (Chief Operating Officer)**                      **Council President (Public Advocate)**                      **City Council**

**Requirements - Mayor is required to follow these requirements for**

**Deputy Mayor:**

- Residency is not needed when appointed, once appointed, the Deputy Mayor must move into the community within 120 days (4 months)

The mayor can veto, but the council does have the right to vote a super majority to revoke the veto

At the same time that they elect the members, the voters shall elect a person to be the President of the City Council, who shall possess the qualifications required for the Mayor of the City. It shall be the President's duty to preside over the City Council, vote on all questions and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.

The Council shall consist of six

members in addition to the President. There shall be 6 districts with one member elected from each district. There would be a total of 7 Council Members

- Four years of experience developing, implementing, and managing programs, projects, and personnel functions, including two years in a supervisory role  
- A bachelor's degree in business management, public administration, or related field required, Masters Preferred

External Relations-  
Environment  
Cooperation; Public  
Policy Advocacy;  
Infrastructure &  
Transportation;  
Emergency Response  
& Crisis Management;  
Educations and  
Research

Day to Day Operations  
(Overseer  
Shall be considered  
the Public Advocate  
"People's Champion"

Appoint Citizens to  
Boards and  
Commissions

Monitor the operation  
of the public  
information and  
service complaint  
programs of city  
agencies and make  
proposals to improve  
such programs

Required to allocate  
funds for Chief of  
Staff, Budget & Policy  
Analyst

Budget  
reccomendations for  
the city

Help Oversight Boards  
and Commissions

-Under the City Clerk's Office, required to allocate funds for

Public Integrity Officer- **investigates waste, abuse, fraud, and corruption in City government. Our jurisdiction extends to all employees, contractors and those seeking to do business with the City of Detroit.**

Review complaints of a recurring city-wide nature relating to services and programs, and make proposals to improve the city's response to such complaints

Receive individual complaints concerning city services and other administrative actions of city agencies;

# Points to consider

CITY OF PONTIAC

## CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Elected versus Appointed Executive

December 6, 2013

Work Sheet

The following are the notes posted on flip chart during the discussion Elected versus Appointed Executive.

For the next meeting, add other elements

Element	Elected Executive	Appointed Executive
Educational Achievement as a Prerequisite		X
Experience Achievement as a Prerequisite		X
Quick Accountability		X
Direct Accountability to the People	X	
"Television" Personality / Image	X	
History IN the City	X	
In-depth Background Check (available to all)		X
Defined Skill Set <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Management</li> <li>• Human Capital Management Skills</li> <li>• Engineering Skills</li> <li>• Public Safety Skills</li> </ul>	?	X X X X
Ongoing Cost of the Official		
Subject to Political Manipulation		
True Accountability		X
Transparency		X
Consistency of Process and Actions		X
