

# General Code Review Committee

## Meeting Minutes

Monday April 19th 7p, 2021 via Zoom

<https://depaul.zoom.us/j/94051616701>

by phone: 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 940 5161 6701

Member	Present		Member	Present
Richard Meister, Chair, 2024	x		Jim Slawinski, 2022	x
Ken Thompson, Sec, 2024	x		Lynn Toomey, 2023	
Connie Collins, 2022	x		Scott Kingan, TC Member	x
David Hollar, 2023	x		Doug Cannon, TC Member	
Mike Shaefer, 2023				

### Meeting called to order

Approval of Minutes of the March 15, 2021 meeting – **approved as written by unanimous consent**

### Old Business

**Proposal to Move from 5 Ward Based Council members to a combination of ward/at-large representation**

#### **Proposal to Amend: 31.01**

The current code states that the Town Council is composed of five members, elected on the basis of ward representation. The boundaries of the wards are redrawn every ten years on the basis of equalizing the population. All registered voters vote for each ward representative.

1. The Town will be divided into three wards, based on an approximately equal number of residents in each ward. The Council representative must be a resident of the ward. The ward boundaries will be determined following the publication of the decennial census. All residents will vote for the candidate or candidates.
2. Two Council members will be elected at large.

The terms will be four years. Every two years either two or three council members will be elected. The Town Clerk Treasurer will serve four years and the term will coincide with the council election for two council members.

#### Rationale:

1. Weaknesses of the current system.
  - We have few candidates coming forward seeking election partly because of the small number of potential candidates for each position. In some elections we have had no candidates. We currently have about 1,000 residents, including children, residents who live four or five months elsewhere and increasing number, including individuals who are my age, who lack the energy or the time to serve. Currently, each ward has approximately 200 residents, including most of whom fit on one of the above categories. Thus, the pool on which to draw potential candidates is very small.
  - Most residents have no sense of which ward they are in and if they do, these wards will be redrawn after the 2020 census is published.
2. Benefits of a combination of at-large and ward-based representation.

- It maintains the spirit of neighborhood representation. We are a small community. Instead of five wards, we would have three. These could be more easily defined. For example: north, east and west.
- We would have two members of the Council elected at-large, thus these could live anywhere.
- Each ward would have approximately 330 residents, thus a larger pool to draw candidates. And having two, at-large Council members the pool for each at-large seat is 1,000 residents.

After considerable discussion we agreed to the following voteable motions  
(related to Ordinance 31.02 & 31.03)

- In a vote 7 to 2 (at the March meeting) it was decided in favor of a proposal to reduce the number of wards to 3; still maintaining the town council at a total of 5 members with 2 at-large members be elected to the Town Council with the current 4-year term with staggered elections as now practiced for the current board.
- In a unanimous vote it was decided in favor of dividing the 3 wards into a North, Central, and South wards.
- In a unanimous vote it was decided that the two at-large members terms should be staggered so only one at-large position would be voted upon in a specific election.

Upon further review and discussions with State Rep Karen Tallian the following proposal is being considered at this meeting.....

**GRC No. \_\_\_\_\_**

**GENERAL CODE REVIEW COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO TOWN CODES FOR TOWN COUNCIL APPROVAL**

**TOWN CODE TITLE, CHAPTER, SECTION, STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

31.01 Council to be elected at large.

**CURRENT CODE LANGUAGE:**

The members of the Town Council are to be elected at large by the voters of the whole town. ('99 Code, § 3-1) (Ord. 489, passed 4-12-82)

**PROPOSED CODE LANGUAGE:**

The members of the Town Council are to be elected at large by the voters of the whole town. ('99 Code, § 3-1) (Ord. 489, passed 4-12-82)

- A. There will be three (3) wards with individual representing each of the three-ward still maintaining the town council at a total of 5 members with 2 at-large members be elected to the Town Council with the current 4-year term with staggered elections as now practiced for the current board.
- B. The three (3) wards will be organized as provided for in section 31.02<sup>1</sup>, but generally divided into a North, Central, and South wards.
- C. The two at-large members terms will be staggered so only one at-large position would be voted upon in a specific election.

**RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGE:**

Weaknesses of the current system.

- We have few candidates coming forward seeking election partly because of the small number of potential candidates for each position. In some elections, we have had no candidates. We currently have about 1,000 residents, including children, residents who live four or five months elsewhere and increasing number, including individuals who are at a more senior age, who lack the energy or the time to serve. Currently, each ward has approximately 200 residents, including most of whom fit on one of the above categories. Thus, the pool on which to draw potential candidates is very small.
- Most residents have no sense of which ward they are in and if they do, these wards will be redrawn after the 2020 census is published.
- Benefits of a combination of at-large and ward-based representation.
  - It maintains the spirit of neighborhood representation. We are a small community. Instead of five wards, we would have three. These could be more easily defined. For example: north, east and west.
  - We would have two members of the Council elected at-large, thus these could live anywhere.
  - Each ward would have approximately 330 residents, thus a larger pool to draw candidates. And having two, at-large Council members the pool for each at-large seat is 1,000 residents.

**The General Code Review Committee voted 4 to 2 in favor of the above modification to Ordinance 31.01 and in support of the proposed transition provided for below.**

**THE FOLLOWING IS THE TOWN COUNCIL ACTION REGARDING THE ABOVE PROPOSED CODE CHANGES and the transition plan presented below.**

APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

DECLINED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

**REFERRED TO (E.G., BUILDING CODE REVIEW FOR CHANGES, TOWN ATTORNEY, ETC.) FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION:**

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<sup>1</sup> 31.02 would be modified this year so the next election will follow the new 3-ward format with a required review once census data become available.

CLERK-TREASURER SHALL MAINTAIN PAPER AND/OR ELECTRONIC RECORD OF ALL CHANGES APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL AND ARRANGE FOR PREPARATION OF AMENDED ORDINANCES, AS NEEDED, FOR INCLUSION IN A "RECODIFICATION OF THE PRESENT GENERAL AND PERMANENT ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF OGDEN DUNES" AS PROVIDED FOR IN ORDINANCE 648 OF THE TOWN OF OGDEN DUNES.

**The transition would be as follows:**

Based on what Karen Tallian said, we need to make the change by the end of this year in order to be in effect for next year's election - but we could also wait as we will have to go through a redistrict process in 2022 (even if all we do is to say we are OK with what we have given the new census data). We recommend getting it done now.

We recommend the reduction to 3 wards with 2 at-large candidates (one elected in each election). This will be accomplished by....

Current Town Council members will remain serving their constituents in the old ward map.

In 2022, 3 positions on the board will be vacated and will be filled as follows: **one** from one of the new wards (selected in a lottery or by Town Council), **one** at-large position, and **one** Clerk/Treasurer position.

In 2024, 3 positions on the board will be vacated and will be filled as follows: (**two** from the two new wards that were not selected to have candidates from the last election) and **one** at-large candidate.

No restrictions on the locations of the at-large candidates as there would be a bit of a problem in the future such as:

If you accept the above, then the first at-large candidate must come from one of two wards. In the second election, the at-large candidate could only come from 1 ward and so on.

Here is the current terms and people in the position

Vacant ward 1 term over	1/1/2023
Doug. ward 5	1/1/2023
<b>Clerk/Trea.</b>	1/1/2023
Scott King ward 2.	1/1/2025
Karl ward 3	1/1/2025
Bernadette ward 4	1/1/2025

**Other business:**  
**Comments from committee members:**  
**Comments from the audience:**  
**Adjourn:**

*Dr. Kenneth Thompson*  
Secretary