

# General Code Review Committee

## Meeting Minutes

### Monday March 15th 7p, 2021 via Zoom

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

**Meeting called to order at 7:03**

**Approval of Minutes of the Feb 15, 2021 meeting** by unanimous consent.

**New Business**

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

**Proposal to Amend: 31.07**

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)

- a. In a vote 7 to 2 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.
- b. In a unanimous vote it was decided in favor of dividing the 3 wards into a North, Central, and South wards.
- c. 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.
- d. **If it was legal, it was also unanimously approved that at-large candidate would not run from the same ward as the other candidates for that election.**

**Other business:** None

**Comments from committee members:** None

**Comments from the audience:** None

**Adjourn:** Meeting ended at 8:16p by unanimous consent. Next meeting 7p, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

*Dr. Kenneth Thompson*

Secretary