



**RICHFIELD VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
(Meeting conducted via Zoom teleconference)**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2020
6 p.m.**

ROLL CALL: Beshara, Boester, Domanick, Lyons, Philippbar, Stoppenhagen and Waszak.

WORK SESSION

Charter Review Commission

Mayor Wheeler said the commission worked diligently for many hours on proposed changes to the Village of Richfield charter. There were no changes when the commission met 10 years ago.

1. Mayor cannot run for another office

John Evans Jr. said the commission favored a “cooling off period” after the mayor’s term. He mentioned that this and the other proposals were unanimous.

Lyons said he did not go directly to Council after serving as mayor. Beshara and Waszak said they did. Beshara said she still had something to give, and experience helps. She called the proposal unconstitutional. Lyons said he had no strong feeling on this, and that he personally needed a break after serving as mayor. Waszak said he also did not feel strongly, but said that Council benefited from experience.

Waszak and Beshara both said they had placed people on planning and zoning boards hoping they would run for office someday. Wheeler said some potential candidates are intimidated by running against an incumbent. Law Director Cortes noted that a two-thirds vote of Council was needed to put these changes onto the ballot.

Boester asked if the language of the charter was gender-neutral, and it was noted that a clause was placed in the charter in 2000 stating that the language applies to all genders. Philippbar said it was important to make the actual language gender-neutral like the charters in Hudson and Independence.



2. Council member cannot serve for eight years, then be immediately appointed to an unexpired term

Lyons noted that the use of the term “immediately” means that he could serve for eight years and then take a break of four months (or even one day) before returning to Council.

3. Organizational meeting on Jan. 2 should begin at 6:30 p.m., not 8 p.m.

Boester and Beshara both said that if this is the only change, it should not be sent to the voters.

4-6. Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and Park Board each add two alternate members who can vote when a substitute is needed.

Commission member Ed Luther said this will keep business going in case of absences. Beshara said she didn’t see this as a problem, and Boester said it hasn’t been a problem in his 33 years on the PZC. Alternates would have to sit through four-hour meetings and not vote. Boester is not in favor of this change. Luther said alternates are good because it takes time to bring new members of these boards up to speed. Stoppenhagen said alternates are a good idea because members could go on vacation and not feel that they can’t miss a meeting.

7. Park Board can accept donations for park-related purposes.

Council thanked the commission members for their efforts.

MOTION: TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE DISMISSAL, DISCIPLINE, DEMOTION OR COMPENSATION OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE.
Moved by Philipbar, seconded by Domanick. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

Executive session lasted from 7:37 to 7:48 p.m., when Lyons adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Gorman
Council Clerk

Mike Lyons
Council President