

DRAFT City of Green
2026 Charter Review Commission
P.O. Box 278 ♦ Green ♦ Ohio ♦ 44232-0278

MINUTES FEBRUARY 23, 2026

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** Bob Knapp, chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. **ROLL CALL** Roll call was taken. All Commission members were present.
- IV. **PROCEDURE REVIEW** Public comments will be taken at the beginning of each meeting, asking people to limit their public comments to three minutes. Public comments will also be invited as each Charter Article is reviewed.
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** February 9, 2026. Kristin Yanko moved to approve. Betty Konen seconded. No discussion. Roll was called. Minutes approved.
- VI. **READING OF CORRESPONDENCE** None read.
- VII. **PUBLIC COMMENT** No public comments.
- VIII. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Review of ARTICLE V** NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS. Nichole Messner read the Article.
 - 5.1 Effect of State Law. No comments.
 - 5.2 Regular, Primary, and Special Municipal Elections. No comments.
 - 5.3 Nominations. Bob Knapp said he had looked at other municipalities the same size as Green. Their language follows Green’s Charter so there is no need to change this section.
 - 5.4 Nominating Petitions. Bob Knapp noted a missing comma in the third paragraph between the words Mayor and Council. Nichole Messner has noted the correction.

Deborah Koral asked what happens if someone nominated dies? Does someone from the nominating committee take that spot for the election? The answer is no; the committee makes another nomination. She then asked what would happen if no one makes another nomination. Betty Konen said If no one else is nominated other candidates would run uncontested. Nichole Messner said if no one were available the position would be appointed. Betty Konen noted there would likely be other candidates.

OLD BUSINESS *Red, italicized, underline language* in these minutes reflect suggested changes, but have not been approved by the Commission as Charter changes as of the date of this meeting. Nor has a motion been made to adopt the changes by this Commission. Further discussion will be held at future Commission meetings under Old Business.

Bob Knapp recommended the Commission legal members begin to draft specific language for changes they would like to present to Council. Everything presented, for any of the Articles, will be reviewed before this Commission makes final decisions. Everything should be substantive and the language should be clear before it goes to Council (and to the Board of Elections.) Bob Knapp spoke to a former law director who said the

Board of Election has, in the past, edited some of the proposed Charter ballot language. It was noted because of the time line and because the Board of Elections deadlines, any changes should be minimal but important.

Betty Konen referred to Lisa Carey Dean's review of other charters, specifically concerning judicial powers/mayor's court. Robert Duffrin noted any municipality with a "mayor's court" must now have a magistrate. He said it can still be called a mayor's court as long as there is a magistrate. As Green has never had a mayor's court, the language will be left as is.

Bob Knapp looked at the absence of the mayor, (he also looked at corporate information) and said part of the difficulty is the geography of it. Is absence defined as out of town or is it inability to perform the work of mayor for a period of time? Nichole Messner has added Deborah Koral's language to the Article for future review and as language to begin discussion on any change.

Betty Konen said she does not like that mayor could be snow bird. Bob Knapp said he recommends a specific time period for an absence. Deborah Koral said job descriptions must mention if the job is a hybrid position or on-site position. So, the Commission cannot determine absence without knowing the requirements the City set for the job and is the job either hybrid or on-site. Betty Konen asked if that is true for elected officials. She understand for employees but not for office holders. Nichole Messner said none of the City employee's job descriptions contain language about working hybrid. Some leeway is available depending on the employee and their supervisor created by HR. Betty Konen and Bob Knapp both believe this section should address the physical presence of the Mayor in the City of Green.

Betty Konen asked if the Law Director position is part-time and is part-time defined. Nichole Messner read the job description which includes it is as a part-time position and consists of 20 hours per week. The Law Director does City work hybrid too.

A brief discussion was held mentioning the elected officials attendance, and Robert Duffrin said some cities have specific rules about absences. Bob Knapp asked if there are duties the mayor cannot do if working remotely. Betty Konen mentioned if there was a catastrophe the mayor should be physically present. Kristin Yanko said the mayor should have a pulse on the city and mentioned seeing the current mayor riding in a snow plow during the recent storm.

Bob Knapp asked about council absences and can they vote remotely. Nichole Messner said Council's rules say they should not miss more than 3 meetings in a year and no remote voting is available. There are no minimum hours of work for Council members. Deborah Koral said if Council has language about missing meetings the Mayor's position should too and recommended six weeks at which point the president of council would step in, not permanently, but until the mayor is able to perform the duties. Betty Konen said she finds that chaotic and disjointed and six weeks should be the max. She stated once elected, the mayor should be physically present. It was noted that a former mayor went south for an extended period for a few years. He was able to manage all City business remotely.

Bob Knapp mentioned family medical leave and asked how that would be handled for a mayor. Deborah Koral said currently there are no guidelines for a mayor's absence, hybrid or not. The Commission will continue to discuss the absence of a mayor. Bob Knapp reminded Commission members to begin submitting specific language so it will be available when the Law Director attends a meeting.

Deborah Koral ask Betty Konen is she had something different for public office. Betty Konen said with the ethics definition it is not public office; it is public official or employee. When looking at public office it talks about public agencies, and further delineates saying public official is anyone elected or appointed or an employee of a public office or agency and excludes certain things-*copied below*

(Read by Betty Konen while discussion of old business was going on. Full text added to the end of these minutes.)

ORC 102.01(B) definition of public official or employee - ethics definition:

(B) "Public official or employee" means any person who is elected or appointed to an office or is an employee of any public agency. "Public official or employee" does not include any of the following:

- (1) A person elected or appointed to the office of precinct, ward, or district committee member under section [3517.03](#) of the Revised Code, any presidential elector, or any delegate to a national convention;
- (2) A person who is a teacher, instructor, professor, or other kind of educator whose position does not involve the performance of, or authority to perform, administrative or supervisory functions;
- (3) An officer, member, or director of an existing qualified nonprofit corporation that creates a special improvement district under Chapter 1710. of the Revised Code, or such a person's designee or proxy, when the person is not acting in that role with respect to a purpose for which the district is created.

Betty Konen said this language does not capture all the Commission wants to address. Robert Duffrin also mentioned conflict of interest and said he has a list he will provide showing which offices conflict with other offices.

Betty Konen noted she has a call in to the Board of Election about their rules about the time line for submitting petitions. They have not responded yet. She will report to the Commission once she has heard from them.

The next meeting will cover Article VI City Departments. If the complete section is not covered during the meeting, it will be continued at the meeting afterwards.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Deborah Koral moved to adjourn the meeting. Bob Knapp seconded. Roll was called. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Green Charter Review Commission: Betty Konen, Bob Knapp, Deborah Koral, Kristin Yanko, Robert Duffrin

pc: Charter Review Commission
 Mayor Yeargin
 Nichole Messner, Clerk of Council; Charter Commission Meeting Secretary
 Lisa Carey Dean
 File

ATTEST: _____
 Sharon Salem (Recording Secretary) (Date)

APPROVED BY: _____
 Bob Knapp (Chair) (Date)

Section 102.01 | Public officers - ethics definitions.

[Ohio Revised Code Title 1 State Government Chapter 102 Public Officers - Ethics](#)

Effective:

April 7, 2023

Latest Legislation:

House Bill 45 - 134th General Assembly

PDF:

[Download Authenticated PDF](#)

As used in this chapter:

(A) "Compensation" means money, thing of value, or financial benefit. "Compensation" does not include reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official duties.

(B) "Public official or employee" means any person who is elected or appointed to an office or is an employee of any public agency. "Public official or employee" does not include any of the following:

(1) A person elected or appointed to the office of precinct, ward, or district committee member under section [3517.03](#) of the Revised Code, any presidential elector, or any delegate to a national convention;

(2) A person who is a teacher, instructor, professor, or other kind of educator whose position does not involve the performance of, or authority to perform, administrative or supervisory functions;

(3) An officer, member, or director of an existing qualified nonprofit corporation that creates a special improvement district under Chapter 1710. of the Revised Code, or such a person's designee or proxy, when the person is not acting in that role with respect to a purpose for which the district is created.

(C)(1) "Public agency" means the general assembly, all courts, any department, division, institution, board, commission, authority, bureau or other instrumentality of the state, a county, city, village, or township, the five state retirement systems, or any other governmental entity.

(2) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of division (C)(3)(a) of this section, "public agency" includes a regional council of governments established under Chapter 167. of the Revised Code.

(3) "Public agency" does not include any of the following:

(a) A department, division, institution, board, commission, authority, or other instrumentality of the state or a county, municipal corporation, township, or other governmental entity that functions exclusively for cultural, educational, historical, humanitarian, advisory, or research purposes; that does not expend more than ten thousand dollars per calendar year, excluding salaries and wages of employees; and whose members are uncompensated;

(b) The nonprofit corporation formed under section [187.01](#) of the Revised Code;

(c) An existing qualified nonprofit corporation that creates a special improvement district under Chapter 1710. of the Revised Code, when the corporation is not acting with respect to a purpose for which the district is created.

(D) "Immediate family" means a spouse residing in the person's household and any dependent child.

(E) "Income" includes gross income as defined and used in the "Internal Revenue Code of 1986," 100 Stat. 2085, 26 U.S.C. 1, as amended, interest and dividends on obligations or securities of any state or of any political subdivision or authority of any state or political subdivision, and interest or dividends on obligations of any authority, commission, or instrumentality of the United States.

(F) Except as otherwise provided in division (A) of section [102.08](#) of the Revised Code, "appropriate ethics commission" means:

(1) For matters relating to members of the general assembly, employees of the general assembly, employees of the legislative service commission, and candidates for the office of member of the general assembly, the joint legislative ethics committee;

(2) For matters relating to judicial officers and employees, and candidates for judicial office, the board of commissioners on grievances and discipline of the supreme court;

(3) For matters relating to all other persons, the Ohio ethics commission.

(G) "Anything of value" has the same meaning as provided in section [1.03](#) of the Revised Code and includes, but is not limited to, a contribution as defined in section [3517.01](#) of the Revised Code.

(H) "Honorarium" means any payment made in consideration for any speech given, article published, or attendance at any public or private conference, convention, meeting, social event, meal, or similar gathering. "Honorarium" does not include ceremonial gifts or awards that have insignificant monetary value; unsolicited gifts of nominal value or trivial items of informational value; or earned income from any person, other than a legislative agent, for personal services that are customarily provided in connection with the practice of a bona fide business, if that business initially began before the public official or employee conducting that business was elected or appointed to the public official's or employee's office or position of employment.

(I) "Employer" means any person who, directly or indirectly, engages an executive agency lobbyist or legislative agent.

(J) "Executive agency decision," "executive agency lobbyist," and "executive agency lobbying activity" have the same meanings as in section [121.60](#) of the Revised Code.

(K) "Legislation," "legislative agent," "financial transaction," and "actively advocate" have the same meanings as in section [101.70](#) of the Revised Code.

(L) "Expenditure" has the same meaning as in section [101.70](#) of the Revised Code when used in relation to activities of a legislative agent, and the same meaning as in section [121.60](#) of the Revised Code when used in relation to activities of an executive agency lobbyist.

Last updated February 28, 2023 at 10:45 AM