

AGENDA

CHARTER COMMISSION

February 20, 2013

**Commissioners Duval, Girard,
Martin, D'Allesandro, Lopez, Pappas,
Clayton, Ashooh, Infantine**

6:00 p.m.

**Aldermanic Chambers
City Hall (3rd Floor)**

1. Chairman Duval calls the meeting to order.
2. The Clerk calls the roll.
3. Minutes from meeting held February 6, 2013 and February 13, 2013.
(Note: Previously distributed to the board via email for review)
A motion is in order to accept the minutes.
4. Discussion regarding campaigns and elections.
5. Discussion regarding appointed officials and the bodies they serve.
6. New business to come before the commission.

TABLED ITEM

A motion is in order to remove this item from the table

7. Education Discussion:
 - Timeline of the school budget
 - Role of the mayor on the School Board
 - School District becoming a City department
8. If there is no further business, a motion is in order to adjourn.



CITY OF MANCHESTER

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Planning and Land Use Management
Building Regulations
Community Improvement Program
Zoning Board of Adjustment

Leon L. LaFreniere, AICP
Director

Pamela H. Goucher, AICP
Deputy Director - Planning & Zoning

Matthew M. Sink
Deputy Director - Building Regulations

6 February, 2013

Mr. Jerome Duval, Chairman
Charter Commission
Manchester City Hall
One City Hall Plaza
Manchester, New Hampshire 03101

Re: *Request to amend City Charter section 3.14(a)(3) & 3.14(d)*

Chairman Duval:

This letter is being sent to you on behalf of the Millyard Design Review Committee.

In response to the increasing loss of architecturally notable buildings and historic structures in the Amoskeag Millyard, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, in 1994, amended the zoning ordinance to create the Millyard Design Review Committee [ref. zoning, section 7.01(D)]. Since that time, that Committee has provided a vital City function by regularly convening to review and approve outdoor building permit applications in their area of jurisdiction, the AMZ zoning district in the Amoskeag Millyard.

In establishing the Millyard Design Review Committee, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen recognized that property owners were a vital stakeholder group in the Millyard and guaranteed their presence on the Committee by requiring the Mayor to appoint "*two property owners in the district*" as members. Unfortunately, two rules which were later incorporated into the 1997 City Charter have effectively disqualified Millyard property owners from eligibility to serve on the Millyard Design Review Committee.

These two provisions, at section 3.14(a)(3) and 3.14(d) of the Charter, require that all members of the city's varied Boards and Commissions – including the Millyard Design Review Committee – shall be residents of the city whose service periods are term limited to two consecutive three-year terms. While presumably appropriate for the City's other Boards and Commissions, all of which have citywide jurisdiction and draw new membership from a citywide pool of eligible citizens, these two residency and term limit provisions have effectively excluded Millyard property owners from Committee service.

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The main reason for this is that the class of Amoskeag Millyard property owners is quite small and essentially consists, aside from City-owned properties, of about 125 corporate entities rather than individual citizens. As a group, these corporately-owned properties represent an extremely small percentage of all the property owners in the city.

Because qualified candidates meeting the two City Charter rules mentioned above cannot practically be found, Amoskeag Millyard property owners, at the present time, have no representation on the Millyard Design Review Committee. Since this lack of representation is contrary to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen's original intent to ensure their presence, I am hereby requesting that the Charter Commission consider relieving Amoskeag Millyard property owners from compliance with the two above mentioned City Charter rules as they affect the Millyard Design Review Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Beauchesne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

David J. Beauchesne, Senior Planner

Copy: Leon LaFreniere, Director, Planning & Community Development Department
Thomas Clark, City Solicitor
Millyard Design Review Committee

January 2, 2013

Charter Commission Members

Suggestions from former City Clerk Leo Bernier:

- Address stipends for all elected officials.
- Address term limits for department heads.
- Address position of Welfare Commissioner – keep as elected versus appointed

Elected official stipends is an issue that has not been addressed since 1988. In 1999, while I was City Clerk, I made a proposal which would have saved taxpayer dollars starting in 2005. Health and dental insurance for the Mayor, Aldermen and School Board members would have been eliminated. At the same time, a stipend would be enacted, which would be part of the compensation schedule currently ordained in the City of Manchester. The Mayor would be at grade 36, Aldermen would be grade 5, and School Board Members would be grade 3. This proposal would level the playing field.

Regarding term limits for department heads, it would be expected that they would be more attentive to the needs of the taxpayers and the elected officials if they required reappointment every six years. I would also favor a limit of four terms.

The position of Welfare Commissioner should continue to be an elected one, as it has been for 100 years or more. This tends to keep the Commissioner attuned to the taxpayers and their needs. Finally, I would change the title of this position to Human Resources Commissioner.