

## **Summary of Changes Recommended by the City Charter Review Committee**

### **Section 3.8 – Council: President.**

#### Recommendation:

Add the following: “By majority vote, the council can remove the Council President as President and appoint another.

### **Section 4.1 – City Manager: Appointment and Qualifications.**

#### Recommendation:

Changes the voting requirement for council to remove the City Manager from a two-thirds vote to a majority vote.

### **Section 4.2 – City Manager: Vacancy.**

#### Recommendation:

Replaces the current section with the following: “When the manager is temporarily disabled from acting as manager or when the office of the manager becomes vacant, the council must appoint a manager pro tem. The manager pro tem has the authority and duties of manager, except that a pro tem manager may appoint or remove employees only with council approval.

### **Section 5.2 – Municipal Judge: Appointment.**

#### Recommendation:

Replaces the current section with the following: “A majority of the council may appoint and remove a municipal judge. A municipal judge will hold court in the city at such place as the council directs. The court will be known as the Municipal Court.”

### **New Sub-Section Under Section 5 – City Attorney.**

#### Recommendation:

Currently, there is no section regarding the City Attorney. The following will be added as section 5.5: “The office of city attorney is established as the chief legal officer of the city government. A majority of the council must appoint and may remove the attorney. The attorney may appoint, supervise, and may remove any employees who work in and for the city attorney’s office.”

### **Section 6.5 – Offices: Vacancies.**

#### Recommendation 1:

Creates an additional point under 6.5(1) which outlines the circumstances under which an office becomes vacant. The language added states: “Ceasing to reside in the city.”

Recommendation 2:

Additionally, 6.5 would include the process by which a two-thirds majority of the entire Council could expel a member of Council for disorderly conduct in Council. This action would require notice and a hearing by the Council.

The detail of this recommendation requires additional research and consultation from the City Attorney.

**New Section – Sales Tax**

Recommendation:

Would add the following language: “Any proposal to implement or increase a city sales tax shall be referred to the voters by the Ontario City Council and that referral to the voters shall occur in November of a U.S. Congressional election year.

**New Section – City Fees**

Recommendation:

Would add the following language: “Any proposal to implement or increase fees or other local taxes (except for a retail sales tax which is governed separately in this Charter must be affirmed by a two-thirds vote of the entire Council.

**New Section – Future Charter Revisions**

Recommendation:

Adds language which requires the Council to have an ad hoc committee review the City Charter every 10 years.