PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 3, CITY MODERNIZATION

SUMMARY

The proposed amendment to the city charter seeks to allow for modernization of certain city operations and provide flexibility in the use of technology, while bringing outdated sections in line with current state law. The first area is in open meetings: the amendment will maintain the requirement that meetings of public bodies of the city be held in accordance with the general laws of the state, while allowing those bodies to conduct their meetings by virtual means (teleconference, video conference, or other similar technology), if allowed by ordinance of council. The ordinance of council would provide for the circumstances by which this would occur, as well as set rules for same. The amendment would also allow a special or emergency meeting of council to be called as provided for by the charter and ordinance of council, rather than the general laws of the state, thereby also affording council the ability to conduct such meetings by virtual means.

The amendment would also allow for modernization in the area of auditing and city finances. The changes update language reflecting how financial transactions of the city operate, as well as align a function of the city auditor with the Ohio Revised Code. The amendment includes the following: changes the statement from the city auditor for the mayor's estimate to contain revenues of the general fund, rather than just income from taxes; removes the requirement to specify upon the warrant the funds upon which a warrant is drawn; gives the Auditor the ability to determine the form of a warrant as provided by state law or council ordinance; simplifies the section allowing for Council to determine by ordinance how and where city investment monies are deposited and sold; updates language referring to how outstanding utility debt is paid or transferred to a fund in order to pay interest on said debt; and changes the keeper of records relating to oaths of office of elected officials from the Auditor to the City Clerk.