

**Charter Review Committee agenda Tuesday, May 21, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall Hearing Room 18, 210 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060**

- Approval of minutes for public forum April 30, 2019, and regular meeting May 7, 2019
- Public comment
- Updates from committee members
- Discuss and vote on possible changes to:

Section 5-2 (Trustees under the will of Charles E. Forbes): Five members shall be elected by and from the voters of the city at large for a term of four years, so arranged that all members are not elected at the same time. **Vacancies shall be filled in a like manner as a city clerk vacancy.**

Replace bolded sentence with: **Whenever a vacancy occurs on the board of trustees under the will of Charles E. Forbes, the chair of the board shall declare a vacancy and, within 30 days following the date of the vacancy, call a meeting of the trustees to fill the vacancy. The board of trustees shall choose a person to fill the vacancy from among the voters entitled to vote for the office. Persons elected by the trustees to fill a vacancy shall serve only until the next regular city election, when the office shall be filled by the voters. The candidate elected to an office filled by appointment prior to the election shall be sworn to the office immediately, and shall serve for the unexpired term of the seat to which such candidate was elected. If the seat to which the candidate was elected would have been on the ballot for the next regular city election notwithstanding the vacancy, such candidate shall be elected for a full four-year term. No vacancy shall be filled under this section if a regular city election is to be held within 120 days following the date the vacancy is declared to exist. Persons appointed by the trustees to fill a vacancy under this section shall not be entitled to have the words "candidate for reelection" printed with that person's name on the election ballot.**

Section 4-6 (School Committee Filling of Vacancies): Whenever a vacancy occurs on the school committee, the president of the city council shall, within 30 days following the date of the vacancy, call a joint meeting of the city council and school committee to fill the vacancy. **The city council and school committee shall choose a person to fill the vacancy from among the voters entitled to vote for the office.**

Replace bolded sentence with: **The city council and school committee shall elect, by majority vote of those present, a person to fill the vacancy from among the voters entitled to vote for the office.**

- Discuss suggestion by Attorney William Newman to add language to Section 1-3 (Division of Powers) specifying legislative power of the City Council
- Vote on possible recommendations adding subsections to Article 8 (Elections) allowing the city to:
 - 1) Lower the municipal voting age to 16
 - 2) Adopt ranked-choice voting for municipal elections
 - 3) Mail ballots for municipal elections to all registered voters
 - 4) Remove the need to cite a specific reason to receive an absentee ballot for municipal elections

- Discuss outreach to under-represented communities
- Discuss summer schedule
- Adjourn