PROCESS FOR REVIEW OF CITY CHARTER:

What information by way of background material is needed in order to undertake a meaningful review of the current Charter? See, for example, materials attached.

In the course of the review process consider the following guiding principles:

if we were advising on the creation of a brand new City of Bexley, how would that government be structured in this ideal world to ensure efficiency and accountability?

What is in the best interests of the City of Bexley? Would the proposed changes satisfy the aspirational needs of the City’s pluralistic population and meet the City’s governance needs?

Is there a problem, and if so, what is it, and would a Charter change provide a solution?

How would a proposed change affect issues of representation, policy, leadership and administrative efficiency?

What might be other consequences of change?

Focus on ideas and proposals that are not precluded by federal or state law, or the federal or state constitution.

Focus on ideas and proposals that would (a) improve government effectiveness, transparency, accountability, or efficiency; and/or (b) encourage meaningful participation by residents of Bexley.

Focus on ideas and proposals that affect how policy decisions are made, and by whom, rather than ideas and proposals that would involve making particular policy decisions directly.

Focus on creating effective checks and balances without unduly hindering the City’s ability to respond to changes. In short, balance control with organizational and process flexibility and discretion.

Process: On-going interviews of City, Community representatives and solicitation of public comments thru Phases 1-4

Phase 1:

Data Gathering including individual preliminary Charter review, discussion on interim thinking and planning.

In-Depth review (meaning/purpose) of each section of the Charter as facilitated by Counsel.

Consideration of “cleanup” language with focus on clarity, readability, internal consistency, for example: adoption of gender neutral language; any items not in conformance with the Ohio Revised Code, where required.
Identification and evaluation of pre-selected “Big” impact items, for example: elected Mayor or not; term limits; structure of Council; removal authority; Commission appointment procedures; Council compensation; addition of Ethics section; assuring resident voices are heard; should the City Attorney be elected?

Phase 2: Section by Section Review of Charter & Identification/Evaluation of “BIG” impact items.

Starting with the first Article, analyzing the current content. In the event the Commission determines a provision needs to be changed, an outline of the desired change will be prepared and assigned to member(s) who will work with legal counsel to draft a new provision. The new provision will then be reviewed at the next Commission meeting and adopted, either as drafted or after amendments were made.

A table, in the form attached, will be used to note how each provision of the Charter was evaluated. Any changes are to be noted for each section in tabular form. In the event the provision is retained, its location in the amended charter is noted. In the event the provision was changed, the changes shall be so noted.

identification and evaluation of pre-selected “BIG IMPACT” items, for example: Elected Mayor or not; term limits; structure of Council; removal authority; Commission appointment procedure; addition of Ethics section; assuring resident voices are heard; should the City Attorney be elected?

Phase 3: Completion and Consideration of Integrated Draft and Report

Assignment to a committee of Commission members to assemble, with the assistance of legal counsel, all segments of the newly proposed Charter into an integrated whole, for consideration and approval by the Commission, to be used as the basis for a public hearing. Further, draft to be submitted to the Mayor for comment prior to final review by legal counsel.

Public meeting.

Preparation of, and voting on, any adjustments to the proposed Charter prompted by Mayor’s review and commentary, legal review, and public hearing. Completion of and voting on the accompanying report to Council.

Phase 4: Delivery to Council

Newly proposed Charter and accompanying report delivered to Council.