



Observer Reporting Form

Feature Evaluated	Yes	No	Comments
Meeting started on time?	X		
All members present?		X	Three members absent, B. Becker, D. Grieve, C Woodhull, Six members present. Review of Rules: 5 yes votes needed to pass resolutions/ordinances with 6 yes votes to pass emergency ordinances.
Members attentive?	X		
Did members appear to have done their "homework?"	X	X	*Did not appear that council did homework on Item 12a ordinance 1 <sup>st</sup> reading to amend charter to require # of petition signatures to place referendum on ballot to be 15% of registered voters. When asked County's requirement for referendums, Marilyn Roddy stated 10% of registered voters which was incorrect, 10% requirement was in regards to recall petitions.
Were members courteous to each other and the public?	X		
Agenda sent/posted 72 hours before?	X		
Agenda items clearly described what was to be discussed?	X		
Adequate opportunity for public input?	X		Ron Peabody and John Enloe spoke in opposition to 12a
Was there an appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?		X	
Was background information available to the public?		X	Did not appear that background info available for item 12a
Facilities adequate? (room size, lighting, ventilation, speakers audible, accessible to handicapped)	X		

**Were any issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or programs?** \*12a aligns with position regarding fairness of voting process. Roddy stated that she placed this ordinance on the agenda because there was a "conflict" and clarification needed between charter and state mandate requiring # of petition signatures to place a referendum on the ballot to be 15% of registered voters which overrides city charter requiring 30% of voters in last mayoral election. City can require fewer signatures but needs change to charter. Lengthy discussion, Mayor Haslam stating that this is a critical issue on how government works, all members agreeing that governing by referendum not good government and importance of having requirement not too difficult or too hard for citizens to acquire petition signatures. Critical deadline, if ordinance is not passed by Aug 24, would have to wait two years to get ordinance on ballot. This change to charter must be place on ballot during a state primary or general election. Votes to change charter to 10% registered voters and 5000 signatures or 5% of registered voters failed. Finally, passing ordinance 1<sup>st</sup> reading to be 7000 signatures or 7% of registered voter whichever is greater. Ordinance will move on to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>.

Continue Next Page

**Do you recommend League action on any of these issues?** Follow this issue closely at next meeting. Since this is a critical issue, I do have a concern about pushing ordinance through too quickly which limits citizen awareness, education and input.

**Other Concerns:** 9a 2nd reading ordinance allowing residents to keep limited # of domesticated chickens postponed 2 wks due to Woodhull's absence. Bailey, Palmer & Pavlis expressed issue with council's practice of postponements to adjust around absences on council.

---

**Observer: Barbara Nicodemus**

**Meeting: Knoxville City Council**

**Date: August 10, 2010**