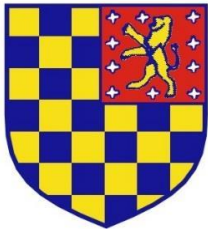


The City of Lewes



Proposed Charter Changes

*Consolidation of Board of
Public Works and City of
Lewes Charters*

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 10, 2019

Guiding Principles

- ▶ Retain employees currently employed by the City and the Board
- ▶ Safeguard the reserves and utility revenues to ensure they are used for appropriate utility purposes and not redirected to general government expenses
- ▶ Changes would be seamless to the taxpayers, rate payers, and employees

Guiding Principles Continued

- ▶ **Gain efficiency from consolidation of administrative functions**
 - ▶ Human Resources
 - ▶ Information Technology
 - ▶ Accounts Payable
- ▶ **Keep the Board of Public Works as the day-to-day operator of the City's utilities**
- ▶ **Re-affirm the City's authority over the utilities**
 - ▶ Expansion of service areas
 - ▶ Policies/Budgets

Noteworthy Points

- ▶ **Only New Castle City and Lewes have separately chartered utility corporations**
 - ▶ **In New Castle City, the Municipal Services Commission manages water and electric utilities (sewer provided by NC County)**
 - ▶ **Their structure is much different from ours; it is more efficient and helps to better ensure alignment with the City's policies**
 - ▶ **New Castle City Municipal Services Commission is a 3-member appointed board (one by mayor, one by council, one by the Trustees of New Castle Common)**

Noteworthy Points Continued

- ▶ Other municipally-owned utilities in Delaware operate as departments within the municipal government

Proposed Changes

- ▶ Rescind current charter for the Board of Public Works
- ▶ Embed relevant provisions of the current Board charter into the City's charter
- ▶ Many provisions remain unchanged

Proposed Changes Continued

- ▶ Board of Public Works becomes an appointed body
- ▶ Places the General Manager and employees of the Board of Public Works under the supervision of the City Manager, while continuing Board oversight

Reason for Charter Changes

- ▶ Avoid future disputes – consolidate charters and eliminate confusion
- ▶ Better accountability – reaffirm the City's role as the owner and operator of its utilities and ensure decisions made are consistent with policies of City of Lewes
- ▶ Increase transparency – ensure budgeting and contracting process is transparent

Next Steps

- ▶ **Receive input from public**
- ▶ **Finish drafting legislation**
- ▶ **Share draft legislation with legislators**
- ▶ **Develop transition plan to ensure an organized and efficient transition**

Share Your Feedback

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Email:

Ann Marie Townshend, City Manager
atownshend@ci.lewes.de.us

In subject line indicate "CHARTER CHANGES"

Or

Telephone: 302-645-7777 extension 109

*All comments received will be shared with
Mayor and City Council*