

## Presentation to Charter Review Commission (April 25, 2014)

Issue 3 – Obsolete, Moot or Duplicative Charter provisions

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### **ISSUE OVERVIEW**

#### **[BUREAU OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY]**

Sec. 145. [Powers and duties; City bulletin.]

There shall be established by council a bureau of information and publicity under the supervision and control of the city clerk, who shall, in addition to other duties, compile an annual report giving a summary of the council proceedings and a summary of the operations of the administrative departments for the previous fiscal year; have charge of the editing, printing and distribution of all municipal records, reports and documents; collect and compile information and statistics concerning all departments and offices of the city, and other municipalities; and publish weekly the City Bulletin, which shall contain the transactions and proceedings of the council, the legal advertising of the city and such other information relating to the affairs of the city as shall be determined by ordinance. The City Bulletin shall be published, distributed or sold in such manner and on such terms as the council may determine. No unofficial advertisement shall be published in the City Bulletin, nor shall the City Bulletin be used to promote the candidacy of any person, or be used as a medium for any personal controversy.

(Amended 11-3-98.)

*These duties are covered as core responsibilities of the City Clerk. A Bureau of Information and Publicity no longer exists. We will suggest removing reference to the Bureau.*

### **THE COUNCIL**

Sec. 11. Clerk and employees.

The council shall appoint a clerk, who shall be known as the city clerk, and such other officers and employees of council as may be necessary. The city clerk shall keep the records of the council and perform such other duties as may be required by this charter or by the council. Such clerk shall serve during the pleasure of the council. Council shall exercise no power of appointment except as herein expressly provided.

*Unlike most sections of the City Charter, this particular section covers a variety of subjects all within the same section. The Clerk, Council's ability to appoint other offices and employees of council, and the fact that they may exercise no other powers of appointment except as provided. Perhaps we should consider listing these functions separately and model the City Clerk section more like that of Section 13 The City Treasurer. (shown below)*

**Sec. 13. The city treasurer.** 

**Council shall appoint a city treasurer who shall hold and administer the office during its pleasure. The treasurer shall perform such duties and exercise such powers as are prescribed in this charter.**

**Sec. 231. Annual reports.** 

The various officers, boards and heads of departments shall annually report to council in comprehensive and systematized detail, the financial and other transactions of the departments or divisions thereof under their supervision or control. Such reports shall cover such period of time and be made in the manner and at the time that council shall by ordinance prescribe. Such reports shall, when so made, be grouped and published in book form as the annual report of the city.

*We still gather and group the annual reports into a "book" with a table of contents and cover page but this reference may give the impression it continues in hard copy. Council addressed definitions in the Columbus City Code as shown below regarding printing and publishing to reflect new technology and trends toward publication via electronic methods. Perhaps consider similar provisions in the Charter that cover current practice as well as what may be the standard in future years.*

**City Code chapter 101**

**Printed.** The word "**printed**," or the process of "**printing**" shall mean the production of information or data by traditional or electronic means.

(x)

Publish (or published). The word "publish" shall be deemed to make available, as a book, electronic document, or other **printed** work, either for sale or for general distribution.