

New Hanover County

Board of Commissioners



Resolution

ESTABLISHING A CONSOLIDATION CHARTER COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the consolidation of City and County Governments has been discussed actively for many years in New Hanover County and the City of Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a joint or combined resolution by the City of Wilmington, the towns of Wrightsville, Carolina and Kure Beaches, and the County of New Hanover, a Consolidation Study Commission was established for the purpose of studying, evaluating, analyzing, reviewing any and all elements which would affect the feasibility of the above units consolidating; and

WHEREAS, said committee was also charged with making a recommendation to the governmental units concerning the establishment of a Governmental Consolidation Charter Commission; and

WHEREAS, this committee has recommended that a charter commission be established to draft a Charter effecting the consolidation of the City of Wilmington and New Hanover County; and

WHEREAS, Article 20 of Chapter 153A of the North Carolina General Statutes authorized counties and cities to establish governmental consolidation charter commissions by concurrent resolutions of their governing bodies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NEW HANOVER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE WILMINGTON CITY COUNCIL, THAT:

1. There is hereby established the New Hanover County Governmental Units Consolidation Charter Commission pursuant to the provisions of Article 20 of Chapter 153A of the North Carolina General Statutes.
2. The Commission is hereby charged with the following purposes:
 - (a) To review available proposed charter for a single Government for New Hanover County and the City of Wilmington;

- (b) To review the studies of the powers, duties, functions, responsibilities, and organizational structures of New Hanover County and the City of Wilmington;
 - (c) To analyze the costs and financing of a single government format;
 - (d) To prepare and recommend the proposed charter for the consolidated governments of New Hanover County and the City of Wilmington to the governing bodies of the County and City.
3. The Commission shall consist of members who shall serve until the work of the Commission is completed. The New Hanover County Commissioners shall appoint six members, the Wilmington City Council shall appoint six members, and one member each shall be appointed by the governing bodies of Wrightsville Beach, Carolina Beach and Kure Beach. The members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but may be paid or refunded any necessary and essential expenses incurred by them in carrying out their duties consistent with the adopted budget.

Currently sitting elected officials will not be eligible for appointment to the Commission, nor will any members of the Governmental Units Consolidated Study Commission be appointed as a member. However, the chairmen or a representative from the five committees of the 1984-85 Study Commission will be asked to serve as an advisory committee to the Commission. Vacancies occurring on the Commission by reason of resignation or otherwise shall be filled by the governmental body that made the original appointment.

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and an affirmative vote of the majority of the members present at a meeting of the Commission shall be required to constitute action of the Commission.


4. The officers of the Commission shall be a chairman, vice-chairman and a secretary. The chairman, vice-chairman and secretary shall be elected by the commission from its membership at the organizational meeting. The meetings of the Commission shall be subject to the provisions of the Open Meetings Law, Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

5. The organizational meeting shall be called by the Chairman of the County Commissioners and shall be held within thirty days after the appointment of the members of the Commission. All appointments to the Commission shall be made and reported to the Chairman of the County Commissioners by February 17, 1986. The Commission is to complete its work on or before July 15, 1986.
6. New Hanover County shall pay all the costs and expenses of the Commission. As soon as practicable after its organizational meeting, the Commission shall prepare a budget for its operations. The budget shall be reviewed and approved by the County Commissioners. For the purposes of the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, the employment of personnel, purchasing procedures and financial management, the Commission shall be deemed to be a department of New Hanover County, under the governing body.
7. The Commission may utilize officers, employees, agents and facilities of New Hanover County and the City of Wilmington as may be needed to carry out the Commission's purposes. In particular, the offices of the County Attorney and the City Attorney are available as legal resources for the Commission.

The Commission is encouraged to utilize the expertise and resources of the Institute of Government in preparing the proposed charter.

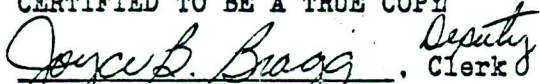
8. Subject to the approval of the budget by the County Commissioners, the Commission shall have the powers set forth in G. S. 153A-404. The Commission shall also have the authority to appoint such subcommittees of its membership and advisory committees as necessary for the accomplishment of its purposes.
9. The intent of this resolution is to provide for the preparation of a consolidation charter for a single government for the County and City to be submitted to the voters for approval. The Commission shall have no authority to call for a referendum without the joint approval of the City Council and the County Commissioners.

Signed this the 16th day of December, 1985.


Jonathan Barfield, Sr.
Chairman



CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY


Joyce B. Bragg, Deputy Clerk
New Hanover County Commissioners