

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2014

The Charter Review Committee meeting was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on May 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: George “Mackie” McCabe, Chair; Danielle Daugherty, Vice Chair; Steven Steve” W. Fussell, Ray Lewis, and Pam Washburn

Also Present: City Attorney Scott Gerken, City Manager Gary La Venia, Mayor Chris Bell, Commissioners Chris Cheshire, John Gunter, and Sharon Kelly, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

1. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. and the chair led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. ROLL CALL

The chair declared a quorum present.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Mr. Fussell, seconded by Ms. Washburn and unanimously carried, the committee approved the May 6, 2014 minutes as submitted.

4. CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

a. Public Hearing Guidelines

The chair summarized the rules of procedure for those intending to address the committee during the public hearing.

b. Recommended Plan

The chair referred to the recommended plan relating to the charter amendment presented by the city attorney’s office. He outlined the main interest of reviewing the redistricting at five districts with the rotation of the mayor, after the election, by the commission and the suggestion of how information, retrieved from staff, would be modernized.

With reference to Section 3., under the initial charter amendment recommendations and at the chair’s request, Mr. Gerken defined the committee’s recommendation on the city commission’s election at-large divided into five distinct commission districts; the five commissioners’ seats and the mayor appointed from among the commission on an annual basis, and the method of the districting concept on the majority of voters from one section of the city required to approve a charter amendment and after that, the ability to overturn the charter and undo everything that was carried out.

Mr. Gerken explained that the majority of four out of five districts out of the city would approve a charter amendment ensuring that it is the desire of the community

as a whole, and the qualifier is “if the city attorney” determines if it is able to be implemented.

Mr. Gerken stated that he is still reviewing the matter further; indicated that the recommendation will go forward before the city commission for consideration, and implement same in the method the committee desires; however, he noted the specific process for amending one’s charter as outlined in the state statutes and Attorney General’s Opinion (AGO) on the issue of supermajority.

c. Redistricting Plan

Mr. Leslie Robert “Bob” Huffstetler, LPG Urban and Regional Planners Inc., reviewed the geometric layout and subdivisions of the City of Fruitland Park Voting Districts Maps reflecting Options 2 and 5 for five districts; copies of which are filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

After discussion, Mr. Gerken explained that if the redistricting plan moves forward, the voters would be asked in November 2014 whether they support districting or five-member districts. He stated that after that time, the city would go through a process of approving the maps which is not intended to be that way forever due to growth and numbers filling in; thus, the lines would be redrawn over the years.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

By unanimous consent, the chair opened the public hearing and called for interested participants to be heard.

There being no one from the public and **by unanimous consent, the chair closed the public hearing.**

6. COMMITTEE MEMBERS QUESTIONS AND STAFF COMMENTS

On motion of Mr. Fussell, seconded by Ms. Daugherty and unanimously carried the committee endorsed the charter amendment recommendations, as submitted, and approved forwarding them as final recommendations to the City of Fruitland Park Commission for consideration at its May 22, 2014 regular meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the committee at this time.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Upon the chair’s suggestion and **by unanimous consent, the committee agreed to wait until the outcome the city commission’s decision at the May 22, 2014 regular meeting to determine if a committee meeting required on June 10, 2014.**

9. ADJOURNMENT

On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Signed _____
Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk

Signed _____
George “Mackie” McCabe, Chair