

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2014

The Charter Review Committee meeting was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on March 11, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: George “Mackie” McCabe, Chair; Steven Steve” W. Fussell, and Ray Lewis

Members Absent: Danielle Daugherty, Vice Chair and Pam Washburn

Also Present: City Attorney Scott Gerken, City Manager Gary La Venia, Vice Mayor Al Goldberg, Commissioner Chris Cheshire, Community Development Director Charlie Rector, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and the chair led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. ROLL CALL

The chair acknowledged that a quorum was present and explained that Mses. Daugherty and Pam Washburn will be absent from this evening’s meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

After discussion, and **on motion of Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Fussell and unanimously carried, the committee approved the February 25, 2014 minutes as corrected.**

4. CHARTER SECTIONS DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION

(a) Article IV., Administrative

Subsection 4.03, Appointment and term of office of city treasurer, city clerk and city attorney

After the committee discussed the charter officers’ reporting requirements and their appointments serving under the city commission, Mr. Gerken recognized the city commission’s power and ability to alter the charter on charter officers’ personnel matters and addressed the city manager’s role in directing all the city’s day-to-day operations.

Subsection 4.05.1, Acting city manager

The committee discussed with Mr. Gerken the city’s procedures in the city commission’s appointment of a qualified administrative officer as an acting city manager, in the city manager’s temporary absence, and his point of view as it relates to the Attorney General’s Opinion on officers and his support that the Florida Constitution does not support an officer as a dual office holder.

(b) Article V., Creation of Departments - Subsection 4.07, Supervision of departments

In response to the committee's discussion on the city commissioners' involvement with personnel issues, Mr. Gerken addressed the need to review existing ordinances and make changes to previously enacted ordinances.

(c) Article VI., Financial Procedures

The committee considered the item and held discussion on financial procedures.

(d) Article VII., Planning and Zoning Board

Mr. Gerken referred to the charter (City boards (Article III., Subsection 3.07, Mayor) and explained how the mayor appoints and the city commission approves interested residents to serve on city committee boards and that the Planning and Zoning Board make their own appointments based on categories according to the city's code under the Land Development Regulation requirements.

Following further deliberations, Mr. Gerken pointed out the committee's previous discussions and the possibility of reviewing the annual rotation of the position of the mayor or four commissioners.

The chair reminded the committee that at the next meeting, it will review the remaining sections and subsequently re-examine and re-write the remaining articles in the entire charter document.

5. REDISTRICTING PLAN DISCUSSION

Consultant on the redistricting plan for the Charter Review Committee

Extensive discussions ensued on the redistricting process and the forthcoming Villages population, Messrs. La Venia and Gerken addressed the intent of Mr. Greg Beliveau, LPG Urban and Regional Planners Inc., to appear before the city commission's March 13, 2014 regular meeting to review the proposed schedule, the draft map, and district lines whereby the committee would recommend the adoption of the process.

Mr. Gerken suggested that summary meeting establishing schedules be held in future and that Mr. Beliveau be invited to attend the April 8, 2014 committee meeting to give a similar presentation that he intends make before the city commission.

6. CITY LIMIT SEWER LINES MAP

The chair referred to the sewer lines (water utilities) map which was provided at his request to the committee, a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

7. STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Gerken explained that he will not be in attendance at the March 25, 2014 meeting and addressed his plan to provide information on election matters.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Earlier in the meeting, Ms. Rita Ranize, City of Fruitland Park resident, suggested the nomination of individuals to city committees by the commission; discussed the redistricting process and the public's opinions, and changing the annual rotation of the position of the mayor.

Later in the meeting, Ms. Ranize addressed missed committee meetings by members.

9. NEW BUSINESS

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

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

After Mr. Fussell relayed his previous concerns regarding transparency, discussion was held on the public's access at commission meetings.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The chair announced that the date of the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee at this time, on motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Signed 

Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk

Signed 

George "Mackie" McCabe, Chair