

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Draft

July 1, 2019

4:00 PM

Gainesville Regional Utilities Multi-Purpose Room

Charter Review Commission

Walter Barry (Member)
Richard Blount (Member)
Susan Bottcher (Member)
Jorge Campos (Member)
Cynthia Chestnut (Member)
Robert Cohen (Member)
Crystal Goodison (Vice-Chair)
Scherwin Henry (Member)
Mary Lou Hildreth (Chair)
Jeremiah Tattersall (Member)
Donna Waller (Member)

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CALL TO ORDER - 4:02 PM

ROLL CALL

Vice-Chair Goodison (excused absence).

Bryan Eastman (Alternate) absent.

Present 10 - Member Henry, Member Bottcher, Member Barry, Member Chestnut, Member Blount, Member Cohen, Member Waller, Member Campos, Member Tattersall, and Member Hildreth

Absent 1 - Member Goodison

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Member Bottcher, seconded by Member Tattersall, that this Matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 10 - Member Henry, Member Bottcher, Member Barry, Member Chestnut, Member Blount, Member Cohen, Member Waller, Member Campos, Member Tattersall, and Member Hildreth

Absent: 1 - Member Goodison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[190111.](#)

Charter Review Commission Minutes (B)

RECOMMENDATION

The Charter Review Commission approve the minutes of June 13, 2019.

A motion was made by Member Bottcher, seconded by Member Barry, that this Matter be Approved as Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 10 - Member Henry, Member Bottcher, Member Barry, Member Chestnut, Member Blount, Member Cohen, Member Waller, Member Campos, Member Tattersall, and Member Hildreth

Absent: 1 - Member Goodison

BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chair Hildreth discussed process for subcommittee's potential amendments to staff for vetting.

Member Chestnut asked for accurate meeting minutes to reflect discussion.

Member Bottcher suggested requesting documentation, "research" for meetings ahead of time from the Clerk's office.

190101.**IT Introduction (NB)**

Jean Clark (IT Manager) presented. Requested to speak with each member by phone or in person to set up email on personal devices. Ms. Clark shared City wifi login information and provided members with handouts with email set-up information and contact information.

RECOMMENDATION

IT Supervisor Jean Clark will provide information for setting up City email accounts.

Discussed190116.**Alternate Meeting Date for September (NB)**

Motion: Approve 9/16/19 at 4:00 PM for the alternate meeting date due to the Labor Day Holiday.

RECOMMENDATION

The Charter Review Commission discuss and decide between September 9th and 16th for an alternate meeting date due to the Labor Day Holiday.

A motion was made by Member Chestnut, seconded by Member Bottcher, that this Matter be Approved, as shown above. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 10 - Member Henry, Member Bottcher, Member Barry, Member Chestnut, Member Blount, Member Cohen, Member Waller, Member Campos, Member Tattersall, and Member Hildreth

Absent: 1 - Member Goodison

190102.**Workplan - Article I (NB)**

Chair Hildreth asked the City Attorney a question about outdated/obsolete language. City Attorney Waratuke responded that the outdated language can probably change without putting it to a referendum.

Member Bottcher asked if staff could review or strikethrough obsolete language. City Attorney Waratuke will bring the answer to the next meeting.

Member Barry asked if the City Attorney reviewed the Charter for obsolete language. City Attorney Waratuke will find out.

RECOMMENDATION

The Charter Review Commission discuss and take action deemed necessary.

Discussed190103.**Workplan - Article II (NB)**

Chair Hildreth commented about 2.01 and 2.02 (population size). Member Bottcher responded.

Chair Hildreth commented about the size of the Commission (size of districts/number of Commissioners). Member Bottcher commented.

Member Blount commented about the Commission size.

Member Chestnut responded about the Commission size and district representation under 110,000 population.

Member Henry commented in favor of retaining seven Commissioners.

Chair Hildreth commented in favor of seven Commissioners.

Member Tattersall commented. Asked to hear arguments for going from seven to five members.

Member Chestnut commented about the concern of members being single-district oriented.

Member Waller commented on the Commission's role; spoke in favor of seven members and district/at-large combination of seats.

Member Cohen commented about the productivity of a five-member district over seven because of Sunshine Law impact on communication.

Member Blount commented in favor of more members in the interest of diversity of viewpoints.

Member Campos commented about diversity concerns, lack of representation for diverse citizens. Spoke to the option of moving to two district members, three at large.

Member Bottcher commented about voters deciding in favor of number of members, cited Florida League of Cities analysis (most have five members).

Member Tattersall asked a question regarding the process. Chair Hildreth responded. Member Tattersall asked for a follow-up. Member Bottcher responded.

Straw poll to leave at seven members (majority).

Member Campos asked staff for research presentation on peer cities. Chair Hildreth responded. Comparable size/demographics with number of Commission members.

Member Henry spoke to the matter of cost savings. Commented that citizens voted to make Commission seven members to accommodate for growth in the future. Member Blount spoke to the matter.

Member Waller commented on Commissioners' input that they will take the CRC's recommendations, unless they think the CRC has done something totally egregious. CRC should view its choices as definitive. In favor of fewer items on ballot; not putting items before voters without consensus from CRC.

Member Cohen agreed with making only consensus recommendations. Reiterated support for five members getting more done.

Chair Hildreth asked alternate Gonzalez for comment. Alternate Gonzalez spoke in favor of seven members, district and at-large seats. Prefers Commission working to make meetings more efficient in other ways.

Member Chestnut responded about representation to clarify comments. She asked for

staff to report on: 1) would like to know year language was written to move from five to seven members; and 2) when was the change. (Currently 130,000 population).

2.03 Eligibility

Member Tattersall spoke in favor of members residing in districts. Members Campos and Barry commented.

Member Chestnut commented that School Board members reside in district, but elected at-large.

Member Henry asked about term length (from three to four years). Members Bottcher and Campos commented.

Member Waller asked if staff could change Section 2.03 (eligibility) from three to four-year terms. Member Bottcher responded that the language needs to be cleaned up where it should read 4-year terms (in the third to last sentence in that paragraph).

Member Chestnut asked about residence. Member Bottcher responded; asked if language could specify residency. Member Chestnut responded. Member Bottcher reiterated clarifying residency requirement to specify occupancy in district.

Member Campos agreed on clarifying language - suggested using homestead exemption for a period of time. Member Bottcher commented.

Member Blount commented on term language. State "two consecutive full terms" rather than specifying number of years (Section 2.04 Election & Terms).

Member Tattersall requested language from Member Bottcher on Senate Bill 602 (FL). Member Bottcher will email to members.

Member Campos commented about sharing electronic documents among members, creating a shared folder.

Chair Hildreth referred to Model City Charter. Member Bottcher responded regarding the role of CRC to review examples, put to voters.

Member Tattersall opposed to term limits, loss of institutional members.

Chair Hildreth asked for the City Attorney to prepare language to clarify residency requirement/domicile.

Section 2.04 Elections and Terms

Chair Hildreth spoke to (1)(c) appointments during vacancies.

Chair Hildreth suggested changing special election to fill vacancy if less than one year left in term (because moving to 4-year terms). Members Chestnut, Bottcher and Campos responded. Member Tattersall suggested "half of term". Member Bottcher responded in favor. Member Henry responded in favor of maintaining appointments for vacancy under six months or less. Members Blount and Chestnut agreed with keeping six months.

Motion by Chestnut, seconded by Barry: Keep language of 2.04 (4)(a&b) the same as

stated. Motion passed 7-3. Members Tattersall, Campos and Bottcher in dissent.

Chair Hildreth commented against term limits in interest of institutional knowledge.

Member Bottcher commented in favor of changing term limits.

Member Cohen in favor of no term limits - creates short-term interest, loss of knowledge.

Member Waller commented in favor of three consecutive terms.

Member Blount commented on the term "consecutive". Member Bottcher responded.

Member Chestnut spoke in favor of a 12-year term limit.

Chair Hildreth asked about consensus for three consecutive terms.

Motion by Barry, seconded by Chestnut: Change limit to three full terms (consecutive) Motion approved 9-1. Member Campos in dissent.

Member Bottcher asked about the idea of requiring candidates for Commission to obtain petitions in lieu of filing fee. Asked about County petition formula. Member Campos replied, asked about cost burden.

Member Blount spoke in support of petitions. Member Barry commented.

Chair Hildreth asked staff for potential language regarding petition system (what the percentage is).

Member Barry spoke in favor of only a petition requirement.

Member Tattersall commented regarding 1% population requirement.

Member Campos asked about district vs. at-large population requirement.

Member Chestnut asked about time for public comment.

Member Bottcher suggested tabling petition question, ask staff for information on petition cost.

RECOMMENDATION

The Charter Review Commission discuss and take action deemed necessary.

Discussed

WORKPLAN REVIEW

[190117.](#)

Update Workplan (B)

Work Plan Review

Chair Hildreth proposed the following for the August meeting: 1) Article II (finish); and 2) Article III (start on Administration).

RECOMMENDATION

The Charter Review Commission review and take action

deemed necessary.

Discussed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jean Chalmers, Donald Shepherd and Dean Mimms spoke to the matter.

MEMBER COMMENT

Chair Hildreth spoke about including a preamble to the Charter. Commented on salary, that it should be set by ordinance, not Charter.

Member Tattersall commented on ranked choice voting for City - by ordinance (because Supervisor of Elections prohibited by state).

Member Cohen supports preamble idea. Would like to discuss tying salaries to a benchmark.

Member Campos commented tying Commission salaries to employee salary rates.

Member Chestnut would like the CRC to address issues/recommendations on salary to Commission. Difficult for lower income people to serve.

Member Bottcher commented on salaries (Model City Charter has a section on salaries). Chair Hildreth responded.

Member Bottcher noted City Attorney Dan Nee's phone number is incorrect in CRC notebook: (334-5011) is the correct number.

Chair Hildreth reiterated not including salaries in Charter.

Member Blount supports preamble idea, spoke to salary (range compared to area median income).

NEXT MEETING DATE - August 5, 2019

ADJOURNMENT - 6:11 PM

Motion by Member Bottcher, seconded by Chestnut to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 PM. Motion approved 10-0.

Next meeting: August 5, 2019.