

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Draft

April 15, 2020

4:00 PM

TELECONFERENCE MEETING

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 - 4:01 PM**ROLL CALL**

Chair Hildreth gave introductory remarks on the history of the Charter Review Commission and the ten proposed charter amendments. The Chair explained the format and procedures that will be used to conduct the three required public hearings, which will be held virtually (via Zoom) due to the COVID-19 emergency stay-at-home order. Chair Hildreth reviewed opportunities for public participation, including options for submitting written and verbal public comment.

Alternates: Member Eastman present. Member Gonzalez absent.

Present 11 - Member Henry, Member Bottcher, Member Barry, Member Goodison, Member Chestnut, Member Blount, Member Cohen, Member Waller, Member Campos, Member Tattersall, and Member Hildreth

[191148.](#)

Supplemental CCRC Rules Governing Virtual Public Hearings (B)

City Attorney Nicolle Shalley presented draft Supplemental Rules to govern the conduct of virtual public meetings held without a physical quorum by the Charter Review Commission according to the executive order by Governor Desantis. Nicolle Shalley explained two proposed revisions to the rules: (1) modifying the deadline for the publishing of the meeting agendas to 5 P.M. on the Friday of the week prior to the public hearing. (2) Providing the telephone contact information for public comments during the meeting in the Notice of Meetings and announcement at the beginning of the meeting (rather than including the number in the agenda).

Motion by Member Barry to accept the supplemental rules with the two revisions. Seconded by Member Goodison. The City Attorney will work with the the Clerk and the Chair to get the document signed. Roll Call Vote: Passed 10-0 (Member Cohen absent).

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Supplemental Rules.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

Aye: 11 - Member Henry, Member Bottcher, Member Barry, Member Goodison, Member Chestnut, Member Blount, Member Cohen, Member Waller, Member Campos, Member Tattersall, and Member Hildreth

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Aye: 11 - Member Henry, Member Bottcher, Member Barry, Member Goodison, Member Chestnut, Member Blount, Member Cohen, Member Waller, Member Campos, Member Tattersall, and Member Hildreth

[191105.](#)

Approval of Minutes from the March 2, 2020 Charter Review Commission Meeting (B)

RECOMMENDATION

The Charter Review Commission approve the March 2, 2020 minutes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

[191050.](#)

Proposed Charter Amendment to Require Appointment of a City Attorney (B)

Chair Hildreth introduced the item. City Attorney Nicolle Shalley explained the process that she would follow to present each of the proposed charter amendments. Nicolle Shalley presented the first amendment with the text of the draft ordinance.

Chair Hildreth commented. No member comments.

Public Comment: Nathan Skop

Member Blount commented.

Member Tattersall commented.

City Attorney Shalley commented about the process of voting on the charter amendments.

Chair Hildreth commented about the amendment.

Member Goodison commented about the potential of “ballot fatigue” if many amendments are included on the ballot for voters.

Chair Hildreth commented that the members will have two more hearings to discuss the amendments after receiving public comment.

Member Blount asked a question about considering the potential fiscal impact of the amendments. Chair Hildreth responded.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Charter Review Commission discuss the draft charter amendment ordinance and receive public comment

[191051.](#)

Proposed Charter Amendment to Retitle the Clerk of the Commission to City Clerk and to Require Appointment of a City Clerk (B)

Chair Hildreth introduced the item. No discussion or public comment.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Charter Review Commission discuss the draft charter amendment ordinance and receive public comment

[191052.](#)

Proposed Charter Amendment to Require Appointment of a City Internal Auditor (B)

Chair Hildreth introduced the item. No discussion or public comment.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Charter Review Commission discuss the draft charter amendment ordinance and receive public comment.

[191053.](#)

Proposed Charter Amendment to Extend the Term Limits of the Mayor and City Commissioners (B)

Nicolle Shalley introduced the item. Chair Hildreth commented about the background discussion on the proposed amendment.

Member Tattersall, Member Barry and Member Campos commented.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Charter Review Commission discuss the draft charter amendment ordinance and receive public comment

[191054.](#)

Proposed Charter Amendment to Delete the Charter Office of the General Manager for Utilities, thus Transferring Administrative Authority over the City's Utility System to the City Manager (B)

City Attorney Shalley introduced the item and explained the effects of the proposed amendment.

Chair Hildreth commented.

Member Campos commented about the process of moving forward the proposed amendments to the City Commission for consideration.

Member Chestnut commented.

Public Comment: Armando Grundy-Gomez, Robert Pearce.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Charter Review Commission discuss the draft charter

amendment ordinance and receive public comment

[191055.](#)

Proposed Charter Amendment to Increase Salaries for Members of the City Commission (B)

City Attorney Shalley introduced the item. Ms. Shalley provided background on the direction provided by the Commission regarding the draft ordinance and explained the salary formula calculations included in the ordinance.

Member Blount commented about the implementation of the salary changes.

Chair Hildreth commented. Members Campos, Waller, Tattersall, Cohen, Henry, Chestnut, Goodison, and Bottcher commented.

Public Comment: Armando Grundy-Gomez, Kristen Young, Janice Geary and Patricia Lee.

Motion by Member Blount to change the timeline of the proposed amendment re: Commissioner salaries to be implemented over five years (2024-2028). Motion failed for lack of a second.

Members Barry and Goodison commented.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Charter Review Commission discuss the draft charter amendment ordinance and receive public comment

[191114.](#)

Proposed Charter Amendment to Increase the Signature Requirements for Voter Initiated Charter Amendments (B)

City Attorney Shalley introduced the item and noted that the Commission may revise the amendments prior to the next hearing so that public comment may be received before sending amendments to the City Commission.

Member Tattersall commented about the process of developing the proposed amendment. Member Tattersall motioned to withdraw the proposed amendment; seconded by Goodison. Roll call vote: Passed 11-0.

Member Blount commented.

Public Comment: Nathan Skop and Armando Grundy-Gomez.

Members Goodison, Waller and Tattersall commented.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Charter Review Commission discuss the draft charter amendment ordinance and receive public comment

[191115.](#)

Proposed Charter Amendment to Eliminate the Restrictions on Use of Funds for construction of Paved Surfaces in Designated Areas (B)

City Attorney Shalley introduced the item.

Chair Hildreth commented. Member Tattersall asked a question about modifying the language of the draft ordinance. Attorney Shalley responded.

Member Barry commented.

Public Comment: Kristen Young

Members Campos, Blount, Goodison, Barry, Bottcher, Cohen and Alternate Eastman commented.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Charter Review Commission discuss the draft charter amendment ordinance and receive public comment

[191120.](#)

Proposed Charter Amendment to Further Limit the Authority of the City Commission to Dispose of Certain Utility Facilities (B)

City Attorney Shalley introduced the item and shared a comment from City Manager Lee Feldman about including wastewater which was not included in the current charter language. He suggested including the term “treat” in place of “produce”.

Motion by Member Bottcher to revise the ordinance to include the term “treat” in the next draft. Seconded by Member Tattersall. Roll call vote: passed 11-0.

Member Barry commented.

Public Comment: Kristen Young

RECOMMENDATION

The City Charter Review Commission discuss the draft charter amendment ordinance and receive public comment

[191121.](#)

Proposed Charter Amendment to Create a Charter Preamble (B)

City Attorney Shalley introduced the item. Chair Hildreth commented.

Member Blount commented about the wording of the proposed charter preamble.

Chair Hildreth suggested that members may submit suggested revisions to the City Attorney before the second public hearing to be considered prior to voting on final ordinance language.

Member Barry commented. Chair Hildreth commented.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Charter Review Commission discuss the draft charter amendment ordinance and receive public comment

MEMBER COMMENT

Member Campos commented about comments received by email from the public to the Charter Review Commission members. Asked about how the Clerk will capture written communications from the public. Chair Hildreth commented about communications from the public.

The Clerk stated that comments received from the public via email or “eComment” via the City’s website will be distributed to the Commission members. Comments will be added to the meeting minutes and included in the official public record.

Chair Hildreth commented.

Clerk reminded the members about the next scheduled public hearing on April 23, 6 - 8 pm.

ADJOURNMENT - 6:00 PM