

Charter Review Commission on 2020-04-15 4:00 PM

Meeting Time: 04-15-20 15:58

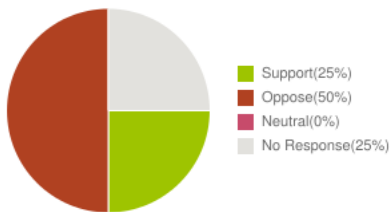
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Charter Review Commission on 2020-04-15 4:00 PM	04-15-20 15:58	18	4	1	2	0

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Charter Review Commission on 2020-04-15 4:00 PM

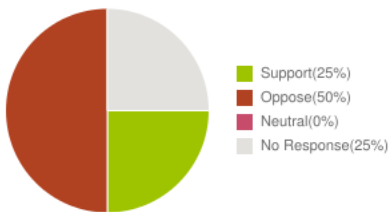
04-15-20 15:58

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
191053. Proposed Charter Amendment to Extend the Term Limits of the Mayor and City Commissioners (B)	1	0	0	0
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)	2	0	2	0
191121. Proposed Charter Amendment to Create a Charter Preamble (B)	1	1	0	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

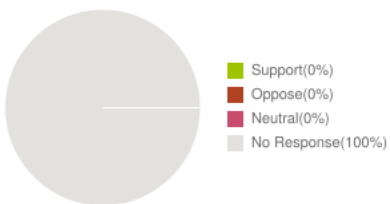
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for 191053. Proposed Charter Amendment to Extend the Term Limits of the Mayor and City Commissioners (B)

Overall Sentiment



Robert Pearce

Location:

Submitted At: 6:46pm 04-14-20

The amendment language should include the length of the terms so that voters understand the full implications. Until very recently, terms were 3 years. The 2-term limit meant a potential 6 year allowance.

The proposed 3 term limit, combined with newly adopted 4-year term, means a potential 12 year allowance. This is a radical difference.

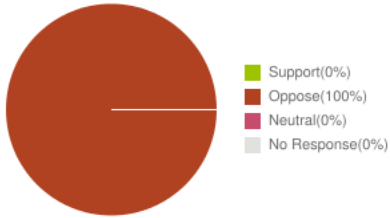
Voters should be appropriately informed.

Thank you.

Robert Pearce

Agenda Item: eComments for 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)

Overall Sentiment



Nancy Deren

Location:

Submitted At: 7:11pm 04-15-20

Dear Members,
I think the downsides outweigh the pros.

I agree with the letter that former City Manager and Utility General Manager, Karen Johnson wrote

To be subordinate to another appointed manager removes too much oversight and control from the commission and the public

the city strategic plan and energy policy together must guide and direct the City Manager, Utility Manager, commission, and UAB to be more aligned. This would better integrate and coordinate actions.

Nancy Deren

Concerned Citizen

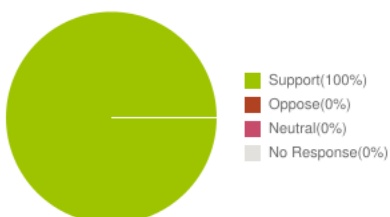
Location:

Submitted At: 1:30pm 04-15-20

The commission is voting on removing the steward of our quality of life and the purity of our water. This decision will replace our GM with an official that ultimately didn't resolve major sewage leaks in Fort Lauderdale for 3 years straight and only did so once the EPA stepped in and declared it a disaster. When Feldman finally decided to take action, it came at the cost of the rate payers. The issue will ultimately cost Fort Lauderdale 1.2 billion over 20 years. GNV can't afford Feldman.

Agenda Item: eComments for 191121. Proposed Charter Amendment to Create a Charter Preamble (B)

Overall Sentiment



Nancy Deren

Location:

Submitted At: 7:13pm 04-15-20

I support with different language.

Kessler, Marie P

From: Tattersall, Jeremiah <tattersalj1@cityofgainesville.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:48 PM
To: George W. Braun
Subject: Re: Charter change concerns

George,

Thanks for the feedback. In regards to number 6 this should include a provision have a citizen ordinance indicative at a lower rate. That is, for a citizen to get an ordinance on the ballot it'd be 10% and to change the charter would be 20%. We had two meetings canceled because of COVID-19 which would have worked out more details on this and other proposals.

Thank you,

Jeremiah Tattersall
Charter Review Commission (Member)
Pronouns: he/him/his
(352) 388-1733 (cell)
twitter.com/JeremiahTatter

From: GeorgeWmBraun <georgewmbraun@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:43 PM
To: DG_CharterReviewCommission <DG_CharterReviewCommission@cityofgainesville.org>
Subject: Charter change concerns

I have several concerns regarding the proposed charter changes but I will not attend the meetings.

#4 TERM LIMITS

Shortly ago commissioners could serve two consecutive terms of three years each for a total of six years. Currently they serve a four-year term with a limit of two or eight years consecutively. The charter change would allow three terms of four years yielding twelve years. Term limits would jump from a maximum of six years to twelve years in the span of just a couple years. Lets give eight years a try before stretching out to twelve.

#5 GRU

GRU faces some tough challenges now and ahead. The change in GRU General Manager status amendment seems to add another layer of bureaucracy unnecessarily. Some in the community advocate more autonomy for GRU from city government, not less. I don't advocate more autonomy nor less in GRU General Manager status. The status-quo is OK.

#6 Signature Requirements

This seems unnecessary. There's not been a flurry of grass-roots amendment proposals. The only recent charter revision, changing the election cycle and terms from three years to four was initiated by the commissioners. Due to typically low voter turnout, no current commissioner was elected by more

than 15% of registered voters and most by far less. This change would require a greater voter mandate than any sitting commissioner has! This is a solution to a nonexistent problem and has the appearance of arbitrarily limiting democracy.

George Braun
Gainesville, FL 32641

Kessler, Marie P

From: 'Nancy@enrichlife.net' <nancy@enrichlife.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:57 PM
To: Dg_charterreviewcommission; Citycomm
Subject: comments on Charter utility manager

April 14, 2020

Dear Charter Review Members and City Commissioners,

I can't get that e- comment to go through so here is my letter:

I oppose the proposed charter amendment 191054, proposal to eliminate the Charter Officer position for the Director of Utilities.

While there are pros and cons for each side in this proposal, I think the downsides outweigh the pros.

I agree with the letter that former City Manager and Utility General Manager, Karen Johnson wrote in her letter of April 12, and with the points she made in opposing a change.



I am most concerned about the following:


GRU is our most critical, foundational municipal asset. The General Manager should be chosen by the commission, and have to report to the commission, not to the appointed city manager.

Making both positions appointed, and our most critical foundation of our city's stability and health be subordinate to another appointed manager removes too much oversight and control from the commission and the public over the capacity of our city to function and prosper. I don't want our water supply, our energy supply, reliability, the level of quality and expertise of GRU employees and the lives of hundreds of employee neighbors and small forest products businesses in our area to be subordinate to an appointed city manager and not to the city commission as the board of directors.

I realize it is messier but focusing only on efficiency is the enemy of resilience. Resilience demands sufficiency, redundancy and a systems approach. Covid-19 is a huge wake up call and opportunity to reimagine our underlying assumptions, ways of doing business and how we measure success.


I realize most municipal utilities have the utility manager under the city manager. Gainesville is unique in that our tax base is so low, GRU is an essential contributor to the city's ability to provide the levels of service that we do, provides multiple essential services beyond electricity, and, given the level of misunderstanding and rancor that exists I don't think this would be a good move at this time. The city commission, as elected officials, must continue to stay on top of, vigorously discuss, and be making the decisions for the city that are going to be even harder in the next few years given the economic impacts of covid-19, climate crisis and end of growth.

The utility industry is undergoing a transformation from huge, centralized  burn more to earn more  fossil fuel based plants, to managing and providing and servicing energy. This requires a general manager to be 100% focused on how and what the steps are, and to have to explain and discuss with the city commission and public these very difficult options and decisions.

This must not be left to the city manager, no matter how good he/she might be  as Karen Johnson pointed out, there are very different planning horizons, different priorities and a city manager has a great ability to determine what information the commission is given, and how that information is prioritized and framed.

We developed the UAB and have already revised that ordinance to make it a stronger advisory board to vet and convey important information. That in turn provides the city commission with a third party to assess and offer perspective and information.

What I do think needs to happen, is through ordinance changes that address the friction and cross purposes siloing that I agree need attention.

I think that the city strategic plan and energy policy must be a unified plan that guides, directs and forces the City Manager and Utility Manager  and the city commission and UAB-- to be more aligned under its provisions so that the Utility is better integrated into a comprehensive city plan that has short, mid and long term goals guided by the city vision and mission. This is how I would better integrate, coordinate and require the city manager and utility director to have common guidelines and goals.

So much transformation is happening right now and will over the next few years, that to have ordinances that can be changed and adapted as we move forward, makes more sense to me at this point in time.

I know GRU has been confused in the public eye as a separate entity rather than a city department, and the public lack of understanding of the difference between a municipal and a private utility has exacerbated that misunderstanding, but that is a failure of communication and marketing and can be, must be addressed. But not via a charter amendment.

Thank you very much.

In community,

Nancy Deren

Kessler, Marie P

From: Tattersall, Jeremiah <tattersalj1@cityofgainesville.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:43 PM
To: 'Shanefeyers@gmail.com'
Subject: Re: Public comments/questions

Shane,

Thank you for your well thought out email. I'll take them in point:

- Term limits are bad for democracy and are not necessarily good for diversity. When we have term limits we lose institutional knowledge. The institutional knowledge is then taken away from elected officials and resides in unelected bureaucrats. There's been a lot of studies about how corruption goes up with term limits too.
- The GRU manager would be position under the City Manager. This would increase accountability, transparency, and do away with some duplicity. I'm open to talking about this more though.
- This is a strange issue. The short and long of it is that some rich racist people got this added to the charter to stop low income and/or people of color from using the parks in and around hogtown creek. This was wrapped in environmentalism but had nothing to do with it. Paving paths around hogtown creek would have allowed us to use state and federal dollars for conservation while opening up access for the public. Because this didn't happen the Publix was built on 34th and University along with other developments along the creek. I agree with you on concrete being terrible and I'd hope we'd use something more sustainable with better drainage.
- The commissioner salaries are low. Very low. The only people who can afford to be city commissioners are wealthy or from certain jobs such as realtors and lawyers. The current commission is the most diverse in its history and many have faced financial ruin because they sought this position. This salary is based on a formula used by the state of Florida to determine County officials salaries. We substituted the population of Gainesville for Alachua County and came up with this salary. We were supposed to have 2 more meetings to workshop the details but COVID-19 happened and those meetings didn't happen. We don't want people to get rich off of being a commissioner but we also want them to be able to do this job without having financial hardships.

Sorry for the brevity of this email. Please feel free to call me if you'd like to have a more full conversation any and all of these great points you brought up.

Thanks,

Jeremiah Tattersall
Charter Review Commission (Member)
Pronouns: he/him/his
(352) 388-1733 (cell)
twitter.com/JeremiahTatter

From: Shane Feyers <shanefeyers@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:07 PM

To: DG_CharterReviewCommission <DG_CharterReviewCommission@cityofgainesville.org>

Subject: Public comments/questions

Dear City Commissioners,

I am writing with several questions about the proposed charter amendments. Specifically, amendment 4, 5, 7, and 8

For amendment 4, moving term limits from two to three.

- Can you please describe why this is important? Increasing term limits means potentially reducing the diversity and variety of the city commission over time.

For amendment 5, removing the general manager position from the commission and delegating these responsibilities to the city manager

- The management of utilities (delivery, consistent service, equitable pricing, emergency response) is a large and significant responsibility. Will the city manager -- who is already tasked with government programs and services, law enforcement, ordinances and policies, purchasing, and budget -- be able to manage the added responsibility of managing also the utility company supplying all of Gainesville?

For amendment 7, eliminating the restrictions of funds for paved surfaces.

- Which restrictions specifically? Will this pertain to restrictions on open spaces wild places dollars?
- What designated areas is this provision referring to?
- Will this ultimately result in MORE paved surfaces?
- Concrete is a major contributor to green house gas emissions. It is a major contributor to run off and stream bank erosion (which are issues the city struggles with already). Considering the state of the weather just the last two days, the flood warnings, etc, is it wise to unlock more paving?

Lastly, amendment 8, increase salaries for the city commission

- My property taxes went up this year. Will these be used to pay the city commission?
- What are the details of the salary increase and what performance justifies the raise?

Collectively, these amendments

- a. increase the power of the city commission
- b. increase the pay of the city commission
- c. but can potentially decrease citizen power and oversight
- c. and potentially increase the environmental footprint, and reduce greenspace of the city.

Accordingly, I am hoping my questions can be addressed by email and during the town hall.

Thank you,

NE Gainesville Resident

Shane Feyers
[linkedin](#)

Kessler, Marie P

From: Warren, Helen K. <warrenhk@cityofgainesville.org>
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2020 9:23 PM
To: Karen Johnson
Cc: Dg_charterreviewcommission
Subject: Re: General Manager for Utilities and Charter Review

Karen,

Thank you for your thoughtful comment. Yes, you do have a unique position from your experience over a period of many years and view from several perspectives.

I agree with basic recognition that our utilities is much more complex than public works. And with what I have seen with other cities, we have a broad spectrum of plant operations from water, sewage, steam, gas, coal and biomass.

That may require more from the commissioners to build an understanding of energy production. Overall, we need to work on our relationships with our charters so that we can learn what questions we need to ask.

Again, thank you for sharing these comments.

Helen

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 12, 2020, at 3:17 PM, Karen Johnson <kjredstart@yahoo.com> wrote:

?

Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners:

I am writing to express my extreme concerns about the charter proposal that apparently is designed to eliminate the position of General Manager for Utilities as an independent Charter officer. I believe that I may have a unique perspective on this proposal because I am likely the only person who has spent extensive time serving as both the City Manager (15 months) and the General Manager for Utilities (about two years) here in Gainesville. My entire 33 year career in local government, twenty of which was in Gainesville, was about equally divided between general government and utility specific experience. When I began my career in Gainesville in 1989, the General Manager was under the City Manager, so I am familiar with how that operated.

There are many reasons which I will outline below, but they all boil down to this. **The City Commission needs to hear the voice of both the City Manager (CM) and General Manager (GM) as equals. There is a dynamic tension between the roles of the CM and GM and as our elected representatives YOU need to be the ones to sort out and balance those priorities. This is simply too important to our community to be delegated to an unelected City Manager. My more specific rationale follows.**

when the GM reported to the City Manager, information that the City Commission needed to hear about necessary maintenance was suppressed. At the utility, anything less than 100% reliability is considered to be a failure and something which needs improvement. While a missed garbage pick-up or the appearance of a pothole is unfortunate, it does not compare to our customers' expectations that they will always obtain pure, clean water when they turn on the faucet or that their toilets will always flush. And yet, when the utility reported to the City Manager, the CM exerted strong internal pressure to treat all of these issues similarly in the name of fairness. The City Commission needs to fully understand the trade-offs between rates and reliability and make the appropriate decisions.

The planning horizon of the General Government and the utility tends to be significantly different. Due to the capital intensive nature of utility operations, almost everything that the utility thinks about today takes three or five or ten or more years to come to fruition. While that is true of some aspects of the general government, the City Manager tends to be focused more on the budget cycle. From my viewpoint as a former staff person, there is a basic issue in that many elected officials are understandably focused mainly on what they can accomplish during their term in office, and effective City Managers help them achieve their goals. But one term in office is very short in the utility's planning horizon. Again, the City Commission needs to hear the long term voice and make the appropriate decisions.

Few, if any City Managers have extensive background in utility operations. It is rare to find someone coming out of the utility sector who has experience in operations as complex as GRU. I would venture to say they are nearly nonexistent from the general government side. Think back to your own learning curve as an elected official even from a policy perspective on utility issues. Then multiply that many fold in terms of managing the day to day operations. Most City Managers simply do not have the background to do this, and upon arrival will not have the time to develop the necessary expertise to make sound recommendations to the City Commission.

I have tremendous respect for both the general government and utility operations in our City government. And I recognize that sibling rivalry that sometimes seems to exist can be uncomfortable for you as elected officials. Nonetheless, I think that balancing these competing needs is one of the most important things that you do as elected officials. I would therefore urge you to reject any attempts to remove the General Manager for Utilities as an independent charter officer.

Sincerely,

Karen Johnson

Kessler, Marie P

From: Mark Merwitzer <mbmerwitzer@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:45 PM
To: Dg_charterreviewcommission
Subject: Public Comment for Charter Review Commission Ranked Choice
Attachments: model statute _ rcv charter amendment.pdf

Dear Charter Review Commission,

My name is Mark Merwitzer, I am a student at the University of Florida. I am emailing you to ask that the CRC please consider an amendment to the charter that will allow for ranked choice voting in Gainesville. I have attached proposed language that I hope the CRC will consider and will be calling into the meeting to give testimony on the amendment .

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mark Merwitzer
(C) 786-505-7272

Kessler, Marie P

From: Julia Reiskind <jbreiskind@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 2:33 PM
To: Dg_charterreviewcommission
Subject: Support Charter Amendment Item 191115

To Members of the City Charter Review Committee,

Jon and I support amending the current charter to eliminate restrictions of various funding sources for paved surface construction in conservation areas located within the Hogtown Creek watershed (Item # 191115). This will allow better facilities for public access to natural areas and for multi-modal transportation, particularly in an area where off-road transportation is not available. In these times this is critically important to allow citizens to get out of doors and yet maintain social distancing.

Thank you for consideration of the above.

Sincerely,

Julia Reiskind
213 SW 41st St.
Gainesville FL 32607

Kessler, Marie P

From: Karen Johnson <kjredstart@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 4:00 PM
To: Tattersall, Jeremiah; Deborah Scheuer
Subject: Re: Charter Amendment to change reporting structure for GRU Manager

Hi Jeremiah,

This is what I was referring to. I came to work for the City of Gainesville as Assistant City Manager in 1989. At that point the General Manager for Utilities reported to the City Manager. When it came time to be preparing the budget, the City Manager's main objective was to increase the amount of money that was being transferred out of the utility to help pay for general government operations without increasing utility rates. In my opinion, information that the City Commission needed to hear about the utility's capital and maintenance needs was suppressed by the City Manager in order to achieve the other goals. I was reporting to the City Manager at the time, and I felt as if what was being done to the utility was wrong. I am sorry; I can't remember any more specifics than that as it was a long time ago. I think it was either in 1990 or 1991 that the General Manager was made an independent Charter Officer and then the City Commissioners had access to more complete information on which to base their decisions.

The other things that I failed to say in my email to the Charter Commission, is that a significant number of GRU's customers are outside the City limits. The GRU General Manager makes sure that all of them are treated equally no matter where they live. I think that if the utility were under the City Manager, it would add to the perception that these customers are second class citizens.

Hope that helps. Karen Johnson

On Wednesday, April 15, 2020, 3:40:34 PM EDT, Deborah Scheuer <dscheuer7@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Jeremiah,

I may get the details wrong, so I am copying Karen Johnson on this email. She has first hand knowledge and should be able to answer your questions accurately. Thank you.

On Wed, Apr 15, 2020 at 3:24 PM Tattersall, Jeremiah <TattersalJ1@cityofgainesville.org> wrote:
Deborah,

Can you tell me more about this? What maintenance was delayed.

Thanks,

Jeremiah Tattersall
Charter Review Commission (Member)
Pronouns: he/him/his
(352) 388-1733 (cell)

From: Deborah Scheuer <dscheuer7@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:13 PM

To: DG_CharterReviewCommission <DG_CharterReviewCommission@cityofgainesville.org>

Subject: Charter Amendment to change reporting structure for GRU Manager

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)

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to oppose the above charter amendment. This was tried previously, and resulted in delayed maintenance of GRU facilities and other problems that we are still paying for today.

Thank you,
Deborah Scheuer

Kessler, Marie P

From: Tattersall, Jeremiah <tattersalj1@cityofgainesville.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:47 PM
To: Shaverdi, Zohreh
Subject: Re: proposal #4,5,6,8

Zohreh,

Thanks for the feedback. In regards to number 6 this should include a provision have a citizen ordinance indicative at a lower rate. That is, for a citizen to get an ordinance on the ballot it'd be 10% and to change the charter would be 20%. We had two meetings canceled because of COVID-19 which would have worked out more details on this and other proposals.

Thanks,

Jeremiah Tattersall
Charter Review Commission (Member)
Pronouns: he/him/his
(352) 388-1733 (cell)
twitter.com/JeremiahTatter

From: Shaverdi, Zohreh <SHAVERDIZ1@gru.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:58 AM
To: DG_CharterReviewCommission <DG_CharterReviewCommission@cityofgainesville.org>
Subject: proposal #4,5,6,8

#4:I believe two years will be enough for commissioner, #5: leave GRU the way it is, #6: it is unnecessary to increase signature for charter amendments to 20%and, #8: city commissioners already getting enough salaries.

Zohreh Shaverdi
Utility GIS Technician
SHAVERDIZ1@gru.com

Kessler, Marie P

From: Jonita Stepp-greany <jostepp@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 10:32 AM
To: Dg_charterreviewcommission
Subject: Charter Review
Attachments: smime.p7s

In this time of economic hardship for individuals who have lost their jobs, I cannot believe the city is seriously considering giving themselves a pay raise! Also, I do not believe we need to change the term limits for city commissioners. Both of these proposals appear very self-serving, and will not sit well with voters. This is a time for the city commission to be considering proposals to help others, not themselves.

Jonita Stepp-Greany

Kessler, Marie P

From: Deborah Scheuer <dscheuer7@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:40 PM
To: Tattersall, Jeremiah
Cc: Karen Johnson
Subject: Re: Charter Amendment to change reporting structure for GRU Manager

Hi Jeremiah,

I may get the details wrong, so I am copying Karen Johnson on this email. She has first hand knowledge and should be able to answer your questions accurately. Thank you.

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Jeremiah Tattersall
Charter Review Commission (Member)
Pronouns: he/him/his
(352) 388-1733 (cell)
twitter.com/JeremiahTatter

From: Deborah Scheuer <dscheuer7@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:13 PM
To: DG_CharterReviewCommission <DG_CharterReviewCommission@cityofgainesville.org>
Subject: Charter Amendment to change reporting structure for GRU Manager

[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 \(B\)](#)

Dear Commissioners,

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Thank you,
Deborah Scheuer

Training/Education
Environmental Permitting
Wetland Studies
Plant Population Studies
Expert Witness Testimony
Plant Identification



DAVID W. HALL, PH.D.
Environmental Consultant
Forensic Botanist

E
Envirc

City of Gainesville
Clerk of the Commission
P.O. Box 490, Station 19
Gainesville, FL 32067-0490

I would like to comment on several of the issues before the Charter Review commission as mentioned in the Gainesville Sun, Sunday, April 12, 2020.

Revision of the term limits from two terms to three. I certainly object to any increase. I would rather there be a decrease, perhaps one term of three years.

Increase salaries for commissioners. No increase, other than for inflation.

Leave the GRU manager separate from the City Manager.

The City Commission should be a public service not a job. I know it is, or should be, almost full time. Nevertheless, if a person is not willing to or can not devote the required effort for the position, they should not attempt to be elected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'H'.

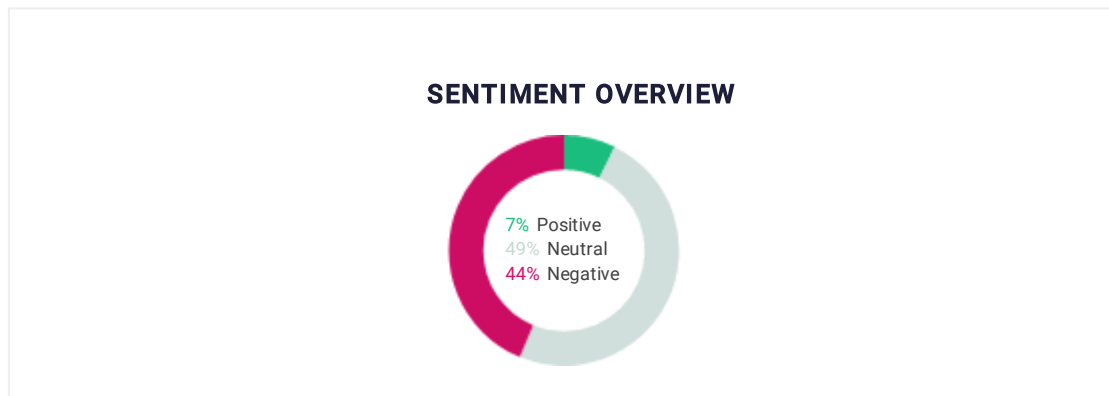
David Hall

cc: File

The charter review commission meeting received negative feedback as residents focus on the 'undeserved' salary raise of commissioners during this difficult economic climate

14 April - 20 April, 2020

covid-19 charter_review commission meeting



During the past week, the Gainesville [Charter Review Commission meeting](#) elicited 647 interactions. In comparison, the discourse on [confirmed cases](#) and the spread of the virus elicited 2,332 interactions while the discourse on [Captain Quarantine](#) elicited 556 interactions.

Discourse on the subject was 5.5X more negative than positive (44% negative versus 8% positive). **Analysis of the discourse shows that commenters were mainly negative about raising the salary of commissioners claiming:**

- **Do Not Deserve a Raise** (144 interactions) - **the most prevalent claim was that commissioners did [nothing to justify raising their wages](#)** (80 interactions). Furthermore, residents believed that [essential workers](#) such as first responders, teachers and service providers at grocery stores are the ones who deserve a raise (64 interactions)
- **Covid-19** (47 interactions) - Residents were outraged that while the economy was collapsing due to the [pandemic](#) and millions filing for unemployment, government officials were discussing raising their own salaries (47 interactions).

In addition, several others were angered about increasing the [term limits](#) (36 interactions) and the [general committee protocols](#), which commenters claimed allow commissioners to vote on their own salaries without allowing for resident opposition (14 interactions).

The positive discourse on the subject was very limited and was mostly related to the initiative itself, which enables public participation at commission meetings remotely. A

few residents appreciated the transparency and [expressed their gratitude](#) (4 interactions).

In summary, the discourse on the charter review commission meeting received negative resident feedback as residents expressed frustration claiming that a raise for commission is not deserved and inappropriate especially during the current economic climate. Only a few expressed appreciation of the initiative itself.



Published by Shelley Zencity 4/23 09:10 am