

May 6, 2020

The Honorable Mayor Poe and Commissioners
City of Gainesville
Gainesville, FL

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

Pursuant to Mayor Poe's request, please let this letter serve to outline and briefly explain the recommended ordinances that the City Charter Review Commission is putting forward for your consideration:

1. Charter Preamble

The CRC used parts of the National Civic League's Model City Charter as a source to guide some of our decisions. The preamble is composed of three parts: 1. Source of Authority (state constitution or statutory law), 2. Action Taken (the adoption of the charter) and 3. Intent (subjective statements – not enforceable by law) that underscore or illuminate the characteristics of a municipality).

2. City Clerk

Omichelle Gainey requested that her title be changed from Clerk of the Commission to City Clerk which more accurately reflects her professional position.

3. Disposal of Utilities

The language regarding utility sales was changed to be more specific to protect the utility. Currently the city charter describes only two services offered by the city utility, electric and water, that are protected from sale or disposal by the city commission. The CRC recognized that such wording was crafted at a time prior to GRU offering other services. The CRC discussion resulted in an unanimous vote to add those other services and clarify the language of Section 5.04.

4. Paved Surfaces

Several decades ago this was added to the charter to stop people from using the parks in and around Hogtown Creek, cloaked as environmentalism but really was more a reflection of discrimination. The ability to pave paths will allow the city to use state and federal dollars for conservation while opening up access for the public.

Again, on behalf of the Charter Review Commission it has been an honor to serve our community in this important capacity.

Very truly yours,

Mary Lou Hildreth

Mary Lou Hildreth
Chair, Charter Review Commission