

MAYOR
Hal J. Rose

DEPUTY MAYOR
Pat Bentley

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Daniel Batchelor
John Dittmore
Adam Gaffney
Barbara A. Smith
Andrea Young



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CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES

June 13, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of a chair, City Clerk Cynthia Hanscom called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Clerk Hanscom led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Members present: Matthew Brothers, Sandra Carbon, Chris Gibbs, Bill Mettrick, Sandra Michelson, Stephen Phrampus, and Michele Rutledge.

Committee Member Michelson participated by telephone but would not be voting on selection of chair and vice-chair.

4. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

The Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

5. ORGANIZATION OF CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Committee Member Mettrick nominated Ms. Rutledge for Chair. Committee Member Gibbs seconded the nomination.

Committee Member Phrampus nominated himself for Chair. Committee Member Brothers seconded the nomination.

In the roll call vote, the Committee selected Stephen Phrampus for Chair with a 6-0 vote.

Committee Member Mettrick nominated Ms. Rutledge for Vice-Chair. Chair Phrampus seconded the nomination. The vote was 6-0, for Ms. Rutledge as Vice-Chair.

6. SUNSHINE LAW REVIEW

City Attorney Morris Richardson provided an overview of the Florida Sunshine laws as it pertains to boards and committees. He reminded the Committee Members that the law would apply to this Board and any discussion with another member outside of the public meeting would be in violation.

7. INITIAL REVIEW OF CURRENT CHARTER

City Attorney Richardson provided an overview of the City Charter stating that it was the foundation of a local government. He noted that the Charter was composed by citizens and provides a framework of how a local government operates, the form of government, and provides the process of how public officials are elected.

He reminded the Committee that the Charter states in Article XV, Section 13(b): “At least once every ten (10) years after the adoption of this Charter and more often if the city council deems it necessary or desirable, the city council shall appoint a Charter Review Committee to review the City Charter and recommend additions, deletions, or changes to the city council for its consideration.”

City Attorney Richardson reviewed several parts of the charter including the Mayor and Council, form of government, and charter officers. He also reviewed some issues to consider, which included Chief of Police reporting, Council/Mayor vacancies, Council compensation, and selection of the Deputy Mayor.

Chair Phrampus asked if there was a trend toward term limits at the local level. City Attorney Richardson stated that the elected officials were basically volunteer with limited compensation; therefore, term limits may not be needed. He stated at the City level, if an elected official was not doing their job, the voters can vote them out.

Chair Phrampus also asked about the benefits for the Chief of Police to report to the City Manager. City Attorney Richardson stated that in his opinion it would be best for the Chief to report to the City Manager because it professionalized and depoliticized the position. In addition, it offered a layer of protection for the Chief of Police.

Chair Phrampus provided a list of issues to be considered by the Committee, which included the Chief of Police reporting, Council/Mayor vacancies, and Council compensation. He also suggested the Committee discuss allowing elected officials to be included with the City’s retirement plan. City Attorney Richardson stated there had been a historical discussion by the Council to add elected officials to the Florida Retirement System (FRS) plan. He noted that participating in the FRS would not require a change in the charter but could be in conflict with the charter language. He noted that a former member of the Charter Review Committee, Charles Settgest, had taken the position that “remuneration” should include any benefits. However, this is not how it has been interpreted. Therefore, the language for Council compensation may need to be modified.

Chair Phrampus also commented that appointments to advisory boards was not clear and could be more specific.

Chair Phrampus asked that a survey be conducted of Council salaries using the same city comparisons as those used for the market study for the compensation and salary study.

8. MEETING SCHEDULE

The Committee Members agreed to meet at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Phrampus opened the floor for public comments and reminded those present that the same 3-minute rule would apply as that for speaking before City Council.

Mayor Hal Rose, 2403 Woodfield Circle, commented that, given that there could be many amendments on the ballot for 2020, he suggested that the Committee prioritize those amendments that they felt would best serve the City.

Council Member John Dittmore, 2825 Tuscarora Court, thanked the Committee and wished them well.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Member Mettrick moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Committee Member Carbon seconded the motion, which passed with a 6-0 vote.