

MINUTES
Special Meeting
February 27, 2017
5:00 P.M.

The Special Meeting of the Crestview City Council was called to order at 5:00P.M. Members present were: President Joe Blocker, J B Whitten, Shannon Hayes, Bill Cox, and Doug Faircloth. Also present were, Mayor David Cadle, City Clerk Elizabeth Roy, and the City Attorney Ben Holley, Department Heads and members of the press.

1. Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Mr. Blocker at 5:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was lead by Mr. Blocker.

3. Open Policy making and legislative session

4. Public Opportunity on Council propositions

5. Items to be Considered

- a. Larry Harris, of Mason-Dixon Polling and Research, behalf of the Studer Community Institute, will present a summary presentation of the recent interviews of city officials, staff and stakeholders along with research addressing a course of action.**
 - i. To establish a Charter Review Commission**
 - ii. To establish an Administrative Board to advise and facilitate City structure, procedures and operations management in anticipation of a new City charter.**

Mr. Larry Harris presented Council his report findings of primary, qualitative and research concerning the governmental make-up of the City of Crestview. These findings helped him to reach and recommend the next steps of success concerning the current government structure and current systems so that they may be improved. He first conducted a review of statutory, legislative, political and electoral history of form of governance nationally in the State of Florida and the City of Crestview. During this process Mr. Harris consulted with leading experts and leaders on subject matter, nationally and in Florida, to include the Florida League of Cities, International City and County Management Association, the Florida County and Manager Association and the Florida Center for Excellence in Government. From speaking with various persons associated with those groups there is an unanimous agreement amount all literature and

authorities consulted that Crestview is at great risk and should transition to 'Council/Manager-Administrator' form of governance, with all due haste.

Mr. Harris stated that he conducted interviews with the City officials that included all the Elected Officials, Department Heads, regional and local economic development professionals, regional and local business leaders. He stated that due to the current form of government and existing organizational structure and operation present a substantial risk to the ethical, efficient, effective provision of public services and the stewardship of tax payer funds. Mr. Harris then presented the findings of the interviews that echoed the change in the current form of government sentiment that was presented earlier in this presentation except from the Police and Fire Chiefs who preferred a strong mayoral form of government. He expressed concerns from Department Heads about the anxiety and concern of having to report to five different people but stated that he has never seen a more dedicated group of people who are working as hard as they can but are not supported by a structure. They are supported by strong leadership, by Council members and a Mayor that are trying to do the right thing but the antiquated system of government is preventing progress.

Mr. Harris presented his findings from the interviews with local business leaders and groups. Those findings indicated that the city governance and structure is seen as the greatest threat to progress, their businesses future and the bottom line. The only positive strength mentioned was the locality of the City to two major highways. He then presented and explained the recommendations to change the governance of the City: pass an ordinance creating an Administrative Board, pass an ordinance establishing a Charter Review Commission, adoption of a campaign to perform outreach to educate voters and residents.

Mr. Hayes gave his comments about the presentation and that all aspects are things that need to be reviewed and discussed before any decision is made.

Mr. Whitten stated that he would've appreciated reviewing the presented information ahead of time and to have it presented in this manner was a bit disconcerting. He believes that the City is ready to look a change but does not think a transitory tribunal to oversee that change. Mr. Whitten stated that he has confidence in the Department Heads and Elected Officials.

Mr. Cox thanked Mr. Harris for his presentation and stated that he is generally in favor of a City Management form of government. He also stated that the information presented was plentiful but needed to be reviewed before any recommendations were taken.

Mr. Blocker thanked Mr. Harris for his presentation and agreed that the information needed to be reviewed, dissected and analyzed. He recommends for the City to take all of this under advisement.

Mr. Holley, City Attorney stated that because this process was previously done it should not be hard to repeat the process.

Mayor Cadle, stated that this issue has been presented to voters in the past as a wholesale change at one time and it was defeated each time. He agrees that a change needs to happen and cited

how the City of Fort Walton Beach handled their change by introducing the change by pieces than all at once.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

Ms. Melissa Simpson, 1194 Sioux Circle, Crestview FL, stated that the Council should take into consideration everything that Mr. Harris has presented. She doesn't have any positive items to say about the City and strongly suggested going for a change in the City.

Mr. Landrum Edwards of Crestview FL, gave his thoughts on the information presented and stated that change should happen.

Mr. Joe Barley of Crestview FL, gave his thoughts on the information and did not think a change was needed.

Mr. Blocker asked for action by Council.

Mr. Hayes suggested having a Workshop and to inviting those who changed their form of government, to have them speak and answer questions so that Council can have more information to make a decision. Plus to allow the City's citizens to have their opinions heard on this subject.

Mr. Whitten suggested having a Workshop and Special Meeting about this subject.

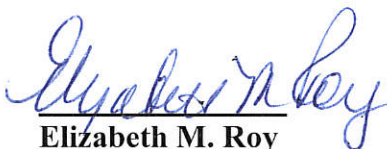
Discussion ensued.

Council gave a consensus to set a future date and time for a Workshop with a Special Meeting to follow.

6. Comments from the Audience

7. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned by Mr. Blocker at 6:23 p.m.



Elizabeth M. Roy
City Clerk



J B Whitten
Council President

Minutes approved this 10th day of April, 2017.