

Charter Review Committee Minutes – August 31, 2017

Charter Review Committee Board

Members Present	Staff	Visitors
Ellis Conner	Growth Management Director	Graham Fountain
Adrienne McKinnie	Planning Coordinator	Cal Zethmyer
Andrew Rencich		Ken Neilson
Warren Robinson		Linda Parker
Michelle Simmons	Members Absent	Stephen Storm
Joshua Molyneux		
Gene Strickland		

The data reflected within these proceedings constitute an extrapolation of information elicited from notes, observations, recording tapes and photographs. Comments reflected herein are sometimes paraphrased, condensed and have been edited to reflect essential subject matter covered during the meeting. Parties interested in receiving a verbatim account of the proceedings are responsible for coordinating with the City Clerk's office and providing their own representative and equipment to produce a verbatim account of the proceedings pursuant to Crestview Policy 91 1, Duplication of Public Records, Chapters 119 and 283, Florida Statutes and Attorney General opinions in force at time of enactment of Policy 91 1.

CONVENE - The Charter Review Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 31, 2017, in the City Hall Council Chambers, by Mr. Conner.

A motion was made by Mr. Rencich to approve the August 3rd and August 17th minutes, second by Ms. McKinnie. Motion passed.

Mr. Conner stated that Jerry Milligan is unable to attend the meeting.

Mayor Cadle thanked the Board for their service.

Mr. Conner asked Mayor Cadle if he was familiar with the 2012 Charter and the list of powers and duties of the Mayor.

Mayor Cadle stated that the Mayor would remain a nonvoting member of the Council and would act as the moderator for the meetings.

Mr. Conner stated per Article 4.012 the Mayor would participate in the City Council meetings but would not have voting privileges. The Mayor would be relieved of overseeing the Fire and Police Department therefore providing more time to focus on Mayoral duties.

Mayor Cadle stated that he would retain his authority to investigate as needed.

Mr. Conner provided Mayor Cadle a copy of the proposed Charter to review. Mayor Cadle is to review the proposal and come back to discuss it with the Board or provide his comments to Ms. Gaillard.

Mr. Rencich stated the need to wrap things up prior to the last meeting and he asked Mayor Cadle the pros and cons of current oversight.

Mayor Cadle responded by stating the need for a chain of command structure for department heads to answer to a City Manager or a Strong Mayor and the need for more cohesiveness.

Mr. Rencich asked Mayor Cadle if there were any other concerns.

Mayor Cadle stated that the Mayor in Fort Walton Beach and Niceville has voting ability and Pensacola has a Strong Mayor.

Mr. Conner stated that Dr Goetch had spoken about a Strong Mayor being the most democratic form but the most efficient form is a City Manager.

Mayor Cadle stated that the first thing the Mayor in Pensacola did was hire a City Manager and that a Mayor does a lot of ceremonial meetings, speaks to the media and has to walk a tight rope. The City's departments need more cohesiveness.

Mr. Molyneux asked the Mayor what occupies most of his time.

Mayor Cadle responded that he receives telephone calls daily from citizens regarding; utility bills, light poles etc., people don't know. He also stated that he has a good working relationship with department heads and that citizens want to be heard by the government.

Mr. Strickland stated that citizens look for a chain of command and with none in place they go to the Mayor. A Strong Mayor / City Manager is the best approach.

Mr. Conner asked the Mayor to review the third page, item 8 of the draft Charter, Ms. Gaillard provided and provide any changes to Ms. Gaillard so that it can be reviewed by the City Attorney and Mr. Fountain at the next meeting.

Ms. Gaillard asked the Mayor to provide any information to her by Tuesday, September 5th and asked if the Moderator would lead the Council meetings?

Mayor Cadle stated yes.

Mr. Conner stated that he would participate in the meetings but the Mayor could not vote.

Discussion ensued as to if the Mayor should be able to vote and if so, the need for a Pro Tem instead of a Council President and Vice President.

Mayor Cadle stated that at this time he is able to discuss items with each Council member and not be in violation of the Sunshine Law and he would like to remain to do so.

Mr. Conner asked for a consensus of the Board.

Mr. Robinson stated that the Council President should serve as Pro Tem.

Mr. Molyneaux stated that there would not be a Council President or Vice President if the Mayor is the moderator.

Discussion ensued concerning Council President, Vice President and the Mayor being the meeting moderator.

Mr. Molyneaux made a motion for the Mayor to serve as the moderator and a Pro Tem be selected on a yearly basis. All Yea's Mr. Rencich Nay

Mr. Conner asked Ms. Gaillard how she communicates with City Council.

Ms. Gaillard stated that the way she communicates with the City Council is different than the other department heads do because she is the Administrative Assistant to the Council, which included the role of the Growth Management Director. Ms. Gaillard read her Administrative Assistant duties from the Code.

Mr. Conner stated that the Administrative Assistant duties are created by an ordinance unlike the Fire Department, Public Services and the Police Department which is in the Charter.

Discussion continued regarding revising Article IV.

Ms. Gaillard, when asked, stated that she is in favor of a City Manager.

Mr. Strickland stated that Ms. Gaillard would only have to report to the City Manager instead of five different people as she does now.

Mr. Conner moved the discussion to Article 5.01. Payroll checks use to be signed by hand which provided several sets of eyes to review expenditures. Oversight should be in place for electronic transfers and expenditures.

Discussion ensued regarding the City Manager providing oversight along with the City Clerk. The City Manager and the City Clerk should conduct reviews of expenditures etc. together.

The Board continued to discuss the City Clerk and if the City Manager should be the supervisor over the City Clerk. The consensus of the Board is to put the Utility Billing Department and the Finance Department under the City Manager and the City Clerk would be under the City Council.

Ms. Gaillard referred to the Fort Walton Beach Charter.

Mr. Conner stated to consider the verbiage with legal counsel.

The Board discussed Article VI 6.04. Election Procedures and decided to strike it in its entirety and to make 6.07. an ordinance and have the City Attorney review it.

Ms. Gaillard stated Article IX mark ups, is for discussion with Mr. Fountain and the City Attorney in an attempt to condense the Charter by creating ordinances.

Public and Board Comments/Questions: Mr. Conner asked if there was anything from the audience.

Mr. Zethmyer stated that Destin's Pro Tem is a 2-year term, in Fort Walton Beach you must be a resident. He discussed educating the public and how to attract voters over 50.

Mr. Conner called for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25.



Secretary



Chairman/Vice Chairman