

**Charter Review Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 30, 2020**

7/30/2020 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chevon Baccus, Keith Wadsworth, Andy Oguntola, Jim Weaver

Sara Jones arrived late.

Staff Members: Jennifer Nanek, City Clerk

Guests: Commissioner Howell, Commissioner Curtis Gibson

A quorum was present.

2. Minutes - July 16, 2020

The minutes of July 16, 2020 were reviewed. Jim Weaver made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Mr. Weaver requested copies of information from the last Charter Review Committee in 2010. Ms. Nanek said she would send that to him.

3. Review Of Charter Section - Elections

The Elections Section VIII was reviewed.

Jennifer Nanek, City Clerk, said there was a recommendation to change the qualifying dates to allow for a longer campaign. She clarified that a candidate does not have to be qualified to begin a campaign.

There was discussion about a question the Chair shared concerning recall of a Commissioner procedures. After review it was decided that there was nothing that could be changed as recall procedures are in state statutes.

Jim Weaver noted a scrivener error in 8 10 a. Jennifer Nanek said she would address it.

There was a discussion about the 3 year Commission terms. Andy Oguntola said it was recently changed to give a commissioner time to learn the job and become more effective. There was consensus to leave 3-year terms.

4. Review Proposed Addition To Article I – Mission Statement

The various drafts of a possible Mission Statement were reviewed.

The Chair said she preferred to add a segment on economic growth and did not like the words its unified. She preferred "to unify". She reported that Deputy Mayor Robin Gibson disagreed with the segment on economic development saying it was too long. He wanted it to be short. Keith Wadsworth said he liked including "fostering economic growth" and he preferred "to unify". The chair said the part about economic growth avoided the impression that we were a sleepy little town. Sara Jones said she liked Jim Weaver's draft. The Chair agreed. Ms. Jones said the statement should be short. Andy Oguntola agreed and said the version speaks to Lake Wales.

After discussion of the drafts there was a consensus to use Jim Weaver's revision.

The mission of the City of Lake Wales is to serve and to unify its citizens, to foster economic growth while building on our City's existing small town values, and to promote the Bok ethic that we make our City a "bit better and more beautiful" for our being here.

Sara Jones made a motion to propose adding Jim Weaver's draft to the ballot. Motion was seconded by Jim Weaver and unanimously approved.

5. Review Proposed Changes To Article III

Chair brought up the proposed 3-Year residency requirement for candidates. There was a consensus on this. The Chair asked if this should say the three years prior to running. Sara Jones said a residency of three years at any point in their adult lives is fine with her. Keith Wadsworth said he agreed with the three years but was unsure whether it should be the years prior to running. Andy Oguntola said it should be the previous three years before the election so they know what has taken place. The Chair suggested the change in the wording "they must be residents of the City Lake Wales not less than three years prior to running for office."

Chair brought up the issue of whether or not if a person moves out of their district they vacate their seat. The other issue is if there is a vacancy should the appointee stay full term or until next election. Andy Oguntola said a Commissioner elected from a district should stay in the district. Keith Wadsworth said this issue should be addressed. Sara Jones said if the move happens with a year left in the term then they vacate their seat. Some candidates may temporarily move to win an election.

Chair reviewed the issue about when a Commission appoints someone should that appointment be until the next election or serving a the full term. Keith Wadsworth said the mechanism is in place for this election to fill an appointed seat. He recommended the process for a Commissioner moving out of the City and out of the district be consistent. Andy Oguntola said the appointment process cuts voters out of the process. He said he was in favor of an election for that seat the following election for the rest of the term.

There was consensus to have an appointed Commissioner seat be up for election at the next election as opposed to completing the full term.

The Chair shared a list of Duties of Commissioner which were discussed. The Chair asked if this be in the charter. Sara Jones agreed it should be in the charter. Keith Wadsworth agreed and said they should be somewhere. Andy Oguntola said something to do with board appointments might be included. There was consensus to review the draft duties and discuss them at a later date.

The Chair brought up the status of the City Clerk which is an issue Deputy Mayor Robin Gibson asked the Committee to review. Jim Weaver asked Ms. Nanek her input on the issue. Jennifer Nanek, City Clerk, recommended that the status stay the same. If it must change it should be completely under the City Manager. She explained that the main reason a Clerk is put under the complete direction of the City Commission is to have a resource if a City Manager does not cooperate in the matter of certain public records. However having a person separate from the rest of staff or at odds with the City Manager could cause obstruction or delays in public records and cause conflict among staff. The Chair reviewed some of the past issues with access to public records being obstructed by the City Manager. She said she could understand both sides of the issue. Keith Wadsworth clarified that currently the Clerk is supervised by the City Manager and hired and fired by the Commission. Ms. Nanek confirmed this. The Chair noted that 60% of municipalities in Florida the Clerk is completely under the City Manager. She said that the City Clerk serves the public. Most City Managers should think this way but some may not. Andy Oguntola said this issue became very public in the past and that is where it becomes a problem.

Commissioner Curtis Gibson reviewed the past incident regarding the City Clerk position and recommended the Clerk status stay the same. He said the City Manager needs to be more diligent with annual evaluations and apprise the Commission of any problems. The Chair said this issue will be discussed

further. Commissioner Howell said Clerk should be continued under City Commission.

6. Meeting Schedule

Next Meeting is August 13

7. AROUND THE ROOM

8. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

9. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

Chair

Secretary