

TOWN OF WINDERMERE

Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2015

Present were Chair Ernie Myers, Members Susan Carter, Bob Sprick, and Al Pichon. Member Pam Martini arrived at 6:36pm. Town Manager Robert Smith and Clerk Dorothy Burkhalter were also present.

Chair Myers gave a brief overview of what he would like to cover in this meeting that will assist with information for the August 6th workshop with the Town Council. Some discussion followed.

1. New Business:

A. Minutes Approval: July 14, 2015

Member Sprick made a motion to approve the minutes of July 14, 2015. Member Pichon seconded the motion. All were in favor.

B. Preliminary Review of the Charter

Chair Myers opened the discussion. He stated that reorganization of sections could be needed. Chair Myers opened the floor to the Committee. Member Pichon stated he would like to review other municipalities Charters. Member Carter commented on the City of Winter Gardens' charter. Member Pichon commented on his preliminary review. He stated that sections seem to be out of place. Others agreed. Member Sprick suggested organizing the charter by sections with titles. He then commented on the Charter formats from the City of Ocoee and the City of Winter Garden. Member Sprick stated that within his section of review, organization, along with the possibility of eliminating items and placing those items in operational procedures is a possibility. Chair Myers stated that the item could be forwarded to the Council for consideration. Member Carter commented that the Charters for Belle Isle and Winter Garden refer to boundaries, which are located in the Clerk's office, not the Charter. She also commented that there are sections that can be deleted, sections that needed to place in the correct locations and sections that needed word clean-up. Chair Myers commented on reorganizing of the Charter. Discussion was made regarding residency requirements for Council members and appointed officials, placing items in operating procedures, and downsizing of the existing charter. Member Martini commented that the definitions and language needed updating. Discussion was made regarding a voting Mayor, increasing the total number of the Mayor/Council members to seven or reducing to a total of five, term limits, and future needs of possible districts for Council members. Chair Myers turned the floor over to Manager Smith. Manager Smith stated that in his review, items for consideration are; fewer pages, definitions shortened, reduced wording in sections, redistricting, increase of council term years, voting Mayor, and the review of finance. He stated that the Charter needed to basic and the Land Development

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Codes and the Ordinances need to be the guide. Manager Smith stated that the Florida Statutes and Home Rule should be referred to. Discussion followed regarding an increase of Council term years. Member Martini stated she wanted to include the franchise section in her discussion. She explained that it seems out of place. General discussion continued regarding, elected/appointed officer with roles defined, powers of the town council, clarification of items, limitations on items, Council qualification requirements, vacancy of Council members and the Mayor, Vice Mayor, stipend/compensation for Mayor and Council, notification of Ordinances, spending policies, barrowing and overall debt, zoning approval votes, and emergency barrowing.


C. General Discussion

Chair Myers questioned if everyone would be available for the August 6th Council workshop. Member Sprick stated he would not be available for the meeting.


D. Next Meeting

Chair Myers stated that the next meeting will be the workshop with the Town Council August 6th at 6:00pm in the Town Hall. He then stated that the next CRC meeting will be Monday, August 10th at 6:30pm. The review of Member Martini's section will be on the agenda item.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm



Dorothy Burkhalter, Town Clerk



Ernest Myers, Chairperson