

## **CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE (CRC) and CITY COMMISSION JOINT MEETING** May 28, 2020

A virtual joint meeting of the Charter Review Committee and the City Commission (CRC) was held on May 28, 2020 for the purpose of submitting the CRC's report on their proposed charter changes and additions to the City Commissioners.

Present: Mayor Russ Owen, City Commissioners Mike Kolody, Jake Sachs, Jason McGuirk and Randy Hartman; CRC members Marie Bushey, Marty Danaher, Christine Enitsy, Eric Preston, Patricia "Trish" Tudeen, Terry Dallas, Kirk Jones, Sally Gillespie, Marvel Richards, Lisa Martin; Facilitator Marilyn Crotty; City Manager Kahlid Resheidat, Assistant City Manager Brian Fields, City Attorney Kerry Avallone, and City Clerk Kelly McQuillen.

Mayor Owen stated the purpose of the meeting was to provide the final report of the CRC to the Commission and that no decisions on this matter would be made at this meeting.

The Facilitator advised that the CRC was established on September 9, 2019 and their first meeting was held on Nov. 7, 2019 with several subsequent in-person and virtual meetings. The Committee worked diligently evaluating the [current City Charter](#) and used an industry standard Model Charter among other tools to revise the current City Charter. The changes and additions made were detailed in the [meeting agenda packet](#).

Major changes in the proposed charter were summarized as follows:

1. Complete reorganization to allow for ease in finding information (change from "Chapters" to "Articles sections and subsections").
2. Addition of a preamble to outline the goals of the proposed charter.
3. Deleting current language already covered by State Law or County Ordinance.
4. Using consistent, gender-neutral verbiage throughout the proposed charter.
5. Addition of Chapter IV – Financial Management and Chapter V - Sustainability

Commissioner Comments:

All Commissioners commented on the legality of certain sections, the powers of the UC, proper placement of items in the Charter, Land Development Regulations and tweaking of language to broaden compliance with required submission dates due to emergencies. The City Attorney will be doing research on some of these issues to advise the Commission during their charter revision deliberations.

Implementation Plan for proposed charter:

The facilitator stated that the Charter Review Committee's duties had ended. It is now the Commission's responsibility to review and finalize the proposed Charter. The Commissioners may accept all, some, or none of the proposed changes. The Commissioners must finish their deliberations prior to August 18, when the Ballot Language regarding the proposed charter must be submitted to the Volusia County Supervisor of Elections for placement on the November 2020 ballot.

The Facilitator advised that the ballot language can:

- 1) Take the form of a single question to accept the proposed charter or not, OR
- 2) Be made up of many questions; each to be considered and voted on separately.

The CRC unanimously agreed that the ballot should include a single question, as the changes made are too extensive to summarize into a few separate questions. The Facilitator also recommended use of one question was to avoid “voter fatigue” and partial acceptance of items leading to an incomplete new Charter. If the Commissioners choose the one question option, an extensive citizens education campaign must be conducted by the City in the months leading up to November 3.

Mayor Owen asked the CRC members if they would like to have the committee end at the June 11 Commission meeting or continue until September 9 as per the original ordinance. The committee consensus was to end on June 11 thereby allowing members release from the Florida Sunshine Laws to communicate with each other and allow multiple members to attend meetings to help educate taxpayers without violating the law.

The following dates have been established for public participation on the proposed charter:

June 11 – Location TBD – Commission Charter Workshop

June 18 – Brannon Center – Commission Charter Workshop

The Mayor thanked the Facilitator and the CRC Committee members for their service to the City.