

Special City Commission Workshop – Review of City Boards February 16, 2021

Video of the meeting and agenda can be found [here](#):

Mayor Owen, Commissioners Kolody, McGuirk and Hartman were in attendance. Commission Sachs was absent.

Opening Remarks:

Mayor Owen advised that the purpose of the workshop was to have high level discussions regarding the purpose of the City's Boards and Commissions, address some nuances that make Board appointments difficult, and create some consistency of Board rules.

Public Participation:

Two members of the Economic Development Advisory Board spoke to the issue of the City's lack of providing meaningful projects for this Board. A new member of the Golf Advisory Board thanked the Commission for the appointment. The last speaker asked that the Board consider appointing members to City Boards who do not live in NSB but spend a considerable amount of time in the City and are involved with City issues.

Presentation:

City Clerk Kelly McQuillen presented an [overview of the types of Boards and Commissions](#) active in City:

- Advisory Board created by City Resolution.
- Boards and Commissions created by State Statute or City Ordinance.
- Committee, Advisory Board, and Task Force for a specific goal created by Resolution.

City Information Officer Phil Veski presented a [chart comparing the number of Boards in Volusia County](#) Cities. NSB has the 2nd highest number of Boards in the County.

All Commissioners spoke as to their preferences for Board uniformity, city residency requirements, city staff participation for each Board, how best to set agendas for Boards, and requiring Board reports. Staff also spoke to their needs and time limitations supporting City Boards.

Since the issue of Sunshine Law arose several times during the meeting, the City Attorney gave a quick tutorial on the establishment of the Florida Sunshine Law and why all Boards, out of an overabundance of caution, must follow those rules.

The Commissioners allowed additional Public Participation and two previous speakers reiterated their points. Members from the Airport Advisory Board, the Historic Preservation Advisory Commission and Neighborhood Council also spoke to some of the previous issues mentioned during the first Public Participation.

Commissioners thanked the attending citizens. After discussion, the Commissioners came to the following conclusions:

- Terms: All Board terms will be 3 years with a 2-term limit. The Commission may override the 2-term limit if it receives no qualified new applicants. If someone is appointed to fill a partial term, the partial term does not count towards the 2-term limit.
- Residency: All Board appointees must reside in the City of New Smyrna Beach.
- Board Goals: Each Commissioner will meet with City staff to determine what Boards may not be necessary or may be combined, along with what staff involvement will be within each Board. Each Commissioner will bring his findings and opinions to another Workshop for further discussion and possible implementation of new rules.
- Reports: All Commissioners agreed that every Board must provide a report to the Commissioners outlining the work done through a certain time. Whether the reports are required quarterly or yearly was not determined at this time.