

# Charter Review Committee Minutes – July 13, 2017

## Charter Review Committee Board

Members Present	Staff	Visitors
Ellis Conner	Growth Management Director	Paul Lux
Adrienne McKinnie	Planning Coordinator	Cal Zethmyer
Andrew Rencich		Ken Neilson
Gene Strickland		
Michelle Simmons	<b>Members Absent</b>	
Joshua Molyneux		
Warren Robinson		
<p>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.</p>		

**CONVENE** - The Charter Review Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 13, 2017, in the City Hall Council Chambers, by Mr. Conner.

A motion was made by Andrew Rencich to approve the June 29, 2017 minutes and was seconded by Joshua Molyneux. Motion passed.

The Committee recognized Paul Lux, Supervisor of Elections.

Mr. Lux presented a slideshow with discussion, on Municipal Referenda, the basics of HB 2141, Chapter 92-270, FS 100.3605, 100.211, 100.342, 166.031, 166.041, 101.161, and how each will affect the process of the Charter review and any potential changes. He also discussed notice and readings requirements. He spoke at length about General Election items dating back to 1991, the forms of government and statistics for each. He also discussed current trends in Municipal Government and the information the City would need to provide him for the election process. (See PowerPoint)

Mr. Conner asked if the Committee had any questions for Mr. Lux.

Mr. Rencich asked if Mr. Lux had been involved with mail in ballots.

Mr. Lux responded that he had only dealt with mail in ballots for the Baker Fire District.

Mr. Rencich discussed voter turnout in previous elections, potential numbers and how those numbers affected the results.

Mr. Lux explained that there is no anecdotal evidence that supports that a mail in ballot is any better than the standard voter ballot. There is an issue with voter fatigue and limiting 75 words for an item.

Mr. Molyneux asked if the election has to be one item or can it be multiple.

Mr. Lux explained how the City of Fort Walton Beach used 7 different items in an election and they were mostly successful. He stated that Crestview's election history has failed likely because it was all in one item and to be cautious of voter fatigue.

Mr. Zethmyer asked about the results of the Auburn Water System mail in election and stated the results were roughly 10%.

Genevieve DiNatale a news reporter, asked what the technical issue was with the last referenda.

Mr. Lux stated voter fatigue and the amount of information on each referenda item.

Mr. Robinson questioned the fiscal impact on a ballot item.

Mr. Zethmyer asked about the word count.

Mr. Lux stated that each question is limited to 75 words.

Mr. Conner then moved to an interactive committee discussion.

Mr. Rencich discussed where the committee currently stands on the purpose of the committee and stated that he is in favor of the City Manager structure and discussed the reasons, pros and cons.

Mr. Strickland stated that he was concerned about efficiency and he was not convinced that the City Manager style would be the best route, but he is still learning.

Mr. Molyneux stated that a City Manager solution is the best option to move forward. He feels that a strong Mayor form is twice as much money. He also feels that the City needs to change the Charter anyway for such items as the requirement for a City Doctor and to include the City Clerk to be under the City Manager.

Mr. Robinson wants to hear from someone that sits in this position. Example; the City pays the highest gas taxes in the area and wants to know how others are making these decisions.

Mr. Conner stated that Ms. Gaillard had already provided a packet to the committee members that contained that information.

Ms. McKinnie stated that she preferred things to be kept simple and streamlined. The City is growing and it will continue to grow. She is looking toward a City Manager.

Ms. Simmons stated that she was also in favor of a City Manager. She used the analogy of the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, second best is now. She stated that it is no longer the 'good ole boy' network anymore.

Mr. Conner stated that there must be an update to the City Charter at the least. The Mayor already has his hands full with the current responsibilities. As for the Clerk's office, he is looking for a person that the City Clerk would be accountable to. The City has attempted to work with the County, State and TPO to work out traffic and other issues. He feels that a City Manager would be the way to go.

Mr. Lux stated that he sent a paper copy of his presentation to Ms. Gaillard and that the position of the City Clerk would have to be modified in conjunction with the Charter review results to make it consistent. Any current term would have to be completed and then the change would take effect.

Ms. Gaillard stated that she emailed copies of ordinance 1474 and at the request of the committee, she has provided what she could find of the minutes from previous meetings. This is an example of why good record keeping should be done. Every 10 years a Charter review should be accomplished, and with better archiving than has been previously done, it will be easier to review historical information. What I provided in the packet was all I could obtain.

Mr. Neilson stated that he does have video of all those previous meetings.

Mr. Rencich stated that the book from Derrek Lott had been turned over to the City Clerk.

Ms. Gaillard asked if there was a request for any additional information for the next meeting.

The next meeting was set for August 3 at 6:00 pm, with a guest speaker.

Ms. Gaillard stated that if there were any additional supplies needed, to let her know.

**Public and Board Comments/Questions:**

Mr. Conner asked if there was anything from the audience.

No comments from the public.

Mr. Rencich commented that the committee needs to start focusing on a multifaceted ballot and getting that put down on paper.

Mr. Conner asked the committee to take the information that was provided at previous meetings, the information on duties and responsibilities of department heads and move forward on preparing a new ordinance.

Mr. Molyneux asked if there was a chance to have a longer meeting in a workshop style to begin working more specifically on preparing ballot items.

Mr. Conner agreed that this was a good idea.


Ms. Gaillard questioned the method of the meeting, round table for example, to be able to provide the correct setting.

Mr. Molyneux stated that it would be informal.

Mr. Conner stated that the date for that would be set at the next meeting.

Mr. Conner called for a motion to adjourn.

A Motion was made by **Mr. Rencich**; seconded by **Mr. Strickland**. The Meeting adjourned at 7:04 P.M.

  
Secretary

  
Chairman/Vice Chairman