

**WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES I
SEMINOLE CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL
9199 – 113TH STREET N
SEMINOLE, FL 33772
February 11, 2014**

Present were: Councilor John Counts; Mayor Leslie Waters; Councilor Christopher Burke; Councilor Patricia Plantamura; Councilor James Quinn; Councilor Bob Matthews; City Attorney John Elias; City Manager Frank Edmunds and City Clerk Rose Benoit. Vice Mayor Thomas Barnhorn was not present.

Mayor Waters called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

1. **CHARTER REVIEW DISCUSSION:**

City Manager Edmunds stated that the primary purpose of this workshop is for council to discuss topics for study by the Charter Review Committee. The first organizational Charter Review Committee meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Charter sections discussed included:

- Potential charter amendment requested by Councilor Burke - Article III Section 3.03 Compensation and Expenses. He indicated that a comparison study of council compensation of Pinellas County municipalities was done recently. He suggested that Seminole council increases be tied to City of Seminole staff increases. City Manager Edmunds indicated that the change requested would not require a charter change. It may be changed by amending the Ordinance covering council salary compensation.
- Potential charter amendment requested by City Manager Edmunds and City Attorney Elias - Article III Section 3.07 (a) Vacancies (c) Filling of Vacancies (1) Vacancy in Council. They both suggest that 30 days be changed to 45 days or preferably 60 days to fill the vacancy.

Council consensus is to pursue this suggested Charter change.

- Potential charter amendment requested by Councilor Quinn - Article III Section 3.05 Vice Mayor. His suggestion is for the Vice Mayor to be selected by the citizens of the City of Seminole during the yearly election of council members. He stated that any councilor who desires to be Vice Mayor may have his/her name added to the ballot.

Council members that do not want to pursue the suggested Charter change are: Councilor Matthews, Councilor Counts, Councilor Burke and Mayor Waters.

Council members that would like to pursue the suggested Charter change are: Councilor Plantamura, Councilor Quinn.

Council consensus is not to pursue this suggested Charter change.

- Potential charter amendment requested by Councilor Plantamura - Article III Section 3.07 (a) Vacancies (c) Filling of Vacancies (1) Vacancy in Council. She requested a formal, consistent and democratic policy for filling vacancies on council and for the appointed to only fill the remainder of the unexpired term of the seat vacated.

Council members that do not want to pursue the suggested Charter change are: Councilor Matthews, Councilor Counts, Councilor Burke, Councilor Quinn and Mayor Waters.

Council members that would like to pursue the suggested Charter change is: Councilor Plantamura.

Council consensus is not to pursue this suggested Charter change.

- Potential charter amendment requested by Councilor Burke - Article III Section 3.07 (b) Forfeiture of Office (3). He inquired by whom a council member would be excused if he/she fails to attend three consecutive regular meeting of the Council. City Manager Edmunds stated that the council member would be excused by the council. Councilor Burke asked that the words “by council” be added to Article III Section 3.07 (b) Forfeiture of Office (3).

Council members that do not want to pursue the suggested Charter change are: Councilor Matthews, Councilor Counts, Councilor Quinn and Councilor Plantamura.

Council members that would like to pursue the suggested Charter change are: Councilor Burke and Mayor Waters.

Council consensus is not to pursue this suggested Charter change.

Councilor Plantamura excused herself from the rest of the meeting indicating that she had another meeting to attend.

- Article III Section 3.10 (b) Rules and Journal; Councilor Burke asked if the rules indicated in the Charter are Robert’s Rules of Order? City Manager Edmunds indicated that it is and that Robert’s Rules of Order are the rules indicated in the city’s code.
- Article III Section 3.10 (a) Meetings; Councilor Matthews asked if the New State Law regarding certified election results that must include 10-day overseas mail ballots would require the verbiage in this section to indicate that the first business meeting in November will be held the third week of the month instead of the second week on the month. City Manager Edmunds indicated that this issue may be handled by a separate action.
- Article X Section 10.03 (a) Charter Review Committee; City Manager Edmunds indicated that his research on when a Charter should be reviewed indicated that municipalities of similar size to the City of Seminole are reviewed every 5 years. Due to this research, he is not suggesting a change to this section of the Charter.

Article X Section 10.03 (a) Charter Review Committee; Councilor Burke suggested a seven Charter member committee and that each member of the Charter Review Committee be nominated by a council member.

Council members that do not want to pursue the suggested Charter change are: None

Council members that would like to pursue the suggested Charter change are: Councilor Matthews, Councilor Counts, Councilor Quinn, Councilor Burke and Mayor Waters.

Council consensus is to pursue this suggested Charter change.

Article X Section 10.03 (d) Charter Review Committee; Councilor Matthews asked for confirmation of number of Public Hearings the Charter Review Committee must conduct in order to recommend amendments to the Charter, if any. City Manager Edmunds indicated that at least one public hearing must be conducted.

Councilor Burke asked that if City of Seminole ever faces a situation like the one in Toronto, Canada, does the Charter make provisions on dealing with such matters. City Manager Edmunds indicated that the language may be found in Article III Section 3.07 (b) (2) Forfeiture of Office.

City Manager Edmunds indicated that a list of council suggested changes to the Charter will be created and provided to the Charter Committee Review members when they meet on February 18, 2014 at 6:30 pm in City Hall.

2. COUNTY EMS STATUS REVIEW:

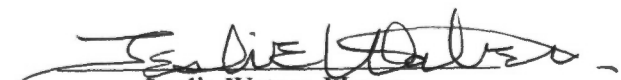
He explained that the CARES program is proposing a funding reduction over a three year period to achieve the systems efficiencies that were recommended by the Pinellas County's Consultant, Fitch & Associates. City Manager Edmunds explained that the City of Seminole is budgeting for an EMS funding reduction.

In the City of Seminole CARES will be a defunding of Squad 29. City Manager Edmunds provided details on funding reduction to Squad 29 and how it will be attained.

ADJOURNMENT TIME: 9:00 P.M.

Date Approved: **FEBRUARY 25, 2014**


Minutes prepared by Rose Benoit, City Clerk


Leslie Waters, Mayor