

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES I
SEMINOLE CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL
9199 – 113TH STREET N
SEMINOLE, FL 33772
March 25, 2014

Present were: 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 and Councilor John Counts were not present.

Mayor Waters called the meeting to order at 8:20 p.m.

1. **CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE REQUEST:**

Mayor Waters recognized City Manager Edmunds. City Manager Edmunds explained that the Charter Review Committee requested collective feedback regarding a letter submitted by Councilor Plantamura on March 17, 2014. Mayor Waters stated that all council members received a copy of Councilor Plantamura's letter and she requested input from council members.

Councilor Burke questioned if the letter was submitted by Councilor Plantamura as a councilor or as a citizen?

Councilor Plantamura read page 3 of 3 from the letter she submitted and said she was submitting the letter not only as a seated council member but as a citizen.

Mayor Waters said that the two major topics referred to in Councilor Plantamura's letter was the process for filling vacancies on council and a staffing situation that is dealt with by city administration. She indicated that during a council workshop held on February 11, 2014, council discussed various potential charter amendments.

Councilor Quinn addressed the process of filling vacancies on council by stating that the section on the Charter addressing this topic should not be subject to amendment. He said that the seating council, when a vacancy occurs, should be allowed to make the decision on the process to with fill the vacancy.

Councilor Matthews asked City Manager Edmunds if the Charter Review Committee conducted its public hearing. City Manager Edmunds indicated that the Charter Review held a public hearing on March 18, 2014. Councilor Matthews questioned why Councilor Plantamura did not present her letter when the Charter Review Committee held the public hearing.

Councilor Plantamura referred to the minutes approved during tonight's council meeting, New Business item, where it indicates that Councilor Burke asked if Council should have been present at the March 4th Charter Review meeting since Agenda item # 4 indicated "Receive Comments from Mayor and City Council." Councilor Plantamura said that had she been informed, that scheduled was a specific time for council to attend, she would have considered attending. She said that she was grateful that the Charter Review Committee reviewed her ideas.

Mayor Waters said that at the council workshop was the opportunity for council to speak on possible amendments. She asked if there was consensus from council to instruct the Charter Review Committee to open the issue of appointments on council or to get involved in personnel human resources issues.

Councilor Plantamura synopsis what was in her letter. Her requests were for council involvement in the Charter Review, City Clerk's position should be objective, no changes in the Charter unless there is an existing articulated reason for any change.

Councilor Plantamura inquired about error in presenting to the Charter Review Committee Charter Article III Section 3.07 (b) Forfeiture of Office (3) as an item council consensus wanted to pursue when on the February 11, 2014 minutes it clearly indicates **Council consensus is not to pursue this suggested Charter change.** Councilor Plantamura asked City Manager Edmunds why he suggested a change on behalf of council when council did not ask for section to have change.

City Manager Edmunds stated that he pointed out to the Charter Review Committee that it was an error; in addition it was noted by one of the committee members and was removed.

Mayor Waters asked if there was any consensus to pass on to the Charter Review any instruction regarding Councilor Plantamura's letter.

Councilor Matthews said that council does not need to do anything more except allow the Charter Review Committee to evaluate the Charter and make recommendations.

Councilor Quinn indicated he did not have anything to pass on.

Councilor Burke indicated that council workshop suggestions should be passed on to the Charter Review Committee along with Councilor Plantamura's letter. He indicated that he felt Councilor Plantamura's letter contained valid points. Councilor Matthews concurred with Councilor Burke.

Councilor Plantamura said that she was very pleased to know that the Charter Review Committee was taking public comments and Councilors comments seriously.

Mayor Waters said that Council will instruct the Charter Review Committee not to pursue any other direct comment/issues from Council. She said that Council does not have anything that requires their attention at this time.

2. SEMINOLE HIGH SCHOOL GOLDEN JAMBOREE:

Mayor Waters asked City Manager Edmunds to review the options for Council consideration regarding Mr. Robert Davis's request on behalf of the graduating class of Seminole High School 1965. Council consensus is Option #1 which describes the City will provide the park but the group will handle everything else.

3. LAWN CARE SIGNAGE FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES:

Mayor Waters indicated that this item was brought to her attention by a lawn service business. The lawn service's sign was picked up by code enforcement for violation of the city's signage code. Mayor Waters on behalf of the service company is asking for the possibility of permitting service signage on properties located in commercial zones within city. The signage would be 14" x 15". Community Development Ely explained the current city signage code and explained why the signage is not permitted. He stated that the policy issue becomes content and/or graphic neutrality of the sign and the allowance of an off-premise advertising sign. City Manager Edmunds asked how the city would qualify the signage. City Manager Edmunds submitted a photograph provided by Rayma Barnhorn for the record. Councilor Matthews provided the history on the lawn service sign in question and indicated that the sign belongs to his son. There was no council consensus to change the city's signage code.

4. INCREASE SPEED LIMIT ALONG 86TH AVENUE:

Mayor Waters requested to discuss the speed limit on 86th Avenue between Seminole Blvd. and 113th Street. To increase the speed limit along 86th Avenue would require the services of a traffic engineer to analyze 86th Avenue traffic data. Council consensus is to leave the speed limit at the current speed limit of 25 mph.

5. CITY GRANT CRITERIA:

Councilor Burke requested to discuss the qualifications necessary to receive a city grant. Currently agencies receiving city funds must demonstrate a provision of service to city residents, but it has never been documented in the form of a resolution. Council consensus is to formalize the criteria process and adopt a resolution.

6. EMPLOYEE TATTOO POLICY:

City Manager Edmunds said he was seeking individual council opinions on an employee tattoo policy. He stated that he wants to make sure that the Administrative point of view is in agreement with the Council point of view. Currently, the practice is not to hire individuals that may have visible tattoos at time of hire. Each council member expressed their opinion.

Councilor Plantamura said that in regards to the Charter Review Committee, there was one additional item she wanted to bring forth. She referred to the public records request she made for a copy of a letter of disqualification she received from Attorney Elias. She indicated that the letter she recently received from the City Clerk was not the letter she referred to in the public records request. She is asking for a copy of the letter and would like it for the next Charter Review Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT TIME: 9:10 P.M.

Date Approved: **April 22, 2014**

Rose Benoit

Minutes prepared by Rose Benoit, City Clerk

Leslie Waters
Leslie Waters, Mayor