

**WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
SEMINOLE CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL
9199 – 113TH STREET N
SEMINOLE, FL 33772
May 13, 2014**

Present were: Councilor John Counts; Vice Mayor Thomas Barnhorn; 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.

Mayor Waters called the meeting to order at 8:25 p.m.

1. CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Mayor Waters said that the topic of the workshop is the Charter Review Committee update. She stated that the Charter Review Committee has been working over the past couple of months reviewing the city's charter and that it is a requirement to review the Charter every 5 years. She stated that Mr. Joseph Haynes is the Chairperson of the Charter Review Committee. She said that he would be providing the committee's findings/recommendations. She indicated that all council members received a copy of the report and stated that she had read every word of the report and that it was an excellent report.

Mayor Water stated that during Mr. Haynes's report, questions and answers would not be permitted between council and Mr. Haynes. She said that the council members would discuss the committee's findings/recommendations at a later workshop to see if council agrees with the Charter Review Committee's findings/recommendation.

Mayor Waters recognized Mr. Joseph Haynes, Chairperson of the Charter Review Committee and four members of the committee that were present; Susan Berkowitz, Anne Gardner, Dr. James Olliver and Chuck Oldanie. Linda Cole and Robert Castles were not present.

Mr. Haynes expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the Charter Review Committee. He said that this was the first time he was part of a public service effort, appointed or elected. He thanked Councilor Plantamura for having faith in his ability to execute this activity to council satisfaction. He indicated that the committee reviewed the City Charter in an organized fashion.

Mr. Haynes read the approved findings/recommendations by the Charter Review Committee on the following issues:

- 1) Keeping the Charter gender neutral.
- 2) Section 3.02, Election and Terms- terminology deleted regarding the rollover of the March election process into November election.
- 3) Section 3.07, (d) Extraordinary Vacancies- changed from five to four members since four is a quorum.
- 4) Section 5.02, (b) Removal of City Manager - changed from five to four members since four is a quorum.
- 5) Section 5.03, Acting City Manager- a written communication must be filed with city council for council approval.
- 6) Section 6:03, (a) Conduct of Elections- indicating compliance with the terms and conditions set forth by the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Office.
- 7) Section 6:04, (d) Tie Votes – indicating persons shall draw lots to determine who shall be elected to the office.
- 8) Section 6:04, (e) Runoff Elections – eliminated this section
- 9) Section 10:03, Charter Review Committee - 1 to 1 relationship of a councilor appointing one person to the Charter Review Committee.

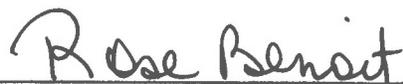
Mr. Haynes said that overall the review of the Charter was an expeditious process. He said that he felt he gave ample opportunity for members of the committee to make comments and that his goal was to ensure that everyone had that opportunity. He stated that the Charter is the foundation of the City and changes to it should not be taken lightly. He said it should be changed lightly and infrequently if possible.

Mr. Haynes stated the Charter Review Committee members would have benefited if they had some sort of “upfront guidance” from council. He said that some sort of documentation, some sort of guiding documentation on how the committee should proceed through this charter review process, would have helped the committee. He felt they did a good job and that the committee consisted of astute individuals. His thought was that the general feel of the committee was to review recommended suggestions/changes from the council. He said that members of the committee did not understand that each member had the opportunity to suggest/recommend changes to the Charter. He said that he was the only one that stuck his neck out, submitting suggested changes that he would have liked council to consider. All his suggested changes were voted down. He stated that he understood that when you stick your neck out, there is a risk involved in the process. He stated that committee members should have been informed upfront that the Charter was their document as well as councils and that the committee was formed to suggest/recommend changes and bring those changes to council. He said that if they would have known, it would have been a big help. Overall, he stated that the committee was very well received. He said that the committee received very good support from City Manager Edmunds, City Attorney Elias and City Clerk Rose Benoit. He said that everyone did a very good job and that when council received the committee’s input, he felt it was taken seriously. He said that in his view council members took the input and swapped them during council scheduled workshops. He then asked council if they had any questions for him.

Mayor Waters stated that on behalf of the council it was appreciated all the time that all the committee members put into reviewing the charter and for their service to the City Of Seminole for the past several months. She thanked them for their findings and input and for the work done. She indicated that she watched all the meetings and knew what they all got involved with. Mayor Waters said that the council will take the committee's suggestions under advisement. She indicated that the council would convene a workshop in a couple of weeks to go over Mr. Haynes' committee suggestion/recommendations and either add, subtract or revise the suggestion/recommendations for the ballot in November. Mayor Waters indicated that she needed to clarify certain comments she heard during the April 15th Charter Review meetings. She said that in that meeting, when Mr. Haynes commented about the clerk position; if it should be an appointed or hired position, he defined the clerk position as the administration of the city. Mayor Waters said that the clerk's position is not the administration of the city. Mayor Waters stated that the clerk does not run everything and everything does not go through the clerk as Mr. Haynes thought. Mayor Waters indicated that the definition of the clerk's position was defined a little off. She felt the citizen's would appreciate the clarification of the position. Mayor Waters spoke about Mr. Haynes's use of the word "power" and of the comment that the council was pretty much a ribbon cutting body; that all they did was bang the gavel and seat in workshops. She indicated that she felt that the definition of a council was quite a simplified definition. She said that perhaps instead of the word "power," perhaps Mr. Haynes meant responsibility; responsibility over, responsibility in one position or giving away responsibility. She said that defining "power" in one position in the city would have been better defined as people having responsibilities in their jobs. She said that the only power in the Council Chamber was the power of the vote. Mayor Waters said that overall the committee members did an excellent job. She said that local government is closest to the voter and that council appreciated all the hard work done by the members in the committee.

Mayor Waters adjourned the workshop at 8:35 p.m.

Date Approved: May 27, 2014



Minutes prepared by Rose Benoit, City Clerk


Leslie Waters, Mayor