

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021 9:30 A.M.
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

PRESENT: Jeff Stassi, Linda Hillman, Ken Daige, Nancy Cook and Mark Mucher, Alternate Member **Also Present:** John Turner, City Attorney and Tammy Bursick, City Clerk

Unexcused absence: Peter Benedict II

1. CALL TO ORDER

The City Clerk called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. BRIEF ORIENTATION ON THE SUNSHINE LAW – CITY ATTORNEY

The City Attorney went over the Sunshine Law and the Public Records Law.

3. OATH OF OFFICE FOR ALL MEMBERS – CITY CLERK

The City Clerk performed the Oath of Office enmasse.

4. OPENING REMARKS – MAYOR ROBBIE BRACKETT

Mayor Brackett thanked everyone for their service. He wanted to remind the Committee that with every action has a reaction and has consequences so they need to be careful when reviewing the Charter and the changes that they would like to see. He agreed that it was time for the Charter to be reviewed. However, he feels that they have a very good Charter, but the housekeeping items need to be looked at.

5. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. Mucher nominated Mrs. Nancy Cook for Chairman.

Mrs. Hillman nominated Mr. Ken Daige for Chairman.

The nominations were closed. Mrs. Cook was appointed as Chairman with Mr. Stassi voting yes, Mrs. Hillman no, Mr. Daige no, Mrs. Cook yes and Mr. Mucher yes.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Mucher nominated Mr. Ken Daige for Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations. Mr. Daige was unanimously appointed as Vice Chairman of the Charter Review Committee.

6. SET MEETING DAY AND TIME

The next Charter Review Committee meeting was set for June 7th at 9:30 a.m.

The Clerk was asked to send the Committee the date that the last Charter Review Committee met and when their last meeting was and any pertinent minutes and information that may be useful to them.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Cook asked Mr. Turner to give the definition of "Charter."

Mr. John Turner, City Attorney, explained it is how the City is organized and has to do with the City of Vero Beach and its needs.

Mr. Daige added that there is protection of certain lands in their Charter that makes their City unique.

Mr. Turner suggested that the Committee comes up with general topics that they want to discuss.

Mr. Mucher asked if there were requests for staff would the Committee have to decide what to approve them.

Mr. Turner told Mr. Mucher that the Committee would need to go through the City Clerk's office with those requests. He said that staff is here to help. He recommended that the Committee either go through the City Attorney's office or the City Clerk's office with any requests that they have.

Mr. Daige gave some examples of how the former Charter Review Committee conducted their business. He said that the Committee will have items to discuss and they can put those items on the table and take a vote as a group. The length of time that they meet is usually up to the Chairman.

Mrs. Cook commented that they need to review the Charter and she knows that each person serving on the Committee brings with them some special interest.

Mr. Turner suggested that the topics that they are interested in discussing be put on a future agenda.

Mr. Mucher wondered do they discuss what's in the Charter and what's not in the Charter.

Mrs. Cook was interested in knowing the percentage of land in the City of Vero Beach that is already off of the tax rolls. She said if they continue taking land off of the tax rolls then how will they fund the City. She wanted to have discussions on what the limitations will be.

Mr. Daige wanted to take a look at the percentage of the protected lands and having more put in the Charter.

Mr. Mucher asked if they maintained an inventory of surplus land. Mr. Daige said he would like to see that also.

Mrs. Cook expressed how important it was to get public input on whatever they are discussing. She said they have to keep in mind what they want this City to look like in 10 years. The Committee requested that public comments be put on the beginning of the agenda instead of at the end of the agenda.

Mr. Mucher commented that the City has been very lax in asking people who speak for their names and addresses.

Mrs. Tammy Bursick, City Clerk, explained because of safety reasons they don't ask people that come up to speak at the podium what their address is. She said they can always ask if they are a City or County resident or do they live within the City limits.

Mr. Daige suggested having a map at their meetings that outlines where the City limits are located.

Mrs. Cook asked if they should impose a time limit on how long a person can speak.

Mrs. Hillman suggested giving a person five (5) minutes to speak unless they have contacted the City Clerk and requested more time.

Mrs. Cook agreed with giving them five (5) minutes unless they request additional time.

Mr. Turner told the Committee that they may want to decide how long their meetings will be. The meetings need to be conducted in a tight and focused way.

Mr. Turner brought up that the Resolution establishing the Committee has a date of July 1st for the Committee to make their recommendations to City Council. The Committee members requested that the City Clerk and the City Attorney ask the City Council to extend that time to August 1st. This will still give them time to have any items on this year's election ballot if that is their recommendations.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

/tb