

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 30, 2013 MEETING GREEN COVE SPRINGS CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Invocation performed by Chairman Bob Page and Pledge of Allegiance by all Committee Members.

2. Roll Call.

The Charter Review Committee meeting of October 30, 2013 was called to order by Chairman, Robert C. Page at 4:00 p.m.

The following members were present for the meeting: Bob Page, Chairman, Sarah Spurrier, Vice Chairman, Bob Lewis, Foster Forehand, Joseph Chao, Joseph Sobotta, Luke Byrne, Marsha Fields, Danielle J. Judd, City Manager, L. J. Arnold, III, City Attorney, and F. Lee Bentley, City Clerk.

The following members were absent: Bruce Bickner and Marilyn Haddock.

3. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the September 5, 2013 meeting were approved as presented by unanimous vote.

4. Discussion and action concerning proposed changes to City Elections Process. *City Attorney, City Clerk and Supervisor of Elections*

Discussion ensued with Chris Chambless, Clay County Supervisor of Elections, concerning proposed changes to the City Elections process, i.e., consolidation of election notices, uniform voter education, ballot lay-out and programming, cost savings in overtime for Staff from the Supervisor's office, mailing of ballots for military and citizens overseas, cost savings for supplies and truck rentals to deliver equipment, unified campaign reporting, and unified book closing. The following counties currently utilized the unified elections Bay, Broward, Dade, Duval, Okaloosa, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, and Volusia.

Florida Statutes Sec. 100.3605 provides for the ability, by Ordinance, to change the election date and qualifying times to allow for the easy mobility to the unified timelines. The City Ordinance would spell out the processes, specifically that all elections are conducted through Florida Statutes, Chapters 97-106. This would allow the City to conduct the consolidated candidate qualifying and elections regardless of any changes made to the Florida Statutes. The City elections would still be held at City Hall. Mr. Chambless noted that 57% of all voting occurs prior to an election and he urged the City to use some of the cost savings to allow for early voting in an abbreviated period of time. The City had opted out of early voting and currently utilized the Absentee Balloting process.

Mr. Bentley advised that the other three (3) municipalities were interested in learning more about the consolidated elections process. Mr. Chambless would be scheduling a publicly noticed meeting of representatives from all municipalities in the near future.

It was believed that any changes made to the City Charter would not be effective for the April 2014 election. The Ordinance would need to specify as by State Law or by Ordinance.

The Committee agreed that they should encourage the Council to go to a Super Tuesday process and align itself with State Statutes for municipal elections.

The City Attorney and City Clerk would meet to discuss how to revise Article VII of the City Charter.

5. Discussion and action regarding proposed revisions to City Charter based on Charter Review Committee's previous evaluations. *Charter Review Committee*

Discussion ensued on City Charter Article II, City Council, Section 2.11, Definitions of ordinances, resolutions and motions, with the following action taken on items discussed by the Committee:

Section 2.11. – Definitions of ordinances, resolutions, and motions.

A motion was made by Luke Byrne, seconded by Marsha Fields, to make no changes to Section. 2.11. The vote was unanimous.

Section 2.14. – Emergency ordinances.

A motion was made by Joe Chao, seconded by Bob Lewis, to make no changes to Section. 2.14.

Section 2.18. – Investigations.

Mr. Arnold suggested the following language:

“The City may make investigations into the affairs of the City, including but not necessarily limited to, investigations regarding the qualifications of the City Council and current Council residency.”

The consensus of the Committee after reviewing this section was that no changes were necessary.

Section 2.02. (E).

The City Attorney was directed to provide the language to this Section to strengthen the ability of the Council to conduct investigations regarding the residency of a Council Member.

6. Other business or comments.

None.

7. Announce next meeting date and time.

Thursday, November 7, 2013 at 5 p.m.
Thursday, November 13, 2013 at 5 p.m.

8. Adjournment.

Charter Review Committee Meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Robert C. Page, Chairman

Attest:

F. Lee Bentley, City Clerk