



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes Charter Review Advisory Board

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

6:00 PM

City Hall Room 244

1. Call to Order

Chair Sias called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present 7 - Chair Sias, Vice Chair Pool, Board Member Bilski, Board Member Loverdi, Board Member Bartolotta, Board Member Duval and Board Member Gibson

Also Present

Assistant City Attorney Michael Golen, City Clerk Heather Taylor, and Recording Secretary Amanda Baker.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Board.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. [21-0655](#) Approval of the March 31, 2021 Charter Review Advisory Board Meeting.

A motion was made by Board Member Gibson, seconded by Vice Chair Pool, to approve the Minutes as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Sias, Vice Chair Pool, Board Member Bilski, Board Member Loverdi, Board Member Bartolotta, Board Member Duval and Board Member Gibson

B. [21-0688](#) Approval of Minutes for the April 21, 2021 Charter Review Advisory Board Meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the memorandum submitted by Ms. Taylor to the Commission regarding the qualifications for the City Manager position.

A motion was made by Board Member Gibson, seconded by Vice Chair Pool, to approve the Minutes as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Sias, Vice Chair Pool, Board Member Bilski, Board Member Loverdi, Board Member Bartolotta, Board Member Duval and Board Member Gibson

6. New Business

A. [21-0616](#) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding City Manager and City Commission Roles.

Discussion took place regarding the roles and performance measures of the City Manager and the Commission, dedicating future meetings to focus on specific sections of the Charter, interpretation of Section V of the Charter, ambiguous language within the Charter and amending the language to provide more clarity, whether or not the Commission position is full-time or part-time, timeline for amendments to the Charter, checks and balances within the Charter, chain of command within Departments and the Commission, dissolving Departments, responsibility and process of activating and deactivating Departments, amending the Charter to be more policy-driven and the City Code to be more detail-driven, and unnecessarily amending the Charter to excess.

Mr. Golen spoke about City Code vs. the Charter, limitations of the roles of the Commission, consequences regarding abuse of power and performance duties beyond the scope of the job description, and public records requests.

Discussion continued regarding open-door policy and chain of command, job duties of elected officials, transparency regarding job descriptions of the City Manager, roles of the City Manager including policy and budget issues.

Public comment:

Jeffrey Scott: lack of initiative within City Administration, accountability, and concern regarding Department staff being ill-prepared at the budget meeting.

Discussion continued regarding changing the Charter and the timeline process, adding an accountability section in the Charter, and eligibility requirements concerning an experience prerequisite for the City Manager position.

A motion was made by Board Member Gibson, seconded by Vice Chair Pool, to cease discussion on Item No. 21-0616 and move on to discuss Item No. 21-0759 of the Agenda.

Discussion took place on the motion regarding opportunities and whether Item No. 21-0616 should be continued to a future meeting.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Sias, Vice Chair Pool, Board Member Bilski, Board Member Loverdi, Board Member Bartolotta, Board Member Duval and Board Member Gibson

B. [21-0759](#) Additional Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Pros and Cons of Signing Agreements.

Discussion took place regarding additional pros and cons regarding signing agreements by the City Manager, permission to the City Manager to sign any contracts, agreements, or applications that have been approved in the annual budget or that have no financial impact and are in the best interest of the City, adding a con that, in the event of an election, the budget vote may not be reflective of the new Commission, exclusion of an item from Consent Agenda if the Item has already been approved by the City Manager, the ability to pull an Item from Consent Agenda for discussion, transparency issues with Items in the Consent Agenda, and performance issues regarding signing agreements

prior to Commission meetings.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Pool, seconded by Board Member Gibson, to add the verbiage, "budget vote may not be reflective of the new Board if there is an election" and "lack of transparency to the public if the items are not on the consent agenda" to the cons of signing agreements.

Yes: 5 - Chair Sias, Vice Chair Pool, Board Member Bilski, Board Member Duval and Board Member Gibson

No: 2 - Board Member Loverdi and Board Member Bartolotta

Mr. Bartolotta dissented due to there already being a process to deal with budget and objecting to a lack of transparency by stating the item can be brought back to a consent agenda.

7. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items include issue with signatures, compensation for Commissioners, accountability and transparency, handling Charter Officer investigations, open government and citizen complaints, public records and public facing, process available for the City to consider waiving public records fees when it is a public interest, reviewing Code of Ethics, possibility of forming a city ethics committee, qualifications for Commission positions, and negative affects redistricting will create.

Chair Sias opted to remove compensation for Commissioners from the agenda for the June 16, 2021 meeting and instead discuss elections.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

Chair Sias adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

By: _____
Andrew Sias,
Chair

Minutes approved on the ___ day of _____, 2021.