



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes - Final Charter Review Advisory Board

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

6:00 PM

CITY HALL ROOM 244

MINUTES APPROVED AT THE 07-02-2019 MEETING.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Present 5 - Chair Cory Hutchinson, Vice-Chair Justin Willis, Board Member Melanie Breuer, Board Member Eve Sweeting, and Board Member David Duval

Absent 2 - Board Member Robert Smith, and Board Member William Sauer

Also Present:

City Attorney Amber Slayton; City Clerk Katy Wong; and Recording Secretary Susan Hale.

3. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chair Willis.

New Board Member David Duval introduced himself.

4. Public Comment

Public comment was held 6:01 p.m. -- 6:03 p.m.

Commissioner Luke: the New City Charter Sections regarding the City Attorney and City Clerk offices being outside the purview of the City Manager.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. [19-0470](#) Minutes for the March 6, 2019 Board Meeting.

Chair Hutchinson noted a typo on the motion under Agenda Item D. on page 2, the motion was seconded by Board Member Smith, not Taylor.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Willis, seconded by Chair Hutchinson, to approve the March 6, 2019 minutes, as corrected. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

6. New Business

A. [19-0490](#) Discussion regarding possibly changing the title from "Mayor" to "Chair" as the presiding officer of the Commission.

Chair Hutchinson introduced the item and favored changing the title back to Chair/Vice-Chair because the composition of the North Port City government is a

Commission-Manager type.

Board Member Sweeting spoke to changing the title and requested a history of the change.

Ms. Slayton provided a brief history of City Charter modifications, and explained the difference between a Commission-Manager type of government and a Strong Manager type government.

Board Member Duval spoke to a "Mayor" as denoting powers that the City Commission's Mayor may not hold and expressed support if changing the title Chair.

Discussion continued regarding the appropriateness of the term Chair, the possible cause and effect if it is changed and benefits of keeping the title as Mayor, no difference legally in the nomenclature, League of Mayors requirement, and the "Mayor" making executive decisions vs. representing the Commission.

Ms. Slayton cited several conferences and community service opportunities held by the League of Mayors.

Vice-Chair Willis requested more information regarding cause and effects, how the title is used and whether the title of Mayor has benefited the City, requested minutes of the Commission meetings and Charter Review meetings where the discussion to change was held.

Ms. Slayton spoke to Florida Statutes Chapter 286.012 regarding abstaining from voting as it pertains to elected officials.

A motion was made by Chair Hutchinson, seconded by Board Member Duval, that the Charter Review Advisory Board recommends that the City Commission change the title from "Mayor" to "Chair" throughout the City Charter. The motion carried on a three-to-two (3-2) vote with Vice-Chair Willis and Board Member Sweeting dissenting.

B. [19-0489](#)

Discussion regarding a scenario if no one in a district chooses to run for a Commission seat.

Chair Hutchinson spoke to concerns if no one in a district runs for a Commission seat.

Discussion ensued regarding a provision that the district seat could switch to an at-large seat prior to the final filing date, scenarios to include the defeated candidate from another district who received the highest number of votes would fill the open seat, to readvertise for the open seat as an at-large seat, and to receive applications and the governor select him, and the disparity in the Charter where one situation requires 25 signatures in support of a candidate and another situation requiring 100 signatures of voters for a candidate when a vacancy occurs.

Ms. Wong spoke to a discussion with the Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections regarding the scenario and solutions, and discussion with Florida State who suggested to leave the seat vacant, force an appointment by someone who is not elected, or the previous incumbent would remain in office.

Discussion took place regarding a situation in Washington D.C. where a write-in candidate was permitted, a governor-appointed being the fairest resolution, 25 signatures vs. 100 signatures, using the same language currently in place to fill a vacancy, calling

for a special election, there being no historical reference of this happening, a recommendation for the Commission to take some kind of protective action, City Charter Section 3.01(a) and Section 2.4 and holding a special election if no one qualified for the general election.

A motion was made by Chair Hutchinson, seconded by Board Member Duval, that the Charter Review Advisory Board recommends to the City Commission to consider adding a provision to the City Charter to address the event of no one running for a District Seat. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

7. Future Agenda Items

The next Board Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday June 4, 2019 at 6:00 in room 244.

Future agenda items included: 1) a Charter discussion regarding the powers and duties of the City Manager (Section 9.05), the City Clerk (Section 10.05), and the City Attorney (Section 11.05); 2) a discussion regarding redistricting, with a map of the District lines; and 3) a discussion regarding increasing the number of commissioners.

Ms. Wong distributed an article in Quality Cities magazine by the Florida League of Cities that cited the recent City's Charter changes in an article.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

Chair Hutchinson adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Cory Hutchinson,
Chair

Minutes were approved at the Charter Review Advisory Board meeting this ____ day of _____, 2019.