

Charter Review Committee  
December 3, 2015

Committee Members Present:

Wade Thompson, Vice Chair  
Vicki Moore, Secretary  
Eva Daniels  
Phil Guercio  
Ann Marshall  
Bob Wilson

Committee Members Absent:

Alan Zirkelbach, Chair

Staff Present:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney  
Scott Rudacille, Chief Assistant City Attorney  
Amber Foley, Assistant City Clerk

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed Ms. Daniels to the Committee.

**Motion: Mr. Wilson moved, Ms. Marshall seconded, and the motion carried 6-0 to approve the November 12, 2015 Charter Review Committee minutes.**

Leo Mills, Leo Mills and Associates, spoke in opposition against term limits for Commissioners and Mayors in the City of Palmetto.

The Committee discussed the residency requirements for wards versus that of the at-large seat. They agreed that it would be best to be consistent with 365 of legal residency for both the ward and the at-large seats.

**Motion: Ms. Moore moved, Mr. Guercio seconded, and the motion carried 6-0 to extend the residency requirement for the mayor to more than 365 days and add this topic to the Committee's vote on list.**

The Mayor Veto Section was discussed and it was determined by Attorney Barnebey that the section is written well; no further language needs to be added or deleted.

**Motion: Mr. Guercio moved, Ms. Marshall seconded, and the motion carried 6-0 to take remove this discussion from any further meetings.**

The Commission asked the Committee to review Section 20 that specifically discusses an employee running for office and unpaid leave. Attorney Barnebey explained that Section 20 specifically addresses when unpaid leave has to be used, for how long, and when the employee can return to work. He sees no need to add or re-write any of the Section at this time.

**Motion: Mr. Guercio moved, Mr. Wilson seconded, and the motion carried 6-0 to remove this discussion from any further meetings.**

Term limits was discussed in great length with Mr. Guercio explaining the research he performed. He opined three terms across the board would work best for the City. Other Committee members disagreed with term limits for a City this size. Problems expressed included running out of enough

candidates to run for Commissioners. Mr. Guercio pointed out that getting new candidates would be easier if they were not running against an incumbent. He opined getting new eyes and ears on the Commission could be a positive for the City.

**Motion: Mr. Guercio moved, Ms. Marshall seconded, and the motion carried 6-0 to add term limits to the list of topics the Committee will vote on.**

Attorney Barnebey presented Ms. Foley with a hand written draft of Section 23 of the Charter. Ms. Foley will clean up the draft and present it to the Committee at the next meeting.

In regards to Section 10, Vice-Mayor, it was discussed about the violation of Sunshine if they are acting as Mayor and have individual meetings with the Commissioners. The Committee considered what language could be added to the section to allow for the vice-mayor to have individual meetings.

**Motion: Ms. Marshall moved, Mr. Wilson seconded, and the motion carried 6-0 to have no further discussion regarding vice-mayor and acting as mayor.**

Ms. Foley discussed the make-up of the Charter Review Committee, as there are no specific guidelines in the current Charter. She explained that in the City's Code of Ordinances it does address the make-up of other advisory boards. Some things to consider would be residency requirements, relative to a Commissioner, serve on another City advisory board, have they served on the Charter Review before, should each Committee member be from a different ward and selected by a Commissioner of the ward, etc. It was asked that Attorney Barnebey draft language for the make-up of the Charter Review Committee. Ms. Foley will also provide a copy of the language of other advisory boards as written in the Code of Ordinances.

The last topic discussed was how to go about doing a review of the Charter. It was proposed that each Member review section by section and make notes if there is anything further they would like to see discussed or altered.

**Motion: Mr. Guercio moved, Ms. Moore seconded, and the motion carried 6-0 to review the Charter section by section at the next meeting.**

The next Charter Review Committee meeting will be on January 7, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.

**Motion: Ms. Moore moved, Ms. Marshall seconded, and the motion carried 6-0 to adjourn the meeting.**

Vice Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Minutes approved: January 7, 2016

*Vicki Moore*

Vicki Moore  
Secretary