

Charter Review Committee  
City of Palmetto, Florida  
January 7, 2016—3:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Alan Zirkelbach, Chair  
Wade Thompson, Vice Chair  
Vicki Moore, Secretary  
Phil Guercio  
Ann Marshall  
Bob Wilson

Committee Members Absent:

Eva Daniels

Staff Present:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney  
Amber Foley, Assistant City Clerk

Chair Zirkelbach called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

**Motion: Mr. Thompson moved, Ms. Marshall seconded, and the motion carried 6-0 to approve the December 3, 2015 Minutes.**

The Committee reviewed the changes made to Section 23 of the Charter. Attorney Barnebey stated that the main change is that all changes to the Charter will go to referendum.

**Motion: Ms. Marshall moved, Mr. Guercio seconded, and the motion carried 6-0 to accept the changes as made by Attorney Barnebey to Section 23 of the Charter.**

Discussion regarding the make-up of a Charter Review Committee, Section 26, was discussed. Both Mr. Wilson and Mr. Guercio presented the Committee with a handout with their opinions on how the Committee should be made up in the future. Their suggestions included how the Committee would be established, composed, their procedures, rules and composition, expenses and the review of the Charter. Attorney Barnebey was asked to review their proposals and make changes. These changes will be sent to the Committee on the next agenda.

Mrs. Moore questioned Section 10 and Section 19 which discussed vice mayor and the vacancy of the mayor. She expressed concerns on the absence of the mayor to serve for an extended period of time. Attorney Barnebey explained that currently the way the Charter is written the vice mayor would take over as mayor within 10 days of the current mayor no longer being in office. The vice mayor can decline that role, and if so, the Commission shall elect a mayor by majority of vote. If no Commissioner takes the role as mayor, the Commission may elect a resident to serve as mayor until a successor is elected. Attorney Barnebey clarified that if more than 180 days remain in the then-current term of the mayor, the City Commission shall call a special election to fill the office of mayor for the unexpired portion of the term.

Mr. Guercio discussed term limits as presented in his handout. He reviewed other cities that are similar and smaller than the City of Palmetto. He opined that term limits work well because it creates an opportunity for new people to come in and bring a new vision to the City. Mr. Zirkelbach agrees with Mr. Guercio and understands that new people are not as likely to run against an incumbent who has been a City Commissioner for several years; however, Mr. Zirkelbach opined that a City this size may not

have enough candidates. Attorney Barnebey stated that one option could be to have term limits and then allow the candidate to run again after they have not been a Commissioner for a certain amount of terms. Discussion continued on the subject of term limits.

**Mr. Zirkelbach called for a roll-call vote on this item: Mr. Guercio voted yes, Mrs. Moore voted no, Ms. Marshall voted no, Mr. Zirkelbach voted no, Mr. Thompson voted no, Mr. Wilson voted no. This item will have no further discussion.**

The Committee discussed the residency requirements for Ward Commissioners and At-Large. The Committee agreed that the requirements should be consistent and would like to make the residency for both one year. Discussion regarding the mayor residency requirement continued. It was asked that Attorney Barnebey review residency requirements and having residency for all Commission seats and the mayor be two years.

Attorney Barnebey discussed a question posed by a Commission at the Commission meeting Monday night. It was asked if the Committee could review requirements to serve as a Commissioner and vice-mayor. Meaning, does the Commissioner need to be a full-time or a part-time Commissioner. The Charter Review Committee all agreed that there should be no requirements regarding full-time versus part-time for either a Commissioner or as vice-mayor.

The next scheduled meeting is January 28, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.

Chair Zirkelbach adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m.

Minutes approved: January 28, 2016

*Vicki Moore*

Vicki Moore  
Secretary