

Minutes

Charter Review Commission
Town Hall Meeting

The City of Daytona Beach, Florida

April 1, 2014

Minutes of the Charter Review Commission Town Hall Meeting of The City of Daytona Beach, Florida, held on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., Peabody Auditorium, Rose room, 600 Auditorium Boulevard, Daytona Beach, Florida.

Attendance.

Gary Libby	Present
Blaine Lansberry	Present
Kelly Kwiatek	Present
Thomas Leek	Present
Willie Kimmons	Present
L. Roland Blossom	Present
Glenn S. Ritchey, Chairman	Present

Alternate Members

Ruth Trager	Present
Ed Savard	Present
Dan Bolerjack	Present
Jill Pennington	Absent
Christi McGee	Present
Tony Barhoo	Present
John Huger	Absent

Also Present:

Marie Hartman, City Attorney
Ron McLemore, Deputy City Manager/Public Works
Jennifer L. Thomas, City Clerk

1. Welcome

Glenn Ritchey, Chairman, Charter Review Commission welcomed everyone to the Town hall meeting. The meeting is a series of events throughout the community that gives citizens and opportunity to speak to the Commission regarding changes to the Charter. Mr. Ritchey reviewed portions of the mission statement that further explains the responsibilities of the Commission. The Charter is a foundation of local government.

2. Introductions – Charter Review Commission Members

Each member introduced themselves and spoke about the zone they represent and the ideas on the responsibilities.

Mr. Ritchey opened the meeting for input from citizens.

Citizen comments

Vernon Weatherholtz, 3 Granville Circle, Daytona Beach

- The size of the City is good for a Commission/Manager form of government.
- Department Heads should live in the City.
- Contract negotiations for the City Manager should be opened to the public.
- The Mayor of the City is doing a great job; his pay is adequate.
- There should be more than one Vice Mayor so that the responsibilities are divided.
- Each zone should have equal population.
- Advisory Board members should all be residents of the City.

George Toulouse, 738 Ribault Avenue, Daytona Beach

- The City does not listen to residents; it is corrupt; it sides with the contractors.
- Seventy-five percent of the taxes goes to employees.
- The homeless issues of the City need to be taken care of; the Salvation location on Ballough Road needs to be demolished; a new facility should be built past I-95.

Ruth Trager, 610 Bostwick Avenue, Daytona Beach

- E-Zone properties should be not subject to eminent domain.
- Background checks should be conducted on all elected officials and advisory board members.

Josh Fogerty, 112 Mulberry Branch Court, Daytona Beach

- The City is moving in the right direction.
- Strongly supports Manager/Council form of government; it keeps continuity in government; and it promotes economic development.
- Initiative referendum process is fair; more requirement for signatures is better.

Weegie Kuendig, 718 North Wild Olive Avenue, Daytona Beach

- Commission meeting agenda powers should be shared by the City Manager and Commission. Each member of the Commission should be able to request an item and it should appear on the agenda within 30 days (*asked if this power was already in Charter*).
- Require the City Manager and senior staff to reside in the city as a condition of employment (*within 90 days*).
- Require a simple majority of the Commission to terminate the employment of the City Manager.
- Require quarterly fair share reporting from the City Manager or Finance Director on monies spent in each zone. Require separate quarterly reporting for each CRA.
- Require Commission approval for hiring all department heads (*delete*).
- Members of the Commission, if on the ballot, shall not be a member of the canvassing board.
- Eight year term limits for all elected officials.
- Delete all language requiring any affidavit of the circulator, delete language requiring percentages required from each zone; at a minimum, and adopt the percentage requirement now used by the county (*or State, whichever is lower*) for voters to get an issue on the ballot.
- Clarify and define emergencies and emergency powers of Mayor and City Manager (*delete*).
- Give the Commission the ability to outsource legal staff (*delete*).
- City requirement to follow code standard and maintenance standard for all city owned property.
- Change the time limit required for a special election from 12 months to 6 months.
- Require third party financial disclosures during elections (*what is covered under State law*).
- Remove all laws from our Charter that supersede or conflict with state law.
- Strengthen authority of citizen boards (*don't want numbers changed; wants residency requirements added as in other Cities*).
- Limit the amount of funds spent on the consent agent to .25 percent of the total yearly budget (*still discussing amount*).
- Require a time certain to fill vacant senior staff positions (*120 days*).
- Clarify section 15: the ability of the Commission to deal directly with senior staff personnel (*does it currently mean individual Commissioners of the Commission as a whole*).
- Require all bond issues (*supported by property taxes*) to be voted on by the electorate.
- Require Department Heads to attend regular Commission meetings.

Chris Daun, 132 Pierce Avenue, Daytona Beach

- There should be a policy on re-hiring staff after retirement.
- Advertising and public notices need to reach a wider audience (i.e. meetings, surplus property sales); this would promote transparency in government.
- Planned Development applications should be the last resort for development; all applications should go before the City Commission before they are processed.
- The City should apply for more supplemental grants.
- City owned facilities should be maintained; do not defer maintenance.

James Harper, 341 Weaver Street, Daytona Beach

- Do away with segregated zones; no need for minority zones.
- The City Commission should determine finalist for all department heads.
- Increase the time for public comments during City Commission meetings.
- Police and Fire is funded at 60 percent of the City's budget; the City should maintain how the budget is spent.
- The City should consider opening Closed/Executive Session of the City Commission.
- Positions in the City have been cut; services need to be maintained.
- The City should work with the School Board regarding the closure of schools.

Marjorie Johnson, 122 South. Keech Street, Daytona Beach

- Police and Fire is funded at 60 percent of the City's budget; crime continues to increase in neighborhoods.
- Elected officials should not have 4 year terms.
- There needs to be report on how City funds are distributed.
- There should not be a super majority vote of the City Commission to fire the City Manager.
- The hiring of senior staff should not take a year (i.e. Fire Chief).
- Plans should be made for infrastructure improvements.
- Increase the time for public comments during City Commission meetings.

Jim Legary, 342 unknown street, Holly Hill, Florida

- Neighborhood groups should be budgeted; there should be a bottom up form of government.

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3. Closing remarks

Mr. Ritchey thanked residents for their participation and encouraged them to invite others to planned workshops.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion or comments the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.



GLENN S. RITCHEY
Chairman

ATTEST:



JENNIFER L. THOMAS
City Clerk

Adopted: April 15, 2014

RECORD REQUIRED TO APPEAL: In accordance with Florida Statute 286.0105 if you should decide to appeal any decision the City Commission makes about any matter at this meeting, you will need a record of the proceedings. You are responsible for providing this record. You may hire a court reporter to make a verbatim transcript, or you may buy a tape of the meeting for \$2.00 at the City Clerk's office. Copies of tapes are only made upon request. The City is not responsible for any mechanical failure of the recording equipment.