

TOWN OF GRANT VALKARIA
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL BUILDING, 5120 HIGHWAY US1, GRANT VALKARIA, FLORIDA 32949

The Charter Review Committee Meeting of September 8, 2009 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Member Tom Sammon, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Member Burr, and roll call to the Committee Members with the following present:

Member Joe Mullins
Member Denni Burr
Member Tom Sammon
Member Dave Folts
Member Linda Landrum

Town Clerk Susanne Krueger

It was noted for the record that Vice Chairperson Tonti emailed that he would not be able to attend.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1) Charter Review Committee Minutes of August 11, 2009

Motions by Member Burr, second by Member Folts, and vote unanimous to approve the minutes of August 11, 2009.

It was noted for the record that Chairperson Reynolds arrived at 7:03 p.m.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF CHARTER

Continued discussion started at Article V - Finances with Committee Member comments as follows:

- Article V - Finances
 - Section 5.01 Accounting Procedures - No change recommended
 - Section 5.02 Fiscal Year - No change recommended
 - Section 5.03 Annual Audit - No change recommended
 - Section 5.04 Public Financial Records - No change recommended
 - Section 5.05 Public Deposits - No change recommended
 - Section 5.06 Purchase, Sale, and Lease of Real Property - Change last word in last sentence from "rezoning" to "ordinances"; Committee stated that if town is to make commitment they would want public involvement/notification to protect the Town people
 - Section 5.07 Annual Budget
 - 5.07 (c) 2 - Add at end of sentence "such transfers shall be in accordance with general law"
 - 5.07 (c) 3 - Add at end of sentence "such transfers shall be in accordance with general law"
 - Check with Town Administrator Hood in regards to using department, office or agency as the appropriate term; want the proper term to be the same as the actual accounting procedures
 - Section 5.08 Taxation and Revenue
 - Committee members had the following concerns about 5.08 (c):

- Are there mechanisms to allow us to do what we want to do without changing of the Charter
- There is not enough money in the budget to do things like grading dirt roads and paving roads i.e., on Grant Road, Valkaria Road and Old Dixie Highway we will need to borrow money to do these
- If there is a referendum to pave Valkaria Road, it is voted down, what happens then
- Local government needs to know what they will be faced in the coming year
- If people on a dirt road want it paved they should have all people on that road on board with the decision, the town pays for it through a special assessment, but they do not want to wait 2 years until the town has the money to do it.
- Any substantial debt not secured should have to go to the people
- Can be covered in an emergency appropriations with no voter approval and can be refinanced as long term debt
- If we use the Local Option Gas Tax and repave all the roads in town it would take 127 years
- If referendum does not pass then it goes to the emergency appropriations - do not want town to go into long term debt
- The intent was that the town does not borrow money without having a plan to pay it back - it is tied to funded budget account to pay the debt
- It was consensus of Committee to leave as is for now, bring up at next meeting, have Town Attorney check wording, and get more input from Town Administrator
- Section 5.09 Emergency Appropriations - No changes recommended
- Article VI - Town Elections
 - Section 6.01 Conduct of Elections
 - 6.01 (c) - change wordage to “Single candidates. No election for the town council shall be required in any election if there is only one duly qualified candidate for each available seat.”
 - Section 6.02 Commencement of Terms - No change recommended
 - Section 6.03 Oath of Office - No change recommended
 - Section 6.04 Method of Electing Council Members
 - Change second sentence to “The candidates who receive the largest number of votes shall be the duly elected council members and will fill the open council seats by filling the longest term.”
 - Delete last sentence “Council seat numbers shall be assigned such that the lowest seat number available is given to the candidate who received the largest number of votes.”
 - It was consensus of Committee that the longest term goes to the largest number of votes.
 - Section 6.05 Method of Electing the Mayor - No change recommended
 - Section 6.06 Tie Votes - No change recommended
 - Section 6.07 Candidate Forums - Committee noted that they recognize that this is not enforceable and will leave up to Council to decide to remove.

- Section 6.08 Qualifying of Candidates for Office of Council Member or Mayor
 - Section 6.08 (c) - This section was changed by Ordinance No. 2008-2.
- Section 6.09 Initiative, Citizen Referendum, and Recall - No change recommended
- Section 6.10 Initiative and Referendum Proceedings - Deferred discussion
- Section 6.11 Results of Initiative or Referendum - Deferred discussion

It was consensus of Committee members to have the next meeting on October 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss Articles V - 5.08 and 5.09, VI, VII, VIII and IX.

There were no public comments.

Motions by Member Landrum, second by Member Burr, and vote unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

(signature on file)

ATTEST:

Tim Reynolds, Chairperson

(signature on file)

Susanne Krueger, Town Clerk