

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE LISTENING SESSION
DAYTONA BEACH REGIONAL LIBRARY
105 E. MAGNOLIA AVE., DAYTONA BEACH
SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

CALL TO ORDER:

Charter Review Commission Chair Hyatt Brown convened the Listening Session of the Volusia County Charter Review Commission at 5:33 p.m. The meeting was held at the Daytona Beach Regional Library, Daytona Beach, Florida. The following Commission members were present: Dr. T. Wayne Bailey, Chair Brown, Frank T. Bruno Jr., Frank Darden, Ambassador Stanley T. Escudero, David Haas, Pete Heebner, and Glenn S. Ritchey, Sr. Also present were County Manager Jim Dinneen, County Attorney Dan Eckert, Management and Budget Director Tammy J. Bong, Community Assistance Director Dona DeMarsh Butler, County staff Corry Brown and Brittany Scott and seven members of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REMARKS:

Chair Brown began public participation by calling on Mike Denis. Mr. Denis suggested that advisory boards should not be abolished and explained that the County Council voted to eliminate the Beach Advisory Board, and allowed the ECHO advisory board to be by-passed when necessary. Mr. Denis also recommended that a first and second reading of all proposed ordinances be mandatory to allow for public input. Ambassador Escudero asked for an example of particular ordinances in which Mr. Denis's proposals would apply. Mr. Denis responded that the 2015-06, -07, -08 ordinances only included one reading and did not allow for public discussion.

Chair Brown called upon John Bandorf to speak next. Mr. Bandorf stated that he represented a website called Volusiaexposed.com. Mr. Bandorf recommended that the Medical Examiner's office be run by the state rather than by the county, and that the Sheriff's office take over the jail. Mr. Bandorf further stated that the county does not have a Sheriff Department, but a Public Safety Department instead. Ambassador Escudero inquired what advantages the Sheriff Department had over the Department of Public Safety. Mr. Bandorf replied by stating that the Department of Public Safety should be disbanded and that the Sheriff should have constitutional power. Chair Brown asked what can a Sheriff with constitutional power do that a Department of Public Safety Sheriff can't do. While Mr. Bandorf replied "nothing" He further stated that the Sheriff would be honest with the public.

Tony Welch spoke about fairness and stated that part time representatives are working full time, thus, council members should have their own staff outside of the County Manager. Mr. Welch suggests that two to three people work directly for members of the County Council to conduct research.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Jim Dinneen, County Manager discussed items for consideration. Mr. Dinneen distributed a handout and briefly proposed to amend the Volusia County Home Rule Charter to eliminate the Volusia Growth Management Commission (VGMC) due to the role being fulfilled. Dan Eckert, County Attorney explained that the VGMC was established in the 1986 charter as a result of an extensive comprehensive plan. Mr. Eckert further explained that that VCGM provides conflict resolution amongst cities and municipalities. Ambassador Escudero asked whether the Planning and Land Development Regulation Commission (PLDRC) and the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) duplicate tasks of the VGMC and if the VGMC is dissolved, how much money would the county save. Mr. Eckert responded by stating that the county would save approximately \$288,255. Chair Brown provided an example of the VGMC and asked what the effect would be if the VGMC voted no against the DEO's yes vote. Mr. Eckert stated that appeals are made through the circuit court. Mr. Darden then spoke and stated that the imposed issue should be discussed at a regular commission meeting rather than at the listening session. Commission member Mr. Heebner agreed.

Mr. Dinneen also suggested to amend Volusia County Home Rule Charter to provide the at large council member to serve as the vice chair of the County Council instead of council election of the vice chair and to reimburse County Council members for mileage, parking fees, tolls, and when a member is attending a public or social event in which they are participating in an official capacity in Volusia County. Mr. Heebner stated that section 304 of the Volusia County Home Rule Charter allows costs out of county, however, prohibits in County costs. Discussion ensued amongst Commission members. Mr. Bruno suggested that the discussion should continue at the October 12th meeting.

TREND ANALYSIS

Chair Brown advised that at the Charter Review Commission organizational meeting, Ambassador Escudero requested economic data and allowed him to explain his request. Ambassador Escudero stated that he feels the Charter Review Commission should make use of existing data to provide a comprehensible picture of economic trends issues within the county for the past ten years. Ambassador Escudero further advised that he received a formal proposal by Dr. Mark Soskin, Professional Economist at the University of Central Florida to conduct the research.

Mr. Dinneen declared that factual data can be produced by the county rather than by an economist at no additional cost to tax payers and suggested that he could invite the County's Economic Development Director to a Charter Review Commission meeting to

further discuss the County's economic trends for the past 10 years. Mr. Bruno suggested that the information be provided by October 12th so that members of the commission can discuss as a whole. Mr. Dinneen agreed, Chair Brown requested that Polk County be included in the research.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.