

**CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2024, 3:00 P.M.**

**Mount Dora City Hall
510 North Baker Street
Mount Dora, FL 32757**

CALL TO ORDER

Having been duly advertised as required by law, at 3:00 p.m. Chairperson Tipton called to order the April 18, 2024 Charter Review Committee meeting in the City Hall Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL WITH DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Members Present

Lynn Tipton, Chairperson, District 2
Adrian Coombes, Vice-chair, District 3
Keashawn "Kay" Volmar, Mayoral Appointee
Francis "Frank" Kirwin, District 4
Gregg Joshua Hemingway, District 1
Ozell Ward, District 5

Also Present

Vince Sandersfeld, Acting City Manager
Patrick Brackins, City Attorney
Jeanann Hand, City Clerk

Members Not Present

Thomas Hudson, At-large

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 11, 2024 Charter Review Committee Minutes

MOTION BY MR. KIRWIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 11, 2024 CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING; VICE-CHAIR COOMBES SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairperson Tipton opened public comment.

Joe Lewis, 148 Charles Avenue, spoke about public perception of the role of Mayor and ways the City could imprint a more accurate perception of the powers of that role.

Chairperson Tipton closed public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Charter Review: Article I-Establishment of Entity

Chairperson Tipton introduced the topic and City Attorney Brackins explained the purpose of the items in Article I.

Section 1. Corporate Boundaries is not something that would be changed by the Charter Review Committee.

Section 2. Powers currently cites F.S. ch. 166 as the basis for Municipal Home Rule powers. Mr. Brackins mentioned that a more accurate statement would be "...all power allowed by general law," which would then more comprehensively state the derivation of the municipality's powers from the Constitution of the State of Florida.

Mr. Brackins referenced material he had distributed to the committee, comparing the Powers

section of the Charter from the City of Maitland and from the Charter of Ponce Inlet with the current Charter of the City of Mount Dora.

At the request of the committee, Mr. Brackins reviewed the hierarchy and weight of governing documents, from Constitution to Resolution, and the role of Home Rule Authority.

The Committee considered the addition of a Preamble.

The Committee discussed the importance of certain boards and commissions appointed by Council, and the role of the Charter in protecting the existence of those bodies.

The Committee discussed including historic preservation in the preamble, if one were to be added to the Charter.

Chairperson Tipton confirmed the Committee's consensus to revisit Article I with the consideration of adding a Preamble. Charter Review Committee members will submit Preamble ideas to the City Clerk.

The City would provide and the Committee would review Ordinance No.2007-954, which is referenced in Article I, Section 3 of the current Charter.

B. Charter Review: Article II-Legislature

The Committee discussed the number of Councilmembers, the various methods for choosing a Mayor, and the configuration of districts. Continuing the option of running At-large was discussed. The Committee discussed changing the method of electing the Mayor. The Committee discussed the advantages of districts and the specialized role of the Mayor.

The Committee discussed the impact of growth, especially when considering district boundaries.

The Committee further discussed the role of Mayor, public perceptions of that role, compensation for that role, and methods of election. Some Committee members favored rotation of Councilmembers filling the position of Mayor, or a Council-elected Mayor. Others favored the current process, voicing appreciation for the benefits of longevity, specialized dedication to the position, and the cross-district reach of the At-large election for this role.

The Committee consulted the City's District Map, which was presented on the monitors in the chamber.

The Committee would continue discussion of Article II at the next meeting.

The City would invite ICMA and FCCMA Senior Advisor Ken Parker to attend a Charter Review Committee meeting to speak about the various forms of municipal government structure and their advantages and disadvantages.

The Committee requested:

- The population changes in each district
- The number of voters who participated in the last election in each district, by candidate.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE

A. April 25, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

Chairperson Tipton would not be present at the next meeting. Article III-Elections and Vacancies, and Article IV-Mayor would be discussed at the next meeting. Further discussion on Articles I and II will continue once Chairperson Tipton and an outside subject-area expert are able to attend the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairperson Tipton opened public comment.

Christine King-Harris, 402 East Jackson Avenue, spoke about maintaining the character of the community throughout periods of growth.

Chairperson Tipton closed public comment.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Brackins referred to the material he distributed to Committee members and staff at the beginning of the meeting, pointing out examples of non-interference clauses and references to minutes.

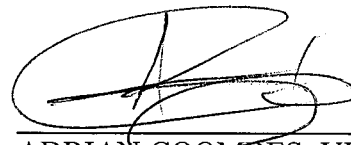
Mr. Brackins brought to attention the sentence in Article II, Section 4 of Mount Dora's Charter which prohibits Councilmembers voting in absentia

ADJOURNMENT

***MOTION BY MR. COOMBES TO ADJOURN; MR. WARD SECONDED THE MOTION.
MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.***

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:02 p.m.

All documents referenced at this meeting are available at the following link: <https://files.ci.mount-dora.fl.us/?u=xyYp&p=T2Ff>



ADRIAN COOMBES, VICE-CHAIR
2024 Charter Review Committee



JEANNANN HAND, CITY CLERK
City of Mount Dora