

**CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA  
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES  
MAY 9, 2024, 3:00 P.M.**

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

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Having been duly advertised as required by law, at 3:00 p.m. Chairperson Tipton called to order the May 9, 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  
Gregg Joshua Hemingway, District 1  
Ozell Ward, District 5  
Keashawn "Kay" Volmar, At-large  
Thomas Hudson, At-large

**Also Present**

Vince Sandersfeld, City Manager  
Patrick Brackins, City Attorney  
Jeanann Hand, City Clerk  
Ken Parker, ICMA Senior Advisor

**Members Not Present**

Frank Kirwin, District 4

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. May 2, 2024 Charter Review Committee Minutes**

***MOTION BY MR. WARD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 18, 2024 CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING; MR. HEMINGWAY SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.***

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Chairperson Tipton opened public comment. No one spoke. Chairperson Tipton closed public comment.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Presentation by FCCMA Senior Advisor Ken Parker: Forms of Government**

Ms. Tipton introduced Mr. Parker. Mr. Parker's presentation is attached to the minutes as Exhibit A.

Mr. Parker spoke to the Committee about forms of government and various methods to elect a mayor and City Councilmembers. Mr. Parker explained the function of the mayor, councilmembers, and city administrators under each form. He spoke of his real-life experience with the hybrid form and an elected mayor in Port Orange. Mr. Parker pointed out that a collegial atmosphere could be fostered when the elected officials choose mayor from among themselves. Mr. Parker and the Committee discussed the strengths and weaknesses of Mount Dora's current form.

The Committee discussed the importance of having clear roles that are understood by those elected and the public. The Committee discussed the challenges of enforcing the powers and limitations described in the Charter. Penalties for Charter violations were considered. The role of City Attorney

was discussed. Mr. Parker described his experience with a well-structured chain of command, in which the City Manager worked under the Council, and staff clearly worked under the City Manager. The effectiveness of public participation at Council meetings was discussed. Some Committee members expressed frustration, feeling Public Comment, as it currently functions, is unsatisfying and does not lead to resolution. They considered practical reasons why results may not be seen immediately. They agreed clarity of communication is crucial for all sides.

They spoke about the role of Councilmembers as representatives of their constituents, and their responsibility to make the best decisions for the City. The importance of education was mentioned. The pros and cons of a rotation of elected officials to serve as mayor, including the inability to grow as a leader under such short terms, public confusion about the identity of the mayor, and the public perception they are being deprived of a power.

The Committee discussed who should assume the responsibility of upholding the Charter, especially in the face of possible violations. Chairperson Tipton explained the duties of Council as defined by statute. The expense of running At-large was discussed. The Committee acknowledged that Councilmembers serve as representatives of the people yet are independently elected to make their own decisions. Chairperson Tipton pointed out the delicate balance of those two elements has been the challenge of democracy since its earliest times.

Vice-chair Coombes requested Committee address material he received from Mr. Brackins regarding meeting agendas and action points.

#### **B. Review Article I-Establishment of Entity**

This topic would be addressed at the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

#### **C. Review Article II-Legislature**

This topic would be addressed at the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Chairperson Tipton opened public comment. No one spoke. Chairperson Tipton closed public comment.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE**

Chairperson Tipton told the Committee she would be unable to attend a May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Committee agreed they would not meet on May 16<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting would be on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting would return to a review of Articles I and I, the materials Mr. Coombes mentioned earlier, and the example and draft preambles.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

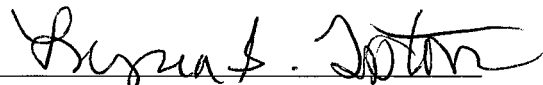
There being no further business for discussion, Chairperson Tipton adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:59 p.m.

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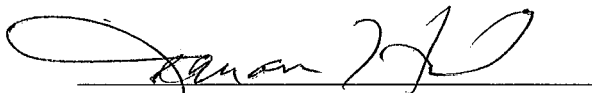
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LYNN TIPTON, CHAIRPERSON  
2024 Charter Review Committee



JEANANN HAND, CITY CLERK  
City of Mount Dora