

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 17, 2013

Moderator Thomas A. Cloud, Esquire called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

Present: Gail Funk, Wayne Harper, Peggy Brooks, Cathy Gabany, Bob Wyatt, Attorney Tom Cloud and City Manager Patricia Jackson

Attorney Cloud noted at the last meeting discussion took place regarding the creation of districts; he has put some information together, along with a memo and an outline on redistricting legal principals. Attorney Cloud then went over the redistricting legal principals with the Charter Review Committee (a copy of the memo is attached and made part of the minutes). Districts are done by population with a maximum deviation of 10 percent (+/- 5%), and is based on the latest census data. As an example – if you wanted to create five districts with a population base of 1,564 people, one district would have a population of 312; however, based on the deviation you could have as little as a population of 296 or as much as a population of 328. Attorney Cloud also discussed voting rights, annexation, districting – pros and cons, one person – one vote.

Discussion then took place of creating a policy for rotation of the Mayor position. Attorney Cloud advised the CRC (Charter Review Committee) could put in the Charter if they wish; with a rotating Mayor everyone would get a chance. It was noted that Lakeland has a strong Mayor (has City Manager); in Ft. Meade every year there is a different Mayor (rotates), as well as Wauchula. Attorney Cloud commented this City cannot afford friction. Mr. Harper commented over a period of time in Polk City, the Mayor never voted; there was a five member Council/Commission. Mr. Harper also stated all five of current Council has done a good job; he will look at any opportunity to allow the people in the community to have a say in their own affairs. Mr. Harper then commented we have a lot of challenges if change the Charter – keep this in mind; he thinks self-government will work here. When discussing districts, Mr. Wyatt asked if it would be a city-wide vote. Attorney Cloud commented it can be made into a district vote; however, you would probably adopt a city-wide vote. Ms. Funk brought up MOSN – is census based on whether you live here and homestead, or is the census based on if you own your residence. Attorney Cloud advised census looks at residency. Some discussion took place about annexation (one house).

Discussion continued on having districts and how they are established. Lengthy discussion took place on the forms of government that different cities have (Mr. Harper commented that Polk City is based on a city manager form of government). A city limit map was handed out at the beginning of the meeting; Mr. Harper asked if there were any maps showing how the population is distributed. Attorney Cloud commented there should be some census data with that information. There was discussion on the

position of Mayor what other cities have: an elected Mayor by the people, or if the Mayor is elected by the Commission/Council. It was noted that some cities choose to rotate the Mayor every year to give everyone an opportunity to serve. Mr. Harper commented the Mayor's vote does not carry any more weight than a councilor's vote; the Mayor doesn't have the right to tell the city manager what to do, and he can see it being on a rotating basis. Attorney Cloud advised the Council would ultimately choose how it is done. Mr. Harper commented the committee can make a recommendation. Attorney Cloud commented a great responsibility comes with the office; he would like to see all five councilors have a chance to be Mayor. Mr. Harper sees no harm in doing that; everyone has something to bring; he then mentioned Councilor Block and how she represents the City at different things – she does a good job. More discussion took place with the Charter Review Committee and the Attorney regarding the position of Mayor, the perception of the position of Mayor versus Councilor, and how the position of Mayor is chosen.

It was determined to obtain census data from Central Florida Regional Planning Council, and Attorney Cloud will work on a draft – generic concepts to look at for changes for the next meeting. Attorney Cloud commented it is not just how elections are conducted in the City; it is also how the Mayor, City Manager and Council interact with one another. The Committee can come up with recommendations on what it would like to see as a draft. Mr. Harper commented that overall, the Council has the City's best interest at heart; each brings their own abilities. Some discussion took place regarding the City – where it was and where it is going. Ms. Funk asked when looking at the Charter, are we looking at large ideas or total cleanup? Attorney Cloud commented you can look at both.

The meeting was adjourned.

Patricia R. Jackson, City Clerk