

The Charter Review Board as appointed by City Council Resolution No. 2010-013, for the City of Lake City, Florida met on Tuesday, March 16, 2010, beginning at 6:00 PM, in the City Council Chambers located at City Hall, 205 North Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida 32055.

1. Call Meeting to Order (Board Chair, Ms. Skinner)
Ms. Skinner called the meeting to order at 6:18 P.M.
2. Roll Call (City Clerk Audrey Sikes)

Chair	Ann Douglass Skinner
Vice Chair	Mario Coppock
Board Members	Victoria Ellis
	Dwight Kamback
	Oliver J. "O.J." Lake
City Attorney	Herbert F. Darby
City Manager	Wendell Johnson
Sergeant-at-Arms	Chief Argatha Gilmore
City Clerk	Audrey E. Sikes
3. Approval of Minutes - March 9, 2010
Mr. Lake made a motion to approve the March 9, 2010 minutes as presented. Ms. Ellis seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.
4. Approval of Agenda
Mr. Coppock made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Lake seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.
5. Charter Review Comments/Recommendations from City Council
Council Member Melinda Moses requested for the Board to review the following:
 - Section 301 (e) Revision of districts. Ms. Moses would like the Board to address the inequities of registered voters in each respective district.
 - Section 302 (D). Clean up redundant verbiage to read: The council shall have the authority by ordinance to set the annual salary of the mayor and its members. Instead of: The council shall have the authority by ordinance to set the annual salary of the mayor, councilmembers and its members.

Council Member George Ward requested for the Board to review the following:

- Section 301 (d) (2) Election and terms. This section states that all members serve a four (4) year term. Mr. Ward's concern is that during some terms of office an elected official may serve three (3) years and nine (9) months or may serve four (4) years three (3) months depending on when the member was originally sworn in. Currently Section 512 Canvass of return states: On the day succeeding the election, at twelve o'clock noon (12:00) the Mayor shall call the councilmembers together and they shall receive such returns of election and publicly shall proceed to canvass the votes of the election. Mr. Ward stated once the election returns are declared by the City Council the declared winner is immediately sworn in. If a member is sworn in after the primary election (typically held in August) then this is where the two (2) possible scenarios for term served could vary. Mr. Ward would like the Board to consider the implementation of a date and time certain for all members to be sworn in (even if they are declared winners in the primary election). This will ensure consistency in when the swearing in ceremony will be for all members. Mr. Ward suggested the first (1st) Wednesday after the general election as the date and time certain. Mr. Ward and Mr. Johnson agree that compensation for any member(s) that may be declared the winner(s) in a primary election would not begin to receive any compensation until after the member(s) is sworn in after the general election.

Mayor Witt concurred with Ms. Moses relating to the redistricting and with Mr. Ward regarding the date/time certain for elected officials to assume office.

Council Member Eugene Jefferson concurred with Ms. Moses, Mr. Ward, and Mayor Witt. Mr. Jefferson requested for the Board to review the following:

- Section 301 (b) Eligibility. Mr. Jefferson would like to see the requirement for residency in the City and in the respective district for six (6) months prior to the time they qualify rather than the thirty (30) days now identified.

Mr. Hill concurred with Ms. Moses relating to addressing the district boundaries and with Mr. Jefferson relating to extending the residency requirement for living in the respective district prior to qualifying.

All members of the City Council felt the Charter has served the City well and had very few comments and/or recommendations of items they felt needed to be addressed.

Ms. Sikes reported the County would be addressing redistricting in January 2011 and that it was the intent of the City to participate in this process for the purposes of streamlining ballots, voting precincts and reducing costs. Mr. Darby reported the Charter states the council may, in its discretion, by ordinance, redefine the boundaries of each of the separate districts to insure that each has approximately the same number of registered voters. This provision allows the City Council the opportunity to revisit redistricting outside the realm of the Charter Review Process. Ms. Sikes will provide members with the numbers of registered voters in each respective district.

Public Comment: Stew Lilker, 247 SW Lander Court, Ft. White, Florida, suggested for the members to consider restructuring the districts as three (3) defined districts and two (2) at large districts.

6. Public Comments

Stew Lilker, 247 SW Lander Court, Ft. White, Florida requested for the Board to consider the following:

- Including a Code of Ethics (he will provide a sample for the Board at a later date)
- Including a Citizens Bill of Rights (he will email to Board)
- Increasing the number of Charter Review Members to seven (7) members (five (5) currently as selected now with the addition of two (2) citizen at large positions with the at large positions being selected from a pool of interested registered voters).

Tammy Harris, 508 Simms Street, requested for the Board to consider an outline book for the Community so residents would know what the job is of the City Council. Mr. Johnson will meet with Ms. Harris to provide her with more clarification as to what the role of the City Council members are.

7. Read into Record Email and/or Mail Suggestions Received

Ms. Skinner reported as of today no email or mail suggestions have been received.

8. Review Article I and II of the Charter

Article I Discussion

Section 102 Effective date of this Charter.

Members discussed the following: The present Charter of the City of Lake City is hereby rescinded, revoked and abolished concurrent with the approval of this Charter by the electors of the City of Lake City, Florida at the election of April 5, 1977, except Section 142 relating to a park. Board members would like to see the portion of that sentence "relating to a park" more clearly identified. **Mr. Lake made a motion for City Attorney Herbert Darby to provide more information that may be able to be included into this portion of the Charter (Section 102) relating to a park. Ms. Ellis seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.**

Section 105 (b) The terms of office of the councilmembers, including the mayor-councilmember, serving at the time of the special election of June 20, 1978, shall expire and terminate upon approval of Ordinance A-389 by a majority of the electors of the city so voting as said special election and upon their successors being elected and taking office. Ms. Ellis requested to remove this section if it is null and void. Mr. Darby reported this section holds historical and legal significance and recommends for it to remain in the Charter.

Article II Discussion

Section 201 (f) To borrow money for public purposes. Mr. Lake feels this is too vague. Mr. Darby stated this power needs to be broad since the theories and responsibilities of government changes. Mr. Darby recommends for this to remain unchanged in the Charter.

Public Comment: Stew Lilker, 247 SW Lander Court, Ft. White, Florida, stated the Board can set certain limitations for expenditures by the City Council. Ie: Any expenditure above two (2) million would have to be put the voters via referendum.

Section 201 (i) To purchase, hire, construct, own, operate, maintain or lease local public utilities, including, but not limited to, bus lines, electric light and power, telephone and telegraph systems, and works for supplying the City and its inhabitants with water, sewerage, gas for heating or other purposes. To fix and collect just and reasonable fee and charges for the services furnished by such facilities. Mr. Coppock wanted a more clear definition of "just and reasonable fee". Mr. Johnson stated these fees are determined by rate studies which are driven by the costs of operation of the system. Mr. Johnson stated rates are not arbitrarily determined by the utility.

9. Next Meeting Date (March 23, 2010 at 6:00 PM)

Members concurred to address Article III at the March 23, 2010 meeting.

Members concurred to the following dates for Charter Review Board Meetings:

Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at 6:00 PM

Monday, April 12, 2010 at 6:00 PM

Thursday, April 22, 2010 at 6:00 PM

Monday, April 26, 2010 at 6:00 PM

Thursday, May 6, 2010 at 6:00 PM

Monday, May 10, 2010 at 6:00 PM

10. Adjournment

All matters having been handled, the meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM on a motion made by Mr. Coppock and seconded by Mr. Lake.

Ann Douglass Skinner, Chair

Audrey E. Sikes, City Clerk