



City of Venice

401 West Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 34285
www.venicegov.com

Meeting Minutes City Council

Thursday, May 6, 2021

1:30 PM

Council Chambers and Virtual

Charter Review Workshop

Instructions on How to Watch and/or Participate in the Meeting

[21-5022](#)

Instructions on How to Watch and/or Participate in the Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Feinsod called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor Ron Feinsod, Vice Mayor Richard Cautero, Council Member Helen Moore, Council Member Nick Pachota, Dr. Joseph Neunder and Dr. Margaret Fiedler

Excused: 1 - Council Member Brian Kelly

Ms. Stelzer advised Mr. Kelly requested an excused absence due to illness.

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Council Member Pachota, to excuse Mr. Kelly's absence. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Cautero, Ms. Moore, Mr. Pachota, Dr. Neunder and Dr. Fiedler

Excused: 1 - Mr. Kelly

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Manager Ed Lavalley, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, Deputy City Clerk Danielle Lewis, Administrative Coordinator Mercedes Barcia and Information Technology Director Christophe St. Luce.

All council members attended in person.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Moore.

[21-5023](#)

Charter Review Discussion

I. NEW BUSINESS

[21-5024](#)

Confirm Scope of Review

Discussion took place regarding scope of charter review, council action at the February 23, 2021 council meeting and February 21, 2020 strategic planning meeting, having the charter review committee decide scope of review based on feedback received, concentrating on areas of concern, and allowing the public to review charter.

Ms. Fernandez responded to council questions regarding sections of the charter that cannot be changed due to state law.

Dr. Fiedler suggested staff identify sections of the charter that can be modified.

Ms. Fernandez commented on staff's participation at the charter review committee meetings.

Discussion followed regarding the committee's tasks, communication between volunteers and staff, opportunity for public input, scope of charter review, segregating areas of the charter that can be reviewed, including Ms. Fernandez's memorandum on proposed charter amendments based on council's direction, process being transparent, focusing on items to vet rather than providing council's opinion, and narrowing the scope of the committee's decision making.

There was consensus for staff to provide direction on items in the charter that can be modified by the charter review committee.

Discussion continued on providing guidance, having an open and transparent process, making the committee aware of council's opinion and including Ms. Fernandez's memorandum on proposed charter amendments.

Mr. Lavalley spoke to process and defining scope of review.

Discussion ensued on council members expressing their individual views to the committee and submitting areas of concern to staff in writing.

Recess was taken at 2:21 p.m. until 2:34 p.m.

[21-5025](#)

Determine Appointment Process for Charter Review Committee Members

Ms. Fernandez noted appointment process as stated in Resolution No. 2021-11.

Discussion followed regarding advertising committee positions, using the advisory board selection process, considering two alternate members, adhering to resolution on selection process, informing the public of openings, having a public process rather than council selecting candidates, public interest and involvement, timeframe to advertise and select candidates, and ranking process.

Ms. Stelzer inquired if council is expecting the committee to meet during summer break.

Mr. Lavalley commented on the ranking process.

Discussion continued regarding the committee's job description, using staff's proposed charter review process as a template, and timeline.

Ms. Stelzer noted the committee's job description is provided in the resolution.

Discussion ensued on advertising position tomorrow, timeframe to appoint committee members, committee timeline, selection process, and adhering to process established in the resolution.

Ms. Fernandez noted staff can bring forward a revised resolution on the selection process discussed today.

There was consensus to publicly advertise positions for the charter review committee.

Discussion continued regarding methodology of accepting applications and ranking, selecting alternates, council member nominations, whether alternates are needed, ranking system, amending resolution, seven member requirement, having an open and transparent process, and volunteer time commitment.

[21-5026](#)

Establish Timeline for the Charter Review Committee

Discussion took place regarding the committee's meeting schedule.

There was consensus to use staff's document on proposed process for charter review as a guideline for the committee's job description.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Dick Longo, Sawgrass and the Central Venice Coalition, advised the community has received advertisements for the charter review committee from Public Information Officer Lorraine Anderson, and noted agreement with involving the public in the process.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk