

Tarpon Springs, Florida, May 22, 2006

A meeting of the Pinellas County Charter Review Commission (CRC) (as created by Chapter 80-950, Laws of Florida) was held in the Union Academy Family Center, 401 East Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Tarpon Springs at 6:01 P.M. on this date with the following members in attendance:

Alan Bomstein, Chairman
Ricardo Davis, Vice-Chairman
Karen Burns
Katie Cole
James F. Coats, Sheriff
Louis Kwall
Roger Wilson

Late Arrival:

Sallie Parks
Susan Latvala, County Commissioner

Absent:

Jim Sebesta, State Senator
John Bryan, City of St. Petersburg Councilmember
Robert C. Decker
George Jirotko

Also Present:

Susan H. Churuti, County Attorney
James L. Bennett, Chief Assistant County Attorney
Kurt Spitzer, KS&A
Other interested individuals
Cathy Fickley, Deputy Clerk

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Review of the Pinellas County Charter

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4. Review of the Proposals of the CRC
5. Public Comment
6. Other Business
7. Adjourn

WELCOME

Chairman Bomstein called the meeting to order, introduced the members and non-members of the CRC, and noted the presence of a quorum.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 8, 2006 – APPROVED

Chairman Bomstein presented the minutes of the meeting of May 8, 2006, and after receiving no response to a request for corrections, declared the minutes approved as submitted.

REVIEW OF PINELLAS COUNTY CHARTER

Mr. Spitzer referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Charter Review Process*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and provided highlights of the following:

- 1968 Constitutional Revision of Home Rule Powers
- key provisions enjoyed by charter counties
- counties that have adopted charters
- primary policy areas that may be changed by a charter
- Home Rule limitations
- recommendations adopted by the CRC in 2004

In response to query by a member of the audience with regard to consideration of an additional amendment, Mr. Spitzer explained the rules of the CRC pertaining to the procedures governing adoption of recommendations.

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At this time, 6:12 P.M. Sallie Parks entered the meeting.

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REVIEW OF CRC PROPOSALS

Continuing with the PowerPoint program, Attorney Churuti described the three major categories within which the proposed amendments fall; and provided an overview of the following proposed amendment:

- Amendment No. 1 – abolishment of the Mosquito Control and Water and Navigation districts in order to be able to amend the laws on a local level.

During further discussion, Mr. Spitzer presented the following proposed amendments:

- Amendment No. 2 - similar to the amendment proposed by the CRC in 2004 addressing the County Administrator's authority to terminate senior staff without confirmation by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).
- Amendment No. 3 – proposed changes to future Charter Review Commissions.
- Amendment No. 4 – deletion of the dual vote requirement for proposed amendments authorizing the BCC to adopt policy or set standards on a countywide basis.

Attorney Bennett discussed the following proposed amendments to the county's annexation procedures:

- Amendment No. 5 – requires consent that can be revocable; prohibits consideration of property owned by the government when utilizing the non-referendum referendum process; attempts to annex property may not occur within seven years without

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the owner's written consent; enhances notification requirements for areas to be annexed.

- Amendment No. 6 – prohibits material incentives to property owners contemplating annexation; incentive exceptions would be to close enclaves and expenditures that provide paramount public purpose.
- Amendment No. 7 – provides controls that improve the consent process for non-referendum referendum annexations where an owner has not given express consent to be annexed.

Thereupon, Attorney Churuti referred to a proposed Special Act that would allow voters to consider measures to repeal and replace the charter at some point in the future.

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At this time, 6:26 P.M., Commissioner Latvala entered the meeting.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

In response to Chairman Bomstein's call for persons wishing to be heard, the following individuals appeared and stated their concerns. During discussion, Chairman Bomstein, Attorney Churuti and Mr. Spitzer provided clarification of various issues presented by the speakers.

Attorney John Hubbard, Dunedin, representing the Cities of Gulfport, Oldsmar, St. Pete Beach, and Dunedin – submitted City of Dunedin Resolutions Nos. 06-22, 06-23, and 06-24, copies of which have been filed and made a part of the record

Chris Hrabovsky, Tarpon Springs

Tom Nocera, Clearwater

Norman Roche, Clearwater

Charles L. Attardo, Clearwater

Mayor Jerry Beverland, City of Oldsmar

Scott McGuff, Oldsmar – submitted a copy of his presentation, which has been filed and made a part of the record

Tom Brobeil, Gulfport

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Attorney Jim Denhardt, St. Petersburg, representing the Town of Redington Shores and the City of Pinellas Park - submitted City of Pinellas Park Resolutions Nos. 06-19, 06-20, and 06-21, copies of which have been filed and made a part of the record
Attorney James L. Yacavone III, Clearwater, representing the City of Tarpon Springs
Mark LeCouris, Tarpon Springs Chief of Police
Ellie Esposito, Clearwater, representing Citizens For Safe Water – submitted presentation, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record
Mayor Beverly Billiris, City of Tarpon Springs
William Vinson, Tarpon Springs
Commissioner Peter Dalacos, City of Tarpon Springs
Virginia Brown, Clearwater, representing Citizens For Safe Water – submitted research material, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record
T. J. Davis, President, Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce
Steve Baughn, Tarpon Springs
Vice-Mayor David Archie, City of Tarpon Springs
JoAn Totty, Palm Harbor

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Bomstein announced that the third public hearing will be held on June 8, 2006 at City Hall in St. Petersburg.

ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing was adjourned at 7:43 P.M.