

St. Petersburg, Florida, June 8, 2006

A meeting of the Pinellas County Charter Review Commission (CRC) (as created by Chapter 80-950, Laws of Florida) was held in the St. Petersburg City Council Chambers, 175 5th Street North, St. Petersburg at 6:15 P.M. on this date with the following members in attendance:

Alan Bomstein, Chairman
John Bryan, City of St. Petersburg Councilmember
Karen Burns
Robert C. Decker
Sallie Parks
Roger Wilson

Late Arrival:

George Jirotko, Circuit Court Judge

Absent:

Ricardo Davis, Vice-Chairman
Katie Cole
James F. Coats, Sheriff
Louis Kwall
Susan Latvala, County Commissioner
Jim Sebesta, State Senator

Also Present:

Dennis R. Long, Managing Assistant County Attorney
Kurt Spitzer, KS&A
Other interested individuals
MaryAnn Penhale, Deputy Clerk

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Review of the Pinellas County Charter
4. Review of the Proposals of the CRC
5. Public Comment
6. Discussion of Final Meeting

7. Other Business
8. Adjourn

WELCOME

Chairman Bomstein called the meeting to order, introduced the members and non-members of the CRC, and noted that Sheriff Coats, Ms. Cole, Mr. Kwall, and Commissioner Latvala are unable to attend tonight's meeting.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 22, 2006 – APPROVED

Chairman Bomstein presented the minutes of the meeting of May 22, 2006, and after receiving no response to a request for corrections, Ms. Parks moved approval; and Chairman Bomstein declared the minutes approved as submitted.

REVIEW OF THE PINELLAS COUNTY CHARTER

Mr. Spitzer conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *Charter Review Process*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record; whereupon, he reviewed historical background information regarding the Charter Review Commission, and provided highlights of the following:

- ❖ 1968 Constitutional Revision of home rule powers
- ❖ key provisions of charters
- ❖ number of Florida counties that have adopted charters
- ❖ examples of primary policy areas that may be changed by a charter

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At this time, 6:25 P.M., Judge Jirotko entered the meeting.

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- ❖ Pinellas County's limited home rule charter
- ❖ 2004 recommendations of the CRC

REVIEW OF THE PROPOSALS OF THE CRC

Continuing with the PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Spitzer stated that the seven proposed amendments and recommendations would accomplish the following:

- ❖ modernize the Pinellas County Charter
- ❖ improve annexation procedures
- ❖ revise the Charter Review process

Attorney Long presented a brief overview of proposed Amendment No. 1 regarding the abolishment of the Mosquito Control and Water and Navigation Districts with the transfer of governmental authority from the legislative special act to a county ordinance; whereupon, Mr. Spitzer reviewed the following proposed amendments:

- ❖ Amendment No. 2 – codifies current practice whereby the County Administrator may terminate senior staff (similar to amendment that failed in November 2004 election)
- ❖ Amendment No. 3 – provides various changes regarding future CRCs
- ❖ Amendment No. 4 – deletion of dual vote requirement for adoption of proposed amendments authorizing countywide policy or standards

Attorney Long summarized the remaining proposed amendments related to annexation:

- ❖ Amendment No. 5 – regarding consent requirements, non-referendum referendum process, seven-year moratorium on repeat attempts at annexing property, enhancement of notification requirements
- ❖ Amendment No. 6 – regarding prohibition of material incentives to property owners in conjunction with annexation
- ❖ Amendment No. 7 – regarding consent controls in non-referendum referendum annexations

Attorney Long also outlined the CRC's recommendation for a proposed Special Act for the authority to consider repeal of the charter in the future.

Chairman Bomstein stated that the proposed amendments are items that will be brought to the voters; and that the Special Act would be sent to the legislative delegation for its consideration.

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, Councilmember Bryan, Attorney Long, and Mr. Spitzer provided clarification of various issues presented by the speakers.

Councilmember Rick Kriseman, City of St. Petersburg, re commission make-up
Councilmember James Bennett, City of St. Petersburg, re elected members, future CRCs
Councilmember Earnest Williams, City of St. Petersburg
Councilmember Jeff Danner, City of St. Petersburg, re dual vote
Mayor Rick Baker, City of St. Petersburg
Beth Rawlins, Clearwater, re dual vote
John Elias, City of Seminole, re dual referendum
Tom Brobeil, Gulfport, re dual referendum
Mayor Michael Yakes, City of Gulfport, re dual referendum (submitted resolutions from 11 municipalities in opposition to elimination of dual referendum)
Tim Caddell, City of Pinellas Park
Ray Brooks, Oldsmar, representing Manufactured and Mobile Homeowners of Pinellas County, re modernization and annexation
Michele King, Gulfport, re dual vote
Scott McGuff, Fire Chief, Oldsmar, re dual vote
James W. Denhardt, St. Petersburg, city attorney for Pinellas Park and town attorney for Redington Shores, re dual referendum annexation
Donald A. Shea, St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership, re Charter Review Committee composition – keep elected officials eligible to serve
Norman Roche, Clearwater, re public comment
John Milford, Gulfport, re dual referendum
Mayor Ward Friszolowski, City of St. Pete Beach, re proposed Charter changes
Tom Muntz, St. Petersburg, re annexation
Jim Thaler, Gulfport, re dual referendum
Jack Olsen, Gulfport, re dual referendum
Mark L. Epstein, Gulfport, re dual referendum
Greg Stemm, Gulfport, Executive Director, Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, re dual referendum
Al Davis, Gulfport, re dual referendum
Shauna Morris, Frazer Hubbard Brandt Trask & Yacavone LLP, representing cities of Gulfport, Dunedin, Oldsmar, and Belleair Bluffs re amendment to Section 6.04 of Pinellas County Charter
Sheldon Schwartz, St. Petersburg, re dual vote
Karl Nurse, St. Petersburg, President, Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA), re dual vote
James L. Yacavone III, Clearwater, representing City of Tarpon Springs and Town of Indian Shores, re dual vote
Jim Millican, Largo, Somerset Lakes Association, re annexation
Marsha Young, Tierra Verde, re annexation – support of ballot initiatives
John Little, President, Pinellas County Council of Fire Fighters, re Amendment No. 4

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Nicholas Fortsch, Clearwater, re government pulling together for common good
Kathy Durham, St. Petersburg, re support dual referendum/oppose annexation without
representation

DISCUSSION OF FINAL MEETING

Chairman Bomstein stated that the final meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 19 at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council offices located in the Gateway Centre; whereupon, he reviewed procedural matters regarding the final meeting and stated that final decisions will require a supermajority vote for approval. He requested that the members contact Mr. Spitzer prior to the meeting regarding any amendments or modifications they wish to submit in order to allow sufficient time for the crafting of appropriate language by the County Attorney.

Responding to query by Mr. Wilson, Mr. Spitzer and Chairman Bomstein provided historical background information regarding the dual vote requirement.

Mr. Wilson indicated that he had been unaware that the final meeting will not include public comment; whereupon, he expressed his concerns regarding the matter. Discussion ensued; and Councilmember Bryan suggested that if any amendments are brought forward that have not yet been discussed, then public comment could be heard on those specific amendments; and that the Chairman would have the authority to limit public input accordingly; whereupon, Chairman Bomstein concurred.

OTHER BUSINESS – NONE

ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing was adjourned at 8:06 P.M.