

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
May 20, 2013

The City Commission met this date in a workshop in the Commission Chambers. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6PM with the following in attendance.

Mayor	:	John B. Arnold, Jr.
Commissioners	:	Heyward H. Strong, Jr.
	:	Diane Kelley
	:	Kay Hamilton
City Clerk	:	Tammy Johnson
Public Works Supervisor	:	James Valandingham
Fire Chief	:	Mark Norris

Others in attendance: (Not Inclusive): Diane Miller, Thomas G. Miller

CHARTER REVIEW

Charter
Review

Mayor Arnold said the purpose of this workshop is for the Commission to brainstorm ideas to better serve the public and be more functional for today's environment, we are no longer farmer's, fishermen, etc. we are a metro community with different requirements. Mayor Arnold said in the last workshop I indicated that I would come up with a preliminary draft this is not complete these sections deal with Commission responsibility and some key employees. He said we still have to look at public improvements, procedures, special assessments, being able to borrow money, city assets, and acquisitions of tracks of land. Mayor Arnold said the Commission would still need to make up their minds whether we want some officers like the Chief of Police and City Clerk, Public Works Supervisor to be residents of the city, he said he addressed that and his idea was if the person did not live within the city they would be given a certain length of time to become residents, after that time if residency was not met their tenure service with the city would be discontinued.

Mrs. Miller, 202 Hickory Lane, asked what is in the charter now pertaining to what the Mayor has said. Mayor Arnold said the Chief of Police and City Clerk has to be residents of the city. Mayor Arnold said the chart in the front of the draft just shows what effect of what he proposed is not part of charter by any stretch of the imagination, just an illustration of what is proposed and what we want to talk about. Comm. Strong said he was under the opinion at the last meeting that since the Mayor Arnold's stance is that we haven't been working within the charter, he would go through the charter and see what changes need to be made to match what we are doing today and that would be the base line for moving forward. Mayor Arnold said I told you I was going to come up with a complete rewrite and that was passed out last Monday night. Comm. Hamilton says that was her understanding and she agrees with the changes that have been made. Comm. Strong said he thought task was to build the charter to the way the Mayor thinks we are doing business today and move forward, he thought that was the idea. Mayor Arnold says that is what is before the Commission tonight. Comm. Hamilton agrees. Comm. Strong said that is not what he sees at all. Mayor Arnold said this would be replacing sections of the charter legally.

Mayor Arnold said about five or six years ago the ISP with the college had made recommendations to change the charter and they rewrote it but the Commission did not like it at all. Mayor Arnold said some portions have been eliminated as Florida State Legislature has changed through the years.

Comm. Kelley said she would like to applaud the effort Mayor Arnold has made and she feels it is a good effort, a lot of the same but with updated verbiage and put in the city manager/city administrator. Mayor Arnold said the administrator had been given additional responsibilities, added some of the mundane things that are already done and do not require a particular expertise. Comm. Kelley said in Section 2 she didn't see any change in structure of the Commission or change to their duties, she thought that was one of the things that were going to be looked at.

Mayor Arnold said he didn't know but he thought if you looked into Article IV under the Power of Commission there is some change and in Section 3 supervision. He said each Commissioner should have general oversight responsibility where as the department head shall have responsibility for other duties as assigned by Mayor or Commissioners and approved by the Commission. Each Commissioner will be assigned areas of responsibility. Comm. Kelley said it looks as the same as we are now. Mayor Arnold said no, he has added military affairs, economic development, emergency management, legislative lobbying, FDOT activities, intergovernmental liaison/affairs, special activities (4th of July, Day in Park, Yule of Yesteryear, etc.), State and Federal grant opportunities, noise committee, stormwater, any activity that may arise from time to time. Comm. Kelley said she may have meant Section 1 instead of Section 2, the remaining four Commissioners shall be known as Commissioner over Sanitation, Municipal Utilities, Public Institution, Streets, same as they are now. Mayor Arnold said he tried to keep things as they are now as in a Commission form of government, so we don't have a real radical change because he thinks everyone objected to change to manager idea. Comm. Kelley said only two people objected. Mayor Arnold said if we go with City Manager form of government we are no longer a Commission form of government. Comm. Kelley thinks that we have been fortunate to

have people with background in their particular assignment. She said in the 70's when some people were elected that was perfect but in the 21st century and looking forward we might not be. Comm. Kelley said soon her term and Comm. Strong's will be over but in trying to encourage newer people to be involved she thinks we need to look at a way for new Commissioners not to be so skills specific in an area, that is what she thought would be the beauty of a manager. She said the manager would have corporate knowledge of all departments that person who could carry forward regardless of who is elected. Comm. Kelley said that way it would be one person for streets, parks, cable, the way we are has worked up to this point, the concern is will it work carrying forward. Comm. Hamilton said she agrees completely. Mrs. Miller said she was asked years ago why she didn't run for Commission, she said oh no, she said Mr. Gilland told her she didn't have to have certain skills, once elected you would have all the information you would need to read and become familiar with what is done. Mrs. Miller said she didn't think we'd have a problem with someone new running for office what they would need to know is there in the records. Comm. Kelley said we are not talking about time. Mrs. Miller said we are talking about understanding what the responsibilities are for the position, she doesn't feel we need one person to run whole show like they have in Niceville. Mayor Arnold said that is not what we are trying to enforce. Comm. Kelley said she appreciated her opinion. Mr. Miller said also we don't need to add the expense of a City Manager some of their salaries are over \$100,000. Comm. Kelley said she didn't think salaries had even been mentioned. Mrs. Miller said she didn't think anyone's jobs were so difficult that they couldn't handle it with the information on record and a little research.

Comm. Hamilton said she wants only to expand on what Comm. Kelley said. Comm. Hamilton said with one person the city will be more efficient and more modern. Mayor Arnold said also best to maximize services, efficiency, function in a modern world. Comm. Hamilton said she did think we needed central oversight, that is one person either administrator or manager that isn't in charge so much as a point of contact so he can be central command for all departments and Commissioners.

Mayor Arnold asked where we go from here. Comm. Hamilton said she likes it. Mayor Arnold said he doesn't feel the changes are reflective of what she just said. Comm. Hamilton said I would like to strengthen city administrator responsibilities. She said when looking at Commission she doesn't disagree that each Commissioner should have some supervision but limit their powers. Mayor Arnold said he feels he has diluted that by saying the Commission has oversight adding other responsibilities. Mayor Arnold said Article IV Section 3 states each commissioner shall have general oversight responsibility for his particular division or department of the city administration, and shall be responsible for other duties as assigned by mayor commissioner and approved by the commission. Mayor Arnold said that was the bread and butter from the way he saw it today. Comm. Kelley said she liked that too. Comm. Strong said he had a copy of the original charter and was comparing the two, and asked if we could start at page 1 instead of jumping around. Mayor Arnold said page 1 had no changes.

Mayor Arnold said page 2, Article 2 offices maybe held by same person, he said he deleted municipal judge and put in city administrator and city engineer. Mayor said if they adopted what is here they will be charter appointees will have to have residency, Mayor, Commissioners, City Clerk/Treasurer, City Administrator, and Chief of Police.

Mayor Arnold said in Section 3 he changed the voting age from 25 to 18. He added individuals meeting all qualifications with the exception of residency requirements within the corporate limits of the City of Valparaiso shall be allowed 6 months to establish residency within the city from date of hire. Failure to do so will result in immediate discharge of this person and a declaration of vacancy of such office. Mrs. Johnson said on the Mayor/Commissioner does that mean someone can acquire residency after election, since they have are part of officers as stated, that would mean they don't have to be residents to run for office. Mayor Arnold said that is not true, we need to change that. He said he is not concerned with the little things we can wordsmith everything but he is most concerned with the overall concept of what we are doing. Comm. Strong said if we are going to go through it then we might as well go through it. Page 4 Chief of Police added shall receive salaries and/or other compensation as may be provided by the Commission. Mayor Arnold said he rewrote city clerk completely. Comm. Kelley said when position added director of financial management will that be an increase in pay and title, Mayor Arnold said there really isn't an increase in duties, there isn't anything there that Mrs. Johnson doesn't already do, this just enumerates it for posterity.

Discuss follows regarding Section 6 Official Bonds the bonding of employees and exact wording. Comm. Strong said municipal judge was eliminated and city administrator added, he said he is not in favor of that. Comm. Strong said this is his key disagreement with the Mayor. Comm. Kelley said it was fine with her. Comm. Hamilton said she also agreed with the Mayor. Comm. Hamilton said Commission maintains what they need to but there is some central oversight in place. She said because of the Sunshine Laws she sometimes would like to talk to Comm. Kelley or Strong but is not allowed because of the law and she said it is so restrictive, at least you would have one person who could talk to everyone. Comm. Strong said his understanding of the Sunshine law is that you can talk to one another but cannot talk about

something that would come before the Commission. Comm. Hamilton said anything can come before the Commission. Mayor Arnold asked do they leave it like he has written it? Comm. Hamilton said she loves it the way it is. Comm. Kelley said she thought the Mayor did a great job. Comm. Strong said he disagrees. Mayor said we have a consensus to leave as written time to move on.

Mayor Arnold said city attorney is mentioned and city engineer has been added, neither need to be residents of the city. Mayor Arnold said Article IV is the Designation of Commission and Powers. Comm. Strong said it looks the same as before. Mayor Arnold said under Power of Commissioners he had deleted "general supervision" to put in general oversight.

Comm. Strong he doesn't agree with no supervision of the area that each Commissioner has, he doesn't agree with the Power of Commissioners rewrite. Comm. Kelley said she believe Section 3 is in alignment with Section 1 which has a consensus on. Comm. Strong said this is where you put an organizational chart, back to the concept of oversight no supervision.

Mayor Arnold said the rest of this is boiler plate to be expanded on. Comm. Strong and Comm. Kelley said Article V Section 1 needs to be updated to the way we are now. Section 7 Comm. Strong said things were taken out that make sense. Mayor Arnold said he started with organization, responsibilities of the Commission and officers but there is still a whole list of things to be addressed. He said there is the merit system, city acquisitions, public improvements of additional tracks of land, city assets, ordinance continuation, etc. all of these sorts of things belong in charter, he had not gotten to that yet.

Comm. Strong said he doesn't agree with your chart, with administrator being over all these people. Comm. Strong said he feels the people who put the rubber to the road are the department heads, they have to make things work, not the Commission. He said he called each department head today and said the Commission was discussing changing the form of government from Mayor/Commission form to another form and asked if they were satisfied with the type of government we have now, if the existing form of government helps them to accomplish their responsibility in an efficient, responsible way. He said if the answer was yes, were there any ideas for improvements if no what government did they feel would be better to serve there needs and ideas. Comm. Strong said for every department head he talked to they were satisfied with the organizational structure that we have and it allows them to do their jobs. He feels we have totally ignored the department heads. Mayor Arnold said he doesn't feel department heads see the big picture of the city and what the responsibilities are and how we live in this world today. Mayor Arnold said he feels they see their jobs and they are resistant to change, they are comfortable. Comm. Strong said he has been here almost as long as the Mayor and he disagrees, he feels they do see the big picture. Comm. Kelley said the research says and if you've done any research at all and it is not an anonymous then you do not have a clean survey. She said first of all they know what you want them to say and they will tell you what you want to hear to please you. Comm. Strong said he asked earlier for a survey to be done for someone else to do and that idea had been thrown away. Comm. Kelley said some department heads serve more than one Commissioner and would have difficulty because they would want to please both, don't feel comfortable telling you the truth face to face, you put them on the hot seat and made them feel uncomfortable. Comm. Strong said then ask someone else to do this. Mr. Miller feels there should be a full Commission before any of these changes are voted on. Mayor Arnold said we are a long way off from there yet.

Mayor Arnold said he would like to have the next charter review meeting on the 17th of June. Comm. Hamilton said she would not be available because she will be out of the country for a month after the regular Commission meeting, but if the notes were emailed to her, she could review them and send any comments or questions back. Mayor Arnold said there would be another workshop for the Charter on the 17th of June at 6 PM.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Adjourn

John B. Arnold, Jr.
Mayor

Heyward H. Strong, Jr.
VCA, Chair

ATTEST:

Tammy Johnson, CMC
City Clerk

May 20, 2013

The DVD labeled May 20, 2013 contains the audio and video of this meeting and will be kept as permanent part of these minutes.