

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

City Commission Special Meeting
Wednesday, April 3, 2019

The City Commission met in formal session Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 1:30 P.M. in the Alcazar Room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tracy Upchurch, and the following were present:

1. Roll Call:

Tracy Upchurch, Mayor/City Commissioner
Leanna S.A. Freeman, Vice Mayor/City Commissioner
Nancy Sikes-Kline, City Commissioner
John Valdes, City Commissioner

Absent: Roxanne Horvath, City Commissioner (excused)

John Regan, City Manager
Timothy A. Burchfield, Assistant City Manager
Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney
Darlene Galambos, City Clerk
Jim Piggott, General Services Director
Paul K. Williamson, Director, Public Affairs
Barry Fox, Police Chief
Anthony Cuthbert
Robin DiAngelis, Recording Secretary

2. General Public Comments

The Commissioners heard from the following members of the public:

- Ed Slavin
- Melinda Rakoncaj

3. Review and discussion of the City of St. Augustine's Municipal Charter

There was a brief discussion regarding the difference between Workshops and Special Commission Meetings wherein Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, advised that there was no difference with the possible exception of how the meeting was organized and all public meetings had the same noticing requirements.

Darlene Galambos, City Clerk, gave an overview of the charter advising that any change affecting City employee and voters' rights would have to go to voters for referendum.

Ms. Lopez advised that there were numerous sections that were obsolete, superseded by state law, or no longer applicable and recommended that an Ordinance be drafted to enable Municode to remove those sections, renumber the charter, and utilize gender-neutral language within the document.

Ms. Lopez went through each section wherein she suggested changes as outlined in the meeting packet. The Commission discussed possible recommended changes to sections of the charter as follows:

- Election terms, residency requirements
- Voting rights for non-residents who own property or businesses within city limits
- Expansion of the process for electing a replacement commissioner from 10 days to 30 days with consideration of a specific selection process
- City Clerk's position, though appointed by the Commission, was under the supervision of the City Manager
- Language regarding governance of the City during times of great danger or state of emergency
- Reevaluation of language listing recreational facilities owned by the City
- Hiring process of the Assistant City Manager
- Language regarding Board of Trustees, possibly replacing the term with the City Commission or delete the section and place within Powers of the Board
- Strike specific time of post-election meeting
- City Attorney's duty to draft a third party ordinance only if instructed by the City Commission
- Citizen petition process
- Change language for person responsible for signing official documents from Mayor to Presiding Officer
- Replace term "drunkenness" with more appropriate modern term such as "intoxicated on the job"
- Deadline of June 2020 for changes that required to be put on referendum
- Possibility of making the position of Mayor a chairmanship appointed by the Commission rather than an elected position

The Commission instructed Ms. Lopez to remove redundant, obsolete language as outlined, make the document gender

neutral, follow and conform to State law where applicable or pre-empted, and to provide the Commissioners with more information at a subsequent meeting as discussed.

4. Adjournment

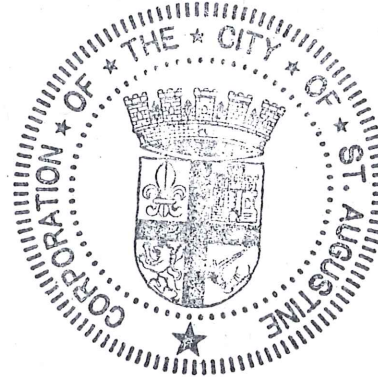
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:44 P.M.¹



Tracy Upchurch, MAYOR



Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK



¹ Transcribed by Robin DiAngelis