

INDIAN SHORES

Ph 727.595.4020 Fax 727.596.0050
19305 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Shores, FL 33785
www.myindiashores.com

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCE/CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022, BEGAN AT 2:00 P.M. INDIAN SHORES MUNICIPAL, CENTER 4TH FLOOR

The meeting convened at 2:00 P.M.

Those present: Committee Vice Chair Councilor Mike Hackerson, Committee Council Alternate Councilor Bill Smith, Committee Citizen Member John Caruso, Committee Alternate Citizen Member Ellen Bauer, and Town Attorney Regina Kardash.

Also present: Vice Mayor Diantha Schear, Town Administrator Bonnie Dhonau, Town Clerk Freddie Lozano, and Police Chief Rick Swann.

Those absent: Committee Chair Mayor Patrick C. Soranno, Committee Citizen Member Lori Kauffman, and Committee Alternate Citizen Member Tom King.

ITEM # AGENDA ITEM

1.0 Consideration of approving the Administrative and Finance/Charter Review Committee Meeting agenda for June 14, 2022.

Motion by Mr. Caruso – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve the Administrative and Finance/Charter Review Committee Meeting agenda for June 14, 2022. **All ayes. Motion carried 4-0.**

2.0 Comments from the public on any agenda item. None.

3.0 Consideration of approving the Administrative and Finance/Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes of April 12, 2022.

Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by **Ms. Bauer** to approve the April 12, 2022, meeting minutes. **All ayes. Motion carried 4-0.**

Patrick C. Soranno
Mayor

Diantha Schear
Vice Mayor

Mike Hackerson
Councilor

Michael (Mike) Petrucci
Councilor

William F. (Bill) Smith
Councilor

Bonnie Dhonau
Town Administrator

Richard (Rick) Swann
Chief of Police

Susan L. Scrogam
Director of Finance
and Personnel

Freddie G. Lozano
Town Clerk

Regina Kardash, Esq.
Town Attorney

**4.0 Review of ordinance language for ballot proposals.
(The Articles and Sections were discussed in the following order.)**

Article III-Legislative, Section 3.06- Vice Mayor

The discussion began with the different methods of electing the vice mayor, including rotation by seniority or by lot (lottery). Election by seniority allows for council members to gain experience while in office. Election by lot runs the risk of selecting a newly elected council member with the least office experience. Another risk is that a council member could be chosen for the office of vice mayor for multiple or consecutive terms.

The discussion ended with a consensus to amend Article III, Section 3.06 of the charter to provide for a rotation of the office of vice mayor based on seniority to provide the opportunity for each council member to hold the office.

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Ms. Bauer** to amend Section 3.06 to provide for a rotation of the office of vice mayor based on seniority, thereby providing the opportunity for each council member to hold this office. **All ayes. Motion carried 4-0.**

Article IV-Administrative, Section 4.02-Town Auditor

Attorney Kardash drafted the proposal to remove the administrative duties from the mayor's office that would be more appropriate under the town administrator. In addition, she researched and confirmed that by removing the administrative duties from the mayor's office, that there is no conflict with any of the Town's emergency management duties and responsibilities concerning military law.

Vice Chair Hackerson and **Mr. Caruso** felt that the proposed ballot language that addresses the change from town auditor to town administrator was confusing due to the additional verbiage stating that the auditor is already required under state law.

Motion by **Mr. Caruso** – seconded by **Ms. Bauer** to amend Section 4.02 to change town auditor to town administrator and to remove the reference to the auditor being required by law. **All ayes. Motion carried 4-0.**

Article III-Legislative, Section 3.07-Holding other Office

Attorney Kardash mentioned that the Town's current office structure allows for elected officials to sit in committees to make recommendations. This section was revised to clarify that the Town's current committee

structure complies with the state's constitutional prohibition on dual office holding without violating the Town Charter. She noted that the standard of a two-year prohibition on holding any compensated Town office or employment until two years after their term expire has increased to six years. The six-year prohibition is not a required change. It can remain at two years if desired by the Committee.

Motion by Committee Council Alternate Smith – seconded by **Ms. Bauer** to retain the two-year Town office or employment prohibition as currently written in the Town Charter. **All ayes. Motion carried 4-0.**

Article III-Legislative, Section 3.02-Qualifications and Article V- Qualifications and Elections, Section 5.03-Candidate qualifying procedures

At a previous Charter Review meeting, the Committee agreed to change the six-month residency requirement to qualify as a candidate for office to one year in Section 3.02. At that same meeting, it was pointed out that Article V, Section 5.03 also contained the six-month residency requirement, which should also be revised to one year.

Attorney Kardash noted that she revised Section 5.03 to reflect the one-year residency requirement, which required a Committee motion.

Motion by Mr. Caruso – seconded by **Committee Council Alternate Smith** to approve the addition of the residency requirement of one year to qualify as a candidate to Article V, Section 5.03. **All ayes. Motion carried 4-0.**

Article III-Legislative, Section 3.05-Mayor

To further clarify Section 3.05, the role of registered agent was added to the mayor's duties

Motion by Committee Council Alternate Smith – seconded by **Mr. Caruso** to approve the addition of registered agent under Section 3.05. **All ayes. Motion carried 4-0.**

The charter amendment discussions ended.

Attorney Kardash provided additional materials concerning the question of who the Police Department and the Police Chief would report to under the proposed charter revisions. The current charter does not specify whether the Police report to the Town Council or the Town Administrator. However, the 1957 charter contains a specific provision that the Town Council appoints the Police. This means that the Police answer directly to them, as currently being done. A savings clause in Article IV-Transition Schedule preserves this provision.

She provided a memorandum with her legal opinion. If the matter becomes more substantial, she advised the Council that the documents and memorandum she provided can be submitted to the Attorney General's Office for an opinion.

The Committee consensus was that the chain of command regarding the Police and who they report to currently is working fine.

5.0 Final review of charter revisions.

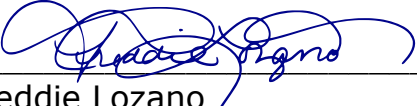
The charter revisions were reviewed under Agenda Item #4.0. The charter ordinance will be in English and Spanish and will have its first reading at the July 12, 2022, Town Council meeting. The second reading for its adoption is scheduled for the August 9, 2022, Town Council meeting. If adopted, the referendum questions will be on the November 8, 2022, ballot.

6.0 Citizens' comments on any subject. None.

7.0 Committee members' comments on any subject. None.

The Committee will reconvene in December to review the referendum results and discuss any adjustments to the charter if necessary.

8.0 Meeting adjournment. 2:42 P.M.



Freddie Lozano
Town Clerk