



## 2017/2018 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES

March 19, 2018

7:00 PM

Administration Building,  
4th Floor, BCC Meeting Room, 477 Houston Street,  
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

The Charter Review Commission (CRC) met on Monday, March 19, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the Board of County Commissioners meeting room, 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Administration Building, 477 Houston Street, Green Cove Springs, FL. Those in attendance at the meeting are listed on the attached sign-in sheet.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice Chairman Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes for February 22, 2018. Ronnie Coleman seconded the motion which carried 13-0.

Madam Chair Pope-Wells asked for approval of the March 19, 2018 agenda as presented. Vice Chairman Taylor made a motion to approve, Ronnie Coleman seconded the motion which carried 13-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **1. Updated List of Charter Topics for Review**

Madam Chair Pope-Wells reviewed the updated list of Charter Topics as presented. A motion was made, seconded by Vice Chairman Taylor, and carried 13-0, to approve the list as presented.

#### **CRC Attendance**

Madam Chair Pope-Wells informed the CRC that staff reached out to Charles Cook, with regard to his attendance on the CRC, and reported that it was his desire to continue to serve on the CRC and that it was his intention to attend tonight's meeting. Ms. Pope-Wells went on to say that since those discussions, Mr. Cook had a work conflict arise and could not attend tonight's meeting. Due to his unavailability to attend the CRC meetings on a regular basis, Ms. Pope-Wells announced that Mr. Cook would be submitting his formal resignation from the CRC.

Ms. Pope-Wells reported that Alternate CRC member Charles Thompson would be replacing Mr. Cook on the CRC and added that he would be in attendance going forward.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. Discussion of Legislative Branch**

Madam Chair Pope-Wells began discussion with regard to term limits for the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). She reported that currently, the BCC serve two four year terms and have the opportunity serve again, as Commissioner, as defined in the Clay County Home Rule Charter, Section 2.2: Legislative Branch, (A), with no lifetime maximum imposed.

Art Hooker addressed the CRC and made a motion to change the current BCC terms from two four year terms to three four year terms and gave reasoning for implementing the change. He further stated that he would be making the same recommendation with regard to the Constitutional Offices' terms during those discussions later in the meeting.

Ronnie Coleman stated that he is opposed to increasing the number of terms for the BCC and said that he would be voting in opposition to the proposed change.

Ronald Stotler made brief comments and stated that he was undecided with regard to the idea of term limits and was hesitate to limit the voice of the voters.

Tamara Bradt briefly addressed the CRC.

During discussions, Larry Kirkman proposed modifying the motion to impose a lifetime maximum to the BCC terms.

Vice Chairman Taylor seconded the motion as presented by Mr. Hooker and followed up with comments in support of the motion.

Kim Knapp stated that she was in favor of the BCC having more experience and rotation on the Board but was not sure if the voters would support the proposed change.

Eric Jaffe stated that he would be against increasing the term limits for the BCC.

Bob Tatum stated that he would be against increasing the term limits for the BCC.

Paul Sarto made brief comments and stated that he would be against increasing the term limits for the BCC.

Tom Branham made comments against increasing the term limits for the BCC.

Amy Miller stated that having the option of an additional term would be beneficial to the County and she would support the motion.

Following CRC discussion, Madam Chair Pope-Wells opened the floor for public comments.

Commissioner Mike Cella addressed the CRC.

James Otto, 2904 Blanding Blvd, Middleburg, spoke in opposition to the addition of an extra term for the BCC.

Richard Klinzman spoke in opposition to the addition of an extra term for the BCC.

Following the public comments, Art Hooker restated his motion. Motion failed 5 to 8 with CRC members Tatum, Coleman, Jaffe, Sarto, Branham, Bradt, Knapp, and Kirkman dissenting.

Following the vote, Amy Miller made the motion to change the current BCC terms from two four year terms to three four year terms, to include a lifetime maximum to the position. Vice Chairman Taylor seconded the motion, which carried 8 to 5 with CRC members, Sarto, Branham, Coleman, Jaffe, and Tatum dissenting.

## **2. Discussion of Constitutional Offices**

Madam Chair Pope-Wells began discussion with regard to term limits for the Constitutional Offices. CRC Attorney Vose informed the CRC that currently, County Constitutional Offices are up for election/reelection every four years in the Presidential Election year and added that there are no State term limits imposed on any of them at this time.

Art Hooker made lengthy comments in support of term limits. Following his comments, Mr. Hooker made a motion to institute term limits, of three consecutive terms, for the County Constitutional Offices.

Larry Kirkman made comments against putting restrictions upon the Constitutional Offices and suggested that the CRC consider the idea of instituting five four year terms, to allow for a reasonable period for retirement. Following his comments, Roger Suggs, Clay County Property Appraiser, addressed the CRC with regard to the Florida Retirement System. During those discussions, Mr. Kirkman added that he would like for any motion made by the CRC to include implementation in the next election cycle.

Madam Chair Pope-Wells passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Taylor and addressed the CRC as a board member. Ms. Pope-Wells made comments about job performances of the Constitutional Offices and stated that she felt strongly that the voters should have their say in this matter and would support placing this topic on the ballot. Following her comments, Vice Chairman Taylor passed the gavel back to Ms. Pope-Wells.

Vice Chairman Taylor and Ronnie Coleman spoke against imposing term limits.

Amy Miller stated that she had conversations with individuals who were in favor of imposing term limits.

Larry Kirkman asked Madam Chair Pope-Wells to confirm her stance with regard to this discussion topic. Ms. Pope-Wells stated that she was in favor of imposing term limits.

Paul Sarto spoke against imposing term limits.

Following CRC discussion, Madam Chair Pope-Wells opened the floor for public comments.

Darryl Daniels, Clay County Sheriff, spoke against imposing term limits.

Tara Green, Clay County Clerk of the Court, spoke against imposing term limits.

Chris Chambless, Clay County Supervisor of Elections, spoke against imposing term limits.

Roger Suggs, Clay County Property Appraiser, spoke against imposing term limits.

Jimmy Weeks, Clay County Tax Collector, spoke against imposing term limits.

James Otto, 2904 Blanding Blvd, Middleburg, addressed the CRC.

Further discussion was tabled.

It was the consensus of the CRC to hold their next meeting on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.

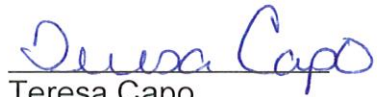
### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Due to the length of the meeting, no public comments were received at this time.

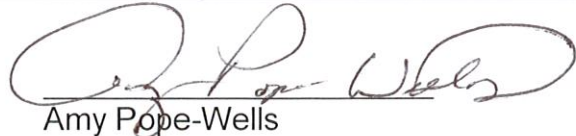
### **CRC MEMBER COMMENTS**

Due to the length of the meeting, no CRC member comments were received.

With no further business, the CRC adjourned at 10:05 P.M.



Teresa Capo  
Recording Secretary



Amy Pope-Wells  
Madam Chair