

**COLUMBIA COUNTY
CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting
March 9, 2020

The Charter Review Commission (“CRC”) met at the School Board Administrative Complex at 6:00 p.m. on March 9, 2020.

Charter Commissioners in Attendance:

District 1: Glenel Bowden, Mario Coppock, Sandra Smith
District 2: Wally Germany, John O’Neal, Hunter Peeler
District 3: Jody DuPree, Ronald Foreman, Tom Ottum
District 4: Robert Lane, Kimberly Skinner, Lance Hill
District 5: Stephen Douglas, Charles Keith, Glenn Owens

Charter Commissioners Absent:

None.

Charter Commission Alternates in Attendance:

District 3: Sandra Buck-Camp (arrived late)

Charter Commission Alternates Absent:

District 1: Linard Johnson

Others Officials in Attendance:

Toby Witt, County Commissioner
Mark Hunter, Sheriff
Ben Scott, County Manager
Joel Foreman, County Attorney (“CA”)
Esther Chung

Minutes

None.

Introduction of Invited Guests

None.

Remarks of Interested Citizens

None.

Report of the Chairman

None.

Committee Reports

a. Financial

- i. Commissioner Douglas reported at the last full commission meeting, three (3) findings were brought forth regarding contract for annual audits, end of fiscal year excess funds, and establishing detention center operations as a county department. A committee met last Friday to continue discussions surrounding the third finding and advocate to not have the third finding move forward as an amendment.
- ii. CA clarifies the procedures of the Commission for regarding the finding.

b. Administrative/Safety

- i. Commissioner Smith thanked members of the Sheriff's Office for their cooperation with detention center.
- ii. CA read into record the five (5) findings and recommendations by the Administrative/Safety Committee
 - Finding 1: Relates to working conditions at the County Jail
 - Recommendation 1: A standing committee be formed including Captain Douglas, Sheriff Hunter, a county employee, and a citizen member. The committee will meet quarterly to review the conditions of the jail and report its findings to the Board of County Commissioners ("BCC").
 - Commissioner Bowden commented that he agrees with the concept of the recommendation, but suggested the committee members be position specific and not specific to the individual. Commissioner Bowden also suggests to include a member of the BCC on the committee. He inquired as to how the citizen member will be chosen.
 - Commissioner Foreman suggested there be an established first meeting date.
 - Finding 2: Relates to prevention of recurring accidents
 - Recommendation 2: County policies be reviewed and strengthened to have greater consequences for employees that cause a certain number of accidents or accidents causing significant loss.

- Finding 3: Relates to historic and natural assets.
- Recommendation 3: A standing committee be formed known as the Special Spaces and Places Committee to advise and comment on all infrastructure and capital projects as to its impacts on natural beauty or historical assets.

- Finding 4: Relates to employee compensation and retention
- Recommendation: The County Manager to complete a comprehensive compensation study and compensation be set at levels to make the County a more competitive employer.

- Finding 5: Relates to term limits for the County Commissioners
- Recommendations: The Charter be amended such that no individual can serve more than two consecutive or non-consecutive terms on the Commission.
 - Commissioner Bowden commented that there is no foundation or justification for the recommendation. Discussion ensued.

- Finding 6: Relates to the County Administrative Code
- Recommendations: The Administrative Code must be amended with the changes as requested and brought back to the BCC for approval. The present the Administrative Code for review by the BCC during a public meeting at least once a year.

c. Operational

- i. Commissioner DuPree reported the findings are recommendations should be prepared for presentation by the next meeting.

d. CRC Compliance

- i. All findings and recommendations have moved forward and will be covered under Unfinished Business.

Unfinished Business

a. Charter Compliance Committee Findings and Recommendations:

- i. Department Head Appeals
 - CA presented draft ordinance which amends Article 4, Section 4.2 of the Home Rule Charter removing the language with or without cause and the final sentence of the section.

 - Public Comment
 - None.

- MOTION by Commissioner Foreman to approve the draft ordinance as presented. Second by Commissioner DuPree. Opposed by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried.

New Business

CA Foreman presented the action items before the full Commission with public comment prior to Commissioners' deliberation, motion, and vote.

a. Finance Committee Findings and Recommendations

i. Establishing the Detention Center Operations as a County Department

- Public Comment
 - None.
- Commissioner Bowden in agreeance with the committee to not forward this recommendation; however, this does not necessarily mean that he does not agree with the findings. Discussion ensued.
- MOTION by Commissioner Owens to reject the finding. Second by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried unanimously.

ii. Contract for Annual Audit

- Public Comment
 - None.
- Commissioner O'Neal commented that there should not be restricted from the standing auditor to be able to bid on it. Discussion ensued.
- MOTION by Commissioner DuPree for Finance Committee's findings and recommendations regarding contract for annual audit move forward as presented. Second by Commissioner Foreman. The motion carried unanimously.

iii. End of Fiscal Year – Excess Funds

- Public Comment
 - None.
- Commissioner Keith commented to designate some of the excess funds to be used on specific items such as roads and regarding budgetary restrictions. Discussion ensued.
- MOTION by Commissioner Douglas for the Finance Committee's findings and recommendations regarding end of fiscal year excess funds to remain in the Finance Committee until further notice. Second by Commissioner Ottum. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held at the School Board Administrative Complex on the following date barring any conflicts:

Monday, March 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes approved and adopted this 23rd day of April, 2020.

Robert Lane, Chairman
Charter Review Commission

Stephen Douglas, Vice-Chair
Charter Review Commission