



**CITY OF OKEECHOBEE**  
**CITIZENS CHARTER REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MAY 13, 2021**  
**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Ritter called the regular meeting of the Citizens Charter Review Advisory Committee (CCRAC) for the City of Okeechobee to order on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, located at 55 Southeast 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Room 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The invocation was given by Member Chandler, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. ATTENDANCE**

The following CCRAC Members were present: Suzanne Bowen, Noel Chandler, Jamie Gamiotea, Jeremy LaRue (entered the Chambers at 6:23 PM), Sandy Perry, Cary Pigman, Gary Ritter, Myranda Whirls and Hoot Worley. Ex-Officio Members Marcos Montes De Oca and Wes Abney, City Attorney John Fumero, Executive Assistant Robin Brock and General Services Coordinator Patty Burnette were present as well.

**III. AGENDA AND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**A.** Motion by Member Worley, seconded by Member Perry to adopt the agenda as presented. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**B.** There were no comment cards submitted for public participation for any issues not on the agenda.

**IV. MINUTES**

**A.** Motion by Member Worley, seconded by Member Pigman to dispense with the reading and approve the April 22, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A.** After the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, Attorney Fumero re-wrote Article 5 of the Model City Charter to make it less complicated. C-5.3 was removed in its entirety. After discussing, members noted one additional change. C-5.1 (c) amend the last sentence of the paragraph to read as follows: *The terms of the sitting officials shall be extended as necessary to accomplish the election date revision made pursuant to this Section in accordance with Section 2.3 of the Charter.*

**B.** Members discussed Article 6 of the Model City Charter prepared by Attorney Fumero. C-6.2, amend the reference to deleted section C-5.3. C-6.3, delete the second sentence in its entirety. Amend fourth sentence to read, *In addition, the Council may appoint by majority vote any additional members to the charter review commission which have submitted applications or letters of interest following public notice of such action.*

**C.** Members discussed Article 7 of the Model City Charter. Attorney Fumero explained C-7.2 Ethical Standards, is subject to the law and based on State Statutes. One cannot vote on something that would benefit them. Must disclose this.

## V. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS CONTINUED

- C. One may participate in discussion but cannot vote. Amend C-7.5 to reflect a super majority. Amend C-7.6 to read as follows, *In case of a conflict between the provisions of this Charter and the provisions of the Code of Ordinances to be adopted pursuant thereto, the Charter terms shall control. Moreover, nothing in this Charter shall be construed to alter, abolish, affect, or amend the general laws of the State of Florida, now in force, or which hereinafter may be enacted relative to or affecting this City. However, where such laws are in direct conflict in which case the provisions of the general laws of this State shall supersede and be in full force and effect.* C-7.7 amend sexual orientation or gender to sexual preference or gender identity.
- D. Members discussed Article 8 of the Model City Charter. Attorney Fumero commented this section lets one know the City is going through a transition period as once the Charter is adopted there will be a huge project to have revisions made to the ordinances. Consensus of the Committee was to have Attorney Fumero amend the paragraph to have a few sentences instead of one.
- E. Next agenda items will be to review and discuss the entire Charter which will include all revisions to date and at the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting continue the discussion regarding the City Clerk's position, and who would be responsible for the appointment, supervision and removal of their staff.

## VI. ADJOURN MEETING

Chairperson Ritter adjourned the meeting at 7:08 P.M.

Submitted by:

Patty M. Burnette

Patty M. Burnette

Approved on: 7-8-2021

Please take notice and be advised that when a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Citizens Charter Review Advisory Committee with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. City Clerk media are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Clerk.