

# TOWN OF WINDERMERE

## Town Council Workshop Minutes

August 6, 2015

### CALL TO ORDER:

Present were Mayor Gary Bruhn, Council Members Jim O'Brien, Molly Rose, Bob McKinley, Richard Gonzalez (arrived at 6:06pm) and John Armstrong. Town Manager Robert Smith and Town Clerk Dorothy Burkhalter were also present.

Mayor Bruhn called the workshop to order at 6:00pm.. He explained that this workshop is being held in conjunction with the Charter Review Committee. Those present from the Charter Review Committee were Chair Ernest Myers, Members Pam Martini, Susan Carter and Al Pichon. Member Robert Sprick was absent.

### 6. NEW BUSINESS:

#### **g (i) Charter Committee Discussion**

Mayor Bruhn explained that each person will have the opportunity to comment on their concerns with the current Charter. Mayor Bruhn commented on Section 12 and the six month prior to election notice of residency. He then stated that in Section 36, the Ordinance needed to be revised to state "Each regular municipal election shall be held on the second Tuesday in March of each election year. However, by Resolution, the town council may move the elections date and set the dates to qualify for election to the office of council member or mayor in that year." Mayor Bruhn then stated that Section 37 references Section 49 and it should reference Section 50. He commented on Section 49 which limits the Town's ability to borrow. Much discussion followed regarding borrowing, debt/borrowing terms, referendums, repayment terms, caps and amount of overall debt, number of council members, voting Mayor, and possible salaries for the Mayor and Town Council. After some discussion, Mayor Bruhn asked if the Charter Review members had any questions or concerns. Mr. Myers explained the proposed plan to review the Charter. He then asked the Council if there were any selected items that needed review. Mrs. Martini commented on a past Charter meeting and its discussion. She stated that the Charter needed to be brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Discussion was made regarding "clean-up" items, and adding hyperlinks for online accessibility. Mr. Myers explained that the Charter will be reviewed section by section and reorganized. He also explained that there are items that need to be in Ordinances and not in the Charter and vice versa. Mr. Pichon commented that there will be a reduction in the size of the Charter. Manager Smith stated that Florida Statutes can be referenced, which will aid in the reduction. Member Armstrong commented on emergency loans, liaisons, defining the Council and Mayor separately, and salary for the Mayor and Council. He then requested that the Charter Committee survey small towns within the State regarding salaries for the Mayor and Council. Mayor Bruhn stated he would ask the Florida League of Cities regarding salaries. Member Armstrong stated that the Town is unique and if the Town is the only municipality that does not pay, then, it should stay that way. Member Rose commented on the following Sections. Sec 23.3, In lieu of stating prepare budget and submit at least 90 days... maybe we should reference the state code requirements? Sec 28, We do not have a Purchasing Agent, do we? Maybe this should be rewritten to represent how we do the purchasing. Sec 32, Who is our Town Tax Assessor? Is this Orange County's Tax Assessor? Sec 33, Who is the Town Tax Collector? Is this Orange County's Tax Assessor? Sec 34, Why do we collect \$25 from candidates? Where does this money go? Sec 37, Suggest we change the term length to 3 years vs 2 years. Sec 43.2, Suggest we change the need to periodically codify to annually. Sec 88.9, Do you want to leave in "less than 3% contingency?" Sec 90, What is an emergency note? Sec 97-100, Are we doing this now? Sec 116, Rewrite "telegraph companies", Sec 117, Can we remove the sentence "this section shall not be effective until approval..." Sections; 125,126,127, 128, 131 and 132, "Should we cap interest rates or

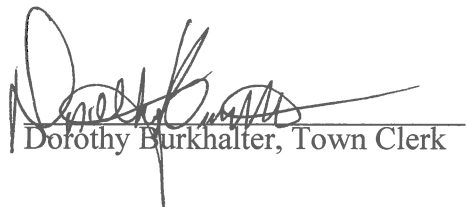
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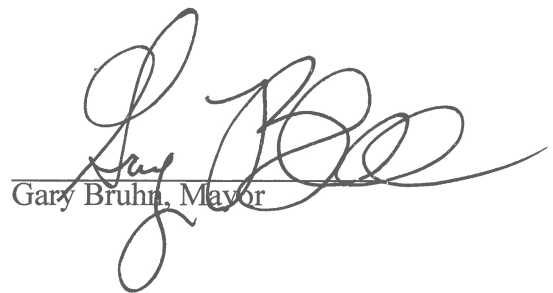
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have them relative to the current interest rates?" Sec 154.3, I don't agree that we should allow hiring of a firm that a council member owns or works for. Member Gonzalez commented on organization, facilities, and borrowing. Member McKinley commented on his concerns regarding Sec. 14 and the calling of a special meeting. This item will be reviewed by the Committee. Member McKinley commented on Sec. 53 Recall Election/Filling Vacancies. Member O'Brien stated he concurred with the emergency budget. He stated that the liaisons and procedures should not be added to the Charter. Member O'Brien also commented on term lengths, and increasing borrowing capacity without a referendum. He then stated that the Charter needed to be reworded and clarified. Mr. Myers questioned what percentage or amount the Council would allow for borrowing? Discussion followed regarding percentages of the annual budget. Member Rose commented on the possibility of the Town having a lot of debt. Member Armstrong stated a cap is needed. Mayor Bruhn questioned the cap amount. Member Rose stated that the residents should have a say on the debt. Mayor Bruhn stated that the borrowing item will be discussed at a later date. Clerk Burkhalter commented on election and qualifying items. She then stated that she will be in attendance at Charter meetings and will review her concerns as they arise. Discussion was made regarding qualifying dates and time frames, and if no one should qualify. Mayor Bruhn thanked the committee members for their service. Mr. Myers stated that within their meeting discussions, it was brought forward to possibly have one Council seat designated for subdivisions. Member O'Brien questioned what would happen if no one qualified for the seat. Mayor Bruhn stated that if one seat is designated, the other 4 seats are open, and another member from a subdivision could run for one of those four spots. Discussion followed. Manager Smith commented on the timeframe that may be needed. Member Armstrong questioned if the deadline could be extended. Manager Smith stated yes.

Mayor Bruhn adjourned the workshop at 7:49pm.

  
Dorothy Burkhalter, Town Clerk

  
Gary Bruhn, Mayor