

The Charter Review Commission Meeting was held on this date in the First Floor Conference Room 118, Lee County Administration Building East, 2201 Second Street, Fort Myers, Florida with the following Charter Review Commission Members:

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

Nathan Shaw - Chairman	Kevin Besserer	Liza King
Andrew Sund - <i>Absent</i>	Doug J. Congress	Randy Krise
Richard Akin	Keith Dean – <i>Late Arrival 5:08</i>	Randal Mercer
Noel Andress	Eric Feichthaler	Maryanne Preston
Carl Barraco Jr.	Ronald Inge	Maribel Sanchez – <i>Late Arrival 5:15</i>

**LEE COUNTY ATTORNEY:**

Deputy County Attorney, Andrea Fraser  
Deputy County Attorney, Michael Jacob

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chairman Shaw called for Public Comment, and there were five speakers:

- Mayor John Gunter (Cape Coral)
  - Mayor John Gunter reiterated his concerns over the Charter Review Commission proceeding with the proposed amendments regarding voluntary annexation, and informed the Board of recent agreements between the City of Cape Coral and North Fort Myers and Matlacha Fire Districts.
- Chief Ryan Lamb (Cape Coral Fire Department)
  - Chief Ryan Lamb urged the Charter Review Commission to take no additional action on the proposed amendments regarding voluntary annexation on behalf of the Cape Coral Fire Department.
- General Manager Mike Maillakakis (Greater Pine Island Water Association)
  - Mr. Maillakakis discussed the financial investments required to maintain utility infrastructure, and, expressed that the Greater Pine Island Water Association does not oppose resident’s voluntarily annexing property, but request a voice in the process. Mr. Maillakakis stated that one of the largest issues is the ability to recover investment cost.
- Mayor Jon McLain (Village of Estero)
  - Mayor McLain requested that the Commission take no additional action on the proposed amendments regarding voluntary annexation.
- Bill Deile (Greater Pine Island Water Association)
  - Mr. Deile expressed the importance of Interlocal Agreements between utility services and local municipalities, and requested the Commission consider the costly investments made by utility companies.

**COMMISSION DISCUSSION ON VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION:**

**Vote:** Commission Member, Noel Andress moved to revise the current draft of the proposed amendment to include the language “County Utility Franchise,” seconded by Commission Member Randy Krise, called and carried with Commission Vice-Chairman Andrew Sund absent.

Commission Member Eric Feichthaler stated that prior to utility infrastructure improvements it would be beneficial for utility services to discuss the cost, and possible reimbursement with local municipalities to ensure proper reimbursement. Commission Member Noel Andress discussed the need to protect ratepayers from inflated utility cost due to annexation, and Commission Member Nathan Shaw emphasized that while the Commission is discussing the issue of voluntary annexation, they are not attempting to impede development in annexed areas.

Deputy County Attorney Andrea Fraser reviewed the voting requirements for forwarding issues to the County Commissioners for consideration or the electoral ballot, and reminded the Commission that at this meeting, Commission members would be voting only on moving the topic of voluntary annexation forward to public meetings. Attorney Fraser confirmed that the Charter Review Commission may alter the proposed amendments language at any time until the final meeting when the Commission will vote to move the item forward to either

the Board of County Commissioners for consideration or the electoral ballot depending on the number of votes in the affirmative the item receives.

**Vote:** Commission Member, Kevin Besserer moved to schedule four public meetings for discussing the topic of voluntary annexation, seconded by Commission Member Noel Andress, called and carried with Commission Members Eric Feichthaler and Doug J. Congress voting nay.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commission Member Kevin Besserer moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commission Member Randal Mercer called and carried with Commission Vice-Chairman Andrew Sund absent.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:39 p.m.