



CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE February 20, 2025

*City Commission Conf. Rm
City Hall – 228 S Massachusetts Ave*

AGENDA

- I. Approval of January 16, 2025, Minutes**
- II. Additional Consideration of Section 9 – Sale of Water Utility Assets**
- III. Comments from the Public**
- IV. Adjourn**

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding, or those requiring language assistance (*free of charge*) should contact the City of Lakeland ADA Specialist, Kristin Meador, no later than 48 hours prior to the proceeding, at (863) 834-8444, Email: ADASpecialist@lakelandgov.net. If hearing impaired, please contact the TDD numbers: Local – (863) 834-8333 or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD-Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) or the Florida Relay Service Number 1-800-955-8770 (VOICE), for assistance.

**Charter Review Committee
January 16, 2025**

The Charter Review Committee met in the City Commission Conference Room. Chair Mike Workman and Members Sylvia Blackmon-Roberts, Terry Coney, Jim Edwards, Kim Elmhurst, Ellis Hirsch, Lincoln Jacobs, Frank McCaulley, Scott Reed, Jason Rodda, Veronica Rountree, Jim Scelfo, and Pat Steed were present. Tedra Porteous and James Ring were absent. City Attorney Palmer Davis, Community & Economic Development Director Brian Rewis, GIS Analyst Carl Metz, and City Clerk Kelly Koos were present.

Mike Workman called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Approval of November 21, 2024, Minutes

Frank McCaulley moved to approve the minutes. Jason Rodda seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Review Commission District Boundaries

Palmer Davis presented. The 2023 Legislature passed a new law requiring cities to balance districts by population as close as practicable. He showed the map the CRC approved back in April. As staff began to write the legal descriptions for the proposed districts, they discovered that the district line across Lake Bonny Park did not follow a street. That is necessary for clear boundaries. They also realized that the portion of District C north of the CSX rail line on the far west side of town should have been in District A. Staff also continued to look at ways to avoid dividing neighborhoods. Staff provided an alternative map for the CRC to consider addressing these issues.

Motion: Jason Rodda moved to approve the updated map as presented. Ellis Hirsch seconded.

Mike Workman asked for discussion. The group discussed the challenges to balance and how the various changes should be placed on the ballot.

Amended Motion: Jason Rodda moved to amend the motion to include that the legal description is to be written by the City Attorney. Ellis Hirsch seconded.

Action: Mike Workman called for the vote and the amended motion carried unanimously.

Final Presentation

Mike Workman has some meeting requests out to the Commission and to Joe Mawhinney to prepare to present to the Commission.

Kelly Koos will forward the audio of the previous presentation to Mr. Workman.

Comments from the Public – None

The Committee adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

([Ord. No. 5773](#), Att. A, 11-5-19)

- **Sec. 9. - Limitations on powers of city commission.**

modified

(a) Neither the commission nor any of its members, individually or collectively, shall in any manner dictate the appointment or removal of any city administrative officers, department heads or employees whom the city manager or any of the city manager's subordinates are empowered to appoint, but the commission may express its views and fully and freely discuss with the city manager anything pertaining to appointment and removal of such officers and employees.

(b) Except for general inquiries concerning administrative procedures and policies, the commission and its members shall deal with officers and employees of the city who are subject to the direction and supervision of the city manager solely through the city manager, and neither the commission nor any of its members shall give orders to any such officer or employee, either publicly or privately, directly or indirectly. Nothing in the foregoing is to be construed to prohibit individual members of the commission from scrutinizing by questions and personal observation all aspects of city government operations so as to obtain independent information to assist the members in the formulation of sound policies to be considered by the commission. However, it is the expressed intention hereof that recommendations related to city operations by individual commissioners be made to and through the city manager.

(c) Any violation of a provision of this section by a member of the commission shall constitute grounds for removal from office.

~~(b)~~(d) The City of Lakeland shall not sell, lease or otherwise dispose of ~~any water plant, or~~ all or substantially all of the assets of the electric utility, until such sale, ~~or~~ lease or other disposal has previously been authorized by (i) a unanimous vote of all members of the city commission approving such sale, lease or other disposal and authorizing a referendum on the subject, and (ii) an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the electors voting in such referendum authorized by the city commission, otherwise qualified to vote in an election duly called for that purpose. A referendum called by the city commission under this subsection shall take place either at a regular city election or at a special election at which the only question to be decided is the sale, lease or other disposal of a water plant or the assets of the electric utility. For the purpose of this section only, electric utility shall mean those assets used to engage in the business of

generating, transmitting, or distributing electrical energy, as well as any related activities authorized by this Charter or applicable law.

(Res. No. 4155, § 1, 11-19-01; [Ord. No. 5773](#), Att. A, 11-5-19)

- **Sec. 10. - City commission.**

The city commission shall consist of seven (7) electors of the city, including the mayor, elected at large, all of whom shall hold office for four (4) years or until their successor takes office. One each of the commissioners shall have been for one (1) year immediately prior to taking office, a resident of that part of said city described as follows:

District A: Being that part of said city bounded on the east by State Road [35](#) and on the south by the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad tracks, extending westerly and northerly to the city limits line;

District B: That part of said city lying east of State Road [35](#) and north of Seaboard Coast Line Railroad tracks, extending easterly and northerly to the city limits line;

District C: That part of said city lying south of the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad tracks and west of State Roads [35](#) and 37 extending westerly and southerly to the city limits line;

District D: That part of the city lying south of Seaboard Coast Line Railroad tracks and east of State Roads [35](#) and 37 extending easterly and southerly to the city limits line of the City of Lakeland;

and two (2) commissioners shall be elected at large, without regard to the district in which they may reside. The mayor shall likewise be elected at large. The present members of the city commission shall hold office for the terms for which they are respectively elected, unless a vacancy occurs by death, resignation or removal in accordance with the terms of this charter and respective successors to the present commissioners shall take office at the first city commission meeting in January after their election, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable.

(Ord. No. 2340, § 1, 4-5-82, election of 11-2-82; Ord. No. 2599, § 1, 8-6-84, election of 11-6-84; Ord. No. 2976, § 2, 12-21-87, election of 3-8-88; Ord. No. 4486, § 3, 11-17-03; [Ord. No. 5773](#), Att. A, 11-5-19)

- **Sec. 11. - Qualification of members.**

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