

**STRONG MAYOR TASK FORCE
CITY OF CLEARWATER
MAY 22, 2018**

Present:	Nino Accetta	Committee Member
	Norma Carlough	Committee Member
	Karen Graham Cunningham	Committee Member
	Jack Geller	Committee Member
	David Loyd	Committee Member
	Rosemarie Kibitlewski	Committee Member
	Keith Protonentis	Committee Member
	William Sturtevant	Committee Member
	Stan Vittetoe	Committee Member
	Howard Warshauer	Committee Member
Absent:	Bud Elias	Committee Member
	Cyndie Goudeau	Committee Member
	George Mantzaris	Committee Member
	Konrad McCree	Committee Member
	Olin Wright	Committee Member
	Doreen Caudell	Councilmember
Also Present:	George Cretekos	Mayor
	Hoyt Hamilton	Councilmember
	Bob Cundiff	Councilmember
	David Allbritton	Councilmember
	Pamela Akin	City Attorney
	Micah Maxwell	Assistant City Manager
	Nicole Sprague	ORLS Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Main Library

To provide continuity for research, items are in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.

Item # 3 – Sunshine Law Review

The City Attorney reviewed the Sunshine Laws and public records requirements.

Item #4 – Elect Chair and Vice Chair

Member Sturtevant moved to appoint Bud Elias as Chair. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously

Member Geller moved to appoint Howard Warshauer as Vice-Chair. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously

The Joint Meeting with City Council convened at 5:39 p.m.

Item #5 – Adopt Rules of Procedure

The City Attorney reviewed the Rules of Procedure

The City Attorney said the Task Force and Council informally decided to meet every Tuesday, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., in the Main Library Room A/B, except for one meeting when the library will not be available.

In response to a question, the City Attorney said afternoon meetings were not considered as the majority of the Task Force members work during the day. A comment was made that the public would have a better opportunity to attend evening meetings.

In response to a question regarding Rule 5 – Votes, the City Attorney said the purpose of a supermajority vote is to have a majority of the whole body approving a recommendation to Council.

Member Geller moved to change the word supermajority to majority in Rule 5. The motion was duly seconded

In response to a question, the City Attorney said in case of a tie vote, the issue will automatically be moved to the next meeting. Mayor Cretekos commented that by changing to majority, fewer members will be able to make a motion and pass recommendations; by keeping the supermajority language, it strengthens what the Task Force is trying to do.

Upon the vote being taken, the motion carried as follows: Committee Members Accetta, Carlough, Cunningham, Geller, Loyd, Kibitlewski, Protonentis, Sturtevant, Warshauer, and Councilmembers Hamilton, Allbritton and Cundiff voted “Aye” and Committee Member Vittetoe and Mayor Cretekos voted “Nay”.

Motion Carried.

Item #6 – Direction from Council

Councilmembers Cundiff, Hamilton, and Allbritton stressed the importance of reading the material provided to the Task Force and stated that Council wants to work together throughout the process.

The City Attorney said many charter sections will be affected and there are three areas to discuss: 1) Power of Executive Mayor, 2) Power of Council and the balance of those, and 3) Professional Management. She said she would like to

focus on those things necessary for strong mayor. Peripheral issues can be addressed during the next Charter Review Committee in 2019.

In response to questions, she said there are so many ways to set up strong mayor and there is no way to estimate the financial impact of changing the form of government until decisions have been made. Of the four charter examples she provided, two require a city administrator. She did not research council size as that would be an issue to be discussed during Charter Review. She said there is a lot of overlap and when discussing the power of the mayor, a discussion will need to be had regarding the power of council as they will flow together.

The City Attorney reviewed the Brief Comparison of Selected Strong Mayor Charter Requirements handout.

Discussion ensued regarding how to proceed with a work plan. It was stated that the Task Force needed to review the material provided and attend the next meeting where a representative from the Florida League of Cities would be providing a Form of Government presentation.

Member Geller moved to elect a strong mayor by majority if the Task Force moves forward with a strong mayor form of government. The motion was duly seconded.

Mayor Cretekos said by changing to a vote by majority, another election layer gets added to the process which increases the cost. He said the terms of the Mayor and Council also need to be considered. Ms. Kibitlewski requested further discussion to understand all the ramifications of the motion.

The City Attorney said Clearwater has always had plurality which means the highest vote getter is the winner. This change will trigger the need for a runoff process and at this point it is unclear what that process would look like.

Upon the vote being taken, the motion carried as follows: Committee Members Accetta, Cunningham, Geller, Loyd, Protonentis, Sturtevant, Vittetoe, Warshauer, and Councilmembers Hamilton and Allbritton voted “Aye”, Committee Members Carlough, Kibitlewski, Mayor Cretekos, and Councilmember Cundiff voted “Nay”.

Motion Carried.

The City Attorney clarified that any charter amendments made will be implemented over a time period as different issues will come into effect at different times.

Item #7 – Set agenda for next meeting

The City Attorney said Florida League of Cities representative Lynn Tipton will provide a PowerPoint presentation regarding Municipal Forms of Government in Florida.

Item #8 – Provide Direction for the June 5, 2018 meeting

Mayor Cretekos said Council has a conflict with the June 5th meeting.

Member Geller moved to hold a Task Force meeting on June 5, 2018. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Item #9 – Citizens to be heard

Bill Jonson thanked the Task Force for their willingness to participate. He urged the committee to look at the ultimate decision the voters will have to make and said it is important to look at the overall objectives to accomplish through the Charter. It would be important to discuss or consider the basic functions of government like how the City would come up with a vision or program of projects and how the City would hold their elected officials accountable.

Beth Rawlins thanked the Task Force for their service. She said she has not seen a problem for which the Task Force is seeking a solution. It is important to find the thing that is broken before a fix can be offered. She said at the last council meeting, she was called an outsider and lobbyist. She said she attended school here and her father was the editor of the Clearwater Times. She is part of this community and lives here. She said she is not being paid to be here but is passionate about professional city management and she does not like the direction that is being taken in her hometown.

Item #10 – Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Chair, Charter Review Committee

Attest:

City Clerk