



**Town of Surfside
Town Special Commission Meeting
Proposed Charter Ballot Questions
MINUTES**

June 18, 2014

7 p.m.

Town Hall Commission Chambers - 9293 Harding Ave, 2nd Floor
Surfside, FL 33154

1. Opening

A. Call to Order

Mayor Dietch called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M

B. Roll Call of Members

Town Clerk Sandra Novoa called the roll with the following members present: Mayor Dietch, Vice Mayor Tourgeman, Commissioner Karukin, Commissioner Olchyk and Commissioner Cohen.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Hector Perez led the Pledge of Allegiance

D. Introduction by Linda Miller, Town Attorney

Town Attorney Linda Miller

**E. Presentation by Commissioner Michael Karukin - Charter Review Board Liaison
Commissioner Karukin**

Commissioner Karukin gave a power point presentation and said their job this evening was to select which items will be put on the ballot. He asked that the slide presentation be put on the website so the community has the opportunity to read each item as they are quite dense. He suggested that no more than eight items be considered for inclusion in the ballot but even less 3 or 4 focusing on high priority items. Commissioner Karukin identified the following items:

1. Qualifying for Office – After reading the qualifications which also specify that the candidate must be a resident for at least one year the Commission voted 5-0 to go forward.
2. Induction into Office – There was discussion as to when results are certified by Miami-Dade County and when candidates are inducted into office and the hold over period. Mayor Dietch had questions regarding as what happens if a candidate is contested after election. After much discussion the Commission voted 5-0 not to put this item on the ballot.
3. Vacancy on Commission – The Commission agreed to remove the paragraph “consistent with Charter Section 19” and voted 5-0 to move this item forward.

4. Vacancy in Candidacy – The Commission voted 5-0 to move this item forward.

5. Canvassing Board – Town Attorney Miller gave more insight on this item. The Commission voted 5-0 to move this item forward.

6. Qualifications for elected office – Town Clerk Novoa explained the qualifying procedure and timeline for petitions. There was some discussion regarding item 1 and 2 under qualifications and it was agreed that they will only deal with item 1 which was changing the qualifying period to a 45-65 day qualifying period. The Mayor is asking the Commission to not shorten the qualifying period from 20 days to 10 days as he does not want to give the perception that would make it seem more difficult to become a candidate. Questions arose as to how much time a candidate has to correct his application in the event Dade County finds a problem with some signatures on the petition. It was agreed that the qualifying period should reflect 45-65 days.

7. Staggered Terms (4yr Commission/2yr term Mayor) – There was some discussion as to how the Vice Mayor is appointed. The Vice Mayor selection shall be by the Town Commission. The staggered 4 year terms was clarified. The Commission voted 5-0 to move this item forward.

8. Runoffs – The Commission voted 5-0 to move this item forward.

9. November Election – Discussion changing the Commission election date to November would be cost efficient as well as getting a better voter turnout. If this is approved, then the regular schedule election of March 2016 will elect a Commission that will have an 8 month hold over until the new election date of November 2018.

Vice Mayor Tourgeman made a motion that the March 2016 election will have an 8 month hold over for the then seated Commission with the new election taking place in November 2018. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olchyk and all voted in favor.

F. Discussion and Selection of Proposed Charter Ballot Questions – Linda Miller, Town Attorney

Commissioner Olchyk brought to mind the cost of having a special attorney draft the new Charter and feels this was unnecessary and we should not go to the outside again. Commissioner Karukin said the end result was very good but agreed it was more costly than anticipated and next time they will look at this differently.

Commissioner Karukin recapped all the items and felt they have selected too many ballot questions. Vice Mayor Tourgeman thought all the items were fine to submit if we simplify the language so the voters have a clear understanding of the 8 items selected.

The Mayor has directed the Town Attorney to cross check for inconsistencies and bring back a plan moving forward at the July 8, 2014 Commission meeting.

Commissioner Olchyk made a motion to accept the Mayor's direction to the Town Attorney. The motion received a second from Vice Mayor Tourgeman and all voted in favor.

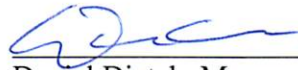
The Mayor thanked Anthony Blate, Member of the Charter Review Board for his work on the Board. Mr. Blate then thanked Town Manager Crotty, Town Attorney Miller, and Town Clerk Novoa for their dedication and hard work.

The Mayor asked for a vote to accept all 8 items to go forward and the Commission voted 5-0 in favor.

2. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Accepted this 8th day of July, 2014



Daniel Dietch, Mayor

Attest:



Sandra Novoa, CMC
Town Clerk