

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 - Vice-Chairman	Doug J. Congress	Randy Krise
Richard Akin	Keith Dean	Randal Mercer
Noel Andress	Eric Feichthaler	Maryanne Preston
Carl Barraco Jr.	Ronald Inge	Maribel Sanchez - <i>Absent</i>

LEE COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Deputy County Attorney, Andrea Fraser
Assistant County Attorney, Joe Adams

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Nathan Shaw called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman Shaw called for Public Comment, and there was one speaker:

- Marsha Ellis – Lee County Resident
 - Lee County resident Marsha Ellis spoke to the Commission regarding the recent conflicts between the Lee County Legislative Delegation and the Board of County Commissioners, the need for a more diverse representation on the Charter Review Commission and the barriers to productivity currently experienced by the Charter Review Commission.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION ON VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION:

On behalf of City of Sanibel Attorney, John Agnew, Commission Member Doug Congress expressed opposition to the proposed amendment, and requested postponing any future discussion the Charter Review Commission may have regarding voluntary annexation until hearing from local municipalities about the updated language. Mr. Congress stated that he did not believe the proposed amendments fixed all problems associated with voluntary annexation, and recommended that the County Attorney’s Office provide the revised proposed amendments to local municipalities, and special districts for review and feedback.

Commission Member Noel Andress discussed at length his concerns regarding infrastructure cost, operational cost, and increased assessments passed along to residents when property owners annex land to a local municipality. Commission Member Kevin Besserer shared concerns over Interlocal Agreements and property owner rights, and Commission Member Eric Feichthaler stated his opinion that annexation is a State Legislative issue not a local government issue.

Commission Member Ronald Inge provided some possible edits to the proposed amendments, and raised concerns over the lack of time limits enforced when it comes to Staff review of voluntary annexation applications. Commission Member Richard Akin questioned if the proposed amendments would solve future issues concerning voluntary annexation, or create more legal issues.

The Commission reached consensus to direct Deputy County Attorney, Andrea Fraser, and Assistant County Attorney Joe Adams to revise the proposed amendments regarding voluntary annexation with the feedback provided during the meeting. The Commission requested that the County Attorney’s office provide all local municipalities, and special districts with copies of the revised proposed amendments so that they may come and speak before the commission at the January 16, 2024, Charter Review Commission meeting.

LEE COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETINGS:

Chairman Nathan Shaw provided the Commission with the updated list of dates and locations for the upcoming Charter Review Commission Public Meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m.