

Town of Welaka Charter Review Committee
Meeting Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Committee Members: Jamie Watts, Alexa Peronard, Robert Turnbull, Micshell Turner, William Pritchett

Call to order at 5:07 p.m.

Roll Call: Jamie Watts, absent. Alexa Peronard, present. Robert Turnbull, present. Micshell Turner, present. William Pritchett, present.

Adoption of Former Meeting Minutes: None; this is first committee meeting.

Announcements: Jamie Watts is not present this evening; he is attending a funeral. Jamie Watts will be withdrawing from the committee. Jessica Finch will be present next time as his replacement.

Motion by William Pritchett to nominate Robert Turnbull as committee's new chair. Second by Micshell Turner. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Attorney Patrick Kennedy joined the meeting.

Mr. Turnbull advised the Charter Review Committee was returning to meetings to address the charter in its current form by reviewing and revising as determined, hoping to have a revised version ready for the November 2024 election cycle.

Discussion was had with committee members expressing their concerns about strong-mayor versus weak-mayor versus town-manager form of government, the current proposed charter, suggestions for revisions, suggestions on how to conduct future workshops to introduce the revised version of the charter to the community; suggestion to move town voting to November, and to have Supervisor of Elections Charles Overturf attend the next charter-review meeting to discuss.

Public Comment: Discussion of past mayors, issues, possible future issues, and the potential cost of not having a town manager or qualified strong mayor in place; suggestion to have a town hall meeting with one person advocating for each position.

Closing Remarks: For next meeting, attempts will be made to find other towns or municipalities with different governing arrangements and review their problems and successes with their situations; a copy of the Model City Charter that was utilized by the first charter review committee will be provided for the new committee; and Mr. Overturf will be contacted and requested to attend the next meeting.

Adjournment at 6:16 p.m.