

Milton Town Council Meeting May 11, 2016 Summary Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order in the Milton Public Library at approximately 6:30 PM on May 11, 2016 by Mayor Kanakos. A moment of silence was then observed, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call:

Charles Fleetwood, present (although a few minutes late)
Emory West, absent
Esthelda Parker-Selby, absent
Michael Cote, present
Kevin Kelly, present
Sam Garde, present
Theodore Kanakos, present
Seth Thompson, Milton Town Solicitor, present
John Collier, Milton Project Coordinator, present

These Preliminary Minutes:

These minutes cover only the high points of the meeting. The discussions were recorded, and may be transcribed at a later date. The recording is available in Town Hall. Documents included in the Council Package are not included as attachments to these summary minutes.

Additions or Corrections to the Agenda:

There were no suggestions for additions or corrections to the Agenda.

Agenda Approval:

A motion was made by Councilman Garde to approve the Agenda as submitted. Councilman Kelly seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Workshop style discussion regarding proposed amendments to the Town

Charter:

Prior to discussing specifics, the schedule for submission and review of the Charter changes was discussed in detail. The Town Solicitor indicated that the Legislative Session would close on June 30, and that the legislature would not be in session again until January, 2017. He also indicated that what we are undertaking is more of a re-incorporation than just an amendment to the Charter. He further stated that the Legislature has only 16 days of in-session time before they recess until 2017, and that it might be difficult for them to act on a re-incorporation in that compressed time frame. Councilman Garde opined that there was no rush to complete the changes, and that getting them right and agreed was more important.

Mr Collier facilitated the discussions by projecting the current draft of the changes to the Charter. He indicated the draft being projected contained, to best of his knowledge and ability, all of the changes recommended by the Charter and Ordinance Committee, as well as other changes suggested during other past reviews. He made every effort to incorporate new changes into that draft as the points were agreed during the discussions.

Aspects of the draft Charter revisions were discussed, picking up where the last workshop left off, i.e., at Section 27. Vigorous discussions ensued about collection of revenues and the Town budget. Prior to adjourning, Mayor Kanakos brought up the fact that he was in favor of re-establishing a hard cap on the total allowed for property taxes, rather than the current percentage cap. Councilman Garde reminded him that it just last year when we submitted a change to the Charter asking for the percentage cap, and that it might seem like we are confused if we asked to return to a hard cap. Mayor Kanakos was passionate about his desire for a hard cap, reminding the Town Council that he ran with that as one of his main issues. He indicated that citizens at "Meet & Greet" gatherings during his campaign considered this an very important issue. Mayor Kanakos recommended that Council consider sending a request to the Legislature during their current session for only one change to the Charter, specifically changing back to a hard cap. At the end of the discussions, Councilman Fleetwood made a motion to prepare a resolution to send a request to the Legislature that change the language in our Charter from a percentage cap to a hard cap of \$1.5 million.

Councilman Garde seconded. A roll call vote was called with the following result:

Councilman Fleetwood: Yes

Councilman Cote: No

Councilman Garde: Yes

Councilman Kelly: Yes

Mayor Kanakos: Yes

When the motion and vote were recounted, Councilman Kelly indicated that he thought he was voting for a cap of \$2.0 million. He requested that that the previous motion and vote be reconsidered and made a motion to that effect. Councilman Garde seconded and that motion was unanimously approved. Councilman Garde then made a motion that the Town Solicitor be empowered to prepare a Resolution for presentation to Representative Smyk and Senator Lopez to make a single change to the Milton Town Charter, changing the cap on property taxes from a percentage to a fixed cap of \$1,750,000. Councilman Kelly seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

A final summary of all Charter workshops will be prepared when the draft charter changes are all agreed by Mayor and Town Council members.

New Business: Discussion and possible vote on the following:

a. Amendments to the Town Charter:

The Mayor and Town Council did not get to the end of the Charter review. Therefore no votes were needed or taken on this Agenda item.

b. Resolution to request an amendment of the Charter of the Town of Milton

A draft Resolution was included in the Council packet for this meeting. However, since the Charter review was still incomplete, no votes were needed or taken on this Agenda item.

Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn.

Approval

These minutes were approved as part of the Consent Agenda at the Town Council meeting held on March 3, 2017.

Very Respectfully submitted,
James C. ("Sam") Garde,
Secretary of the Town Council