

Strong Mayor Task Force – summary of 5/29/18 meeting

- ✓ The Strong Mayor task force held its second meeting at the Clearwater East Library at St. Petersburg College on Tuesday, May 29, 2018 from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM.
- ✓ Lynn Tipton from the Florida League of Cities gave a PowerPoint presentation to the group. Relevant documents are attached.
- ✓ Comparison of cities based on peer likeness rather than population count.
- ✓ Discussion of power and authority of Strong Mayor and Council, including:
 - Checks and balances.
 - Effectiveness and efficiency.
 - For Elected Mayor, may not list qualifications in the Charter, other than the 6 to 12-month residency requirement.
 - If voting, mayor has both legislative and administrative responsibilities (only 2 FL cities have this: Apopka and West Palm Beach).
 - Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and Chief of Staff (COS) – hired to assist Mayor, approved by Council.
 - CAO should be required by Charter to have ICMA (International City/County Management Association) credentials, as many cities do for City Managers.
<https://icma.org/>
- ✓ Model City Charter – National Civic League. The Model City Charter serves as a “blueprint” for communities seeking to draft or revise their own home-rule charters. A city charter establishes the framework for how a municipal government operates—its structure, responsibilities, functions, and processes. The Second Printing (2011), Eighth Edition of the Model City Charter expands diversity and inclusiveness language in the charter preamble to underscore the right of every individual to equal opportunities and establish policies to prohibit discrimination.
<https://www.nationalcivicleague.org/resources/model-city-charter-8th-edition/>
 - Publication recommends CAO be considered for Strong Mayor – credentials required are like those of City Manager.
 - Salaries for Strong Mayor and CAO should reflect that CAO has a skill set that the Mayor may or may not have.
 - Role of the CAO can be defined in the Charter, otherwise funding must be stipulated in the Charter. Strong Mayor typically presents budget to Council.
 - If Strong Mayor does not vote in the legislative body, then he/she is not subject to FL Sunshine Laws.
- ✓ Audits: who has what role in fiscal leadership?
- ✓ Council and Staff: will Council have staff? Does Charter need to specify staff and administrative assistants? Who hires staff – Mayor or Council?
- ✓ Who has authority to hire/fire/evaluate City Attorney and City Clerk?
- ✓ Most pendulum shifts have occurred in last 70 years.
- ✓ Average Charter Reviews on a 10-year cycle.
- ✓ Charter Review usually called following Council turnover or exponential growth.
- ✓ Change or correction to Charter requires a referendum.
- ✓ Most Charter Reviews changing the form of government take 9-12 months to complete this review/recommendation prior to referendum.

- ✓ CAO role defined in Model City Charter – COS is not.
- ✓ Model Charters have veto power for Mayor on ordinances, and line-item veto for budget, or both. Majority or super-majority of Council required to override Mayoral veto – must be in the Charter.
- ✓ Setting salaries based on roles and duties – study peer cities. Salaries by ordinance require 2 public meetings. Charter can set Mayor's salary – fixed until revised.
- ✓ Discussion of election procedures and run-off elections.
- ✓ Special elections cost approximately \$100K. Supervisor of Elections does not like run-offs. St. Pete uses Primary election system.
- ✓ Discussion of role clarification for the committee.
- ✓ Review of City Attorney's comparison chart of City Charters.
- ✓ The video recording of this meeting and all subsequent meetings will be available on the City of Clearwater [website](#).