

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
LAFOURCHE PARISH HOME RULE  
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
BARRIOS CENTER  
RACELAND, LOUISIANA

The Charter Revision Commission assembled at its regular meeting place, Barrios Center, 1612 HWY. 182, Suite 100, Raceland, Louisiana on Tuesday, April 14, 2004 at 6:30 P. M.

A prayer was given by John Plaisance, II, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Danny Mayet.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

Sharleen Hotard  
Charles Beasley  
O.E. Monnier, Jr.  
Danny Mayet  
Henry Lafont, Jr.  
John Plaisance  
Joseph "Joe" Mickles  
Walter Lanier, Jr.  
Joseph "Joe" Fertitta

Absent:

Mary Kitchen  
Elizabeth Breaux

A motion was made by Walter Lanier, Jr. for correction of the minutes, from 22 week to 15 week for the commission to finish their review of the charter to have the charter on the ballot for November 2, 2004.

The Commission discussed whether to follow Mason's Law or Robert Rules. Chairman John Plaisance decided that he would exercise his discretion on what rule to follow. There was no objections.

A motion was made by Henry Lafont and seconded by Joseph "Joe" Mickles that the minutes be accepted as corrected. Without objection, the motion was adopted.

Chairman Plaisance, recognized Walter Lanier, Jr. Judge Lanier gave a report on the contacts he had made with the past Parish Presidents.

Judge Lanier introduced past Parish President Aaron Caillouet. Mr Caillouet recommenced the Parish have 7 single member districts and 2 at large seats. He feels that the budget in the present charter is good. Mr. Caillouet also felt that the term governing authority should not have been changed to Council. He addressed the issue of the salary of the Parish President stating the Parish President is underpaid. He suggested that the parish boards be limited in the Charter.

Chairman Plaisance received a list from Judge Lanier of future guest to be invited which included:

1. 9 Council members
2. Lonnie Bewley (Parish Bonding Attorney)
3. Joey Richard ( Parish Auditor)
4. Daniel Sullivan ( Civil Service League)
5. Jake Giardina ( Blue Ribbon Committee)

The Commission discussed when each guest would be invited. It was decided that Jake Giardina would be invited to the next meeting.

Chairman Plaisance noted that Mary Kitchen came in at 7:05 P.M..

Chairman Plaisance recognized Councilman Mark Atzenhoffer. Mr Atzenhoffer addressed the Commission stating her that he would like the Council to have the ability to hire its own auditor.

Chairman Plaisance recognized Parish President Charlotte Randolph. President Randolph addressed the Commission stating that her authority is not clearly defined. She feels that the salary of \$81,000.00 for the President is to high. She thinks that the salary should be between \$60,000.00 and \$72,000.00.

Judge Lanier explained the reasons for putting the Parish President on the Council and he also explained the governing authority. The President was on the governing authority when the charter was originally written.

Chairman Plaisance recognized George Randolph. Mr Randolph addressed the commission on Parish President being on the Council but not be the chairman or set the agenda. He felt that the Parish President should not take away the authority of the Council.

Chairman Plaisance recognized Mark Atzenhoffer. Mr Atzenhoffer expressed his concerns about the line being blurred between the two branches of government. Putting them together would lose something.

Chairman Plaisance recognized Donavin Toups. Mr. Toups questioned the authority in the Parish and what can be done to clarify it.

Chairman Plaisance recognized Cullan Curole, Parish Administrator. Mr. Curole addressed the Commission pertaining to the Parish President being on the Council and questioned whether making the Parish President and Ex-officio Member would solve the problems with the ordinances.

Aaron Caillouet addressed the commission again regarding the separation of powers.

Councilman Mark Atzenhoffer addressed the Commission pertaining to the correcting of the ordinances.

Chairman Plaisance recognized Walter Lanier, Jr. Judge Lanier explained the changes in the Preamble from the original and why the commission should keep references to God in the Preamble.

Joseph "Joe" Fertitta suggested that the Preamble be amended to state "this plan of Government" be changed to " this plan of local self-government". Without objection the Preamble was so amended.

Walter Lanier, Jr. moved that in Article I the word "governments" be changed to governmental; the last sentence be deleted and that the third sentence be amended to state "This plan of government is a " President-Council " form of government; and transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence of Article III Section I under Separation of Powers and Functions. This motion was seconded by Joseph "Joe" Fertitta.

Roll Call Vote:

Mary Kitchen	Yes
Sharleen Hotard	No

Elizabeth Breaux	Absent
Charles Beasley	Yes
Octave “Butch” Monnier	Yes
Danny Mayet	Yes
Henry Lafont, Jr.	Yes
John Plaisance	Yes
Joseph “Joe” Mickles	Yes
Walter Lanier, Jr.	Yes
Joseph “Joe” Fertitta	Yes

Walter Lanier, Jr. suggested that the word “general” should be changed to “police power”. Judge Lanier offered a written amendment to Article II to add the definition of the police power. This amended stated “ The Parish shall have the right, power, and authority to adopt any ordinance necessary, requisite, or proper to promote, protect, and preserve the general welfare, safety, health, peace, and good order of the parish, subject only to the limitation that no ordinance shall be inconsistent with the constitution or a provision of this Charter.”

Motion by Henry Lafont and seconded by Joseph “Joe” Fertitta that Article II be accepted as amended

Roll Call Vote

Mary Kitchen	Yes
Sharleen Hotard	Yes
Elizabeth Breaux	Absent
Charles Beasley	Yes
O. E. Monnier, Jr.	Yes
Danny Mayet	Yes
Henry Lafont, Jr.	Yes
John Plaisance	Yes
Joseph “Joe” Mickles	Yes
Walter Lanier, Jr.	Yes
Joseph “Joe” Fertitta	Yes

A motion was made by Joseph “Joe” Mickles and seconded by Charles Beasley that the items on the agenda that will not be taken up tonight are be deferred.

Roll Call Vote

Mary Kitchen	Yes
Sharleen Hotard	Yes
Elizabeth Breaux	Absent
Charles Beasley	Yes
O. E. Monnier,	Yes
Danny Mayet	Yes
Henry Lafont, Jr.	Yes
John Plaisance	Yes
Joseph “Joe” Mickles	Yes
Walter Lanier, Jr.	Yes
Joseph “Joe” Fertitta	Yes

A motion was made by Joseph “Joe” Mickles and seconded Charles Beasley that next week meeting schedule for Wednesday is changed to Tuesday.

Roll Call Vote

Mary Kitchen	Yes
Sharleen Hotard	Yes
Elizabeth Breaux	Absent
Charles Beasley	Yes
O. E. Monnier,	Yes
Danny Mayet	Yes
Henry Lafont, Jr.	Yes
John Plaisance	Yes
Joseph "Joe" Mickles	Yes
Walter Lanier, Jr.	Yes
Joseph "Joe" Fertitta	Yes

Next meeting is set for Tuesday April 20, 2004 at 6:30 P. M.

Invited guest will be Mr. Jake Gairdina.

On motion by Henry Lafont duly seconded unanimously adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

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MARY R. KITCHEN, Assistant Secretary

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JOHN J. PLAISANCE, II, Chairman