

Pine Island Charter Workshop Meeting Notes from all 4 Meetings

Language to be included in Preamble

Items of importance are: Land use, clean water, and maintaining present lifestyle (quality of life). All submitted Preamble language will be submitted to drafters for consideration.

Alternative Preamble language

#1

We the people of Matlacha Isle, Matlacha, and Pine Island – including St. James City, Pineland, and Bokeelia – wish to govern ourselves under the municipal name of Matlacha Pine Island.² We do so out of necessity, as Lee County and our neighboring city of Cape Coral neither respect our freedom nor represent our interests.

We establish this Municipality to forever preserve and protect our perpetual rights: (1) personal freedom; (2) our lands, wildlife, birds of the air, and fish of the sea; (3) the health of our waters; (4) adherence to the Greater Pine Island Community Plan as adopted by the Lee County Commission on January, 2002 and as amended March 2016 with an effective date of April 2016; (5) government by the people; (6) frugality; (7) preservation of the historic district of Matlacha; and, (8) the unmatched cordiality among our people.

No act of the government established by this Charter shall infringe upon these perpetual rights.

#2

We the people of The Village of Matlacha-Pine Island, under the constitution and laws of the State of Florida, in order to secure the benefits of local self-government and to provide for an honest and accountable Council-Manager government and to preserve our unique community quality and character, do hereby adopt this Charter and confer upon the Village the following powers, subject to the following restrictions, and prescribed by the following procedures and governmental structure. By this action, we secure the benefits of home rule and affirm the values of representative democracy, professional management, strong political leadership, citizen participation, and regional cooperation. We the people are committed to support a small government with the goal of keeping taxes low and the Island affordable.

#3

We the citizens of The Village of Pine Islands, under the constitution and laws of the State of Florida, in order to secure and reflect the will of the majority of the citizens in our local laws, in the future planning and development of our community, wish to form a

local self-government to provide an honest and accountable to its citizens government , so as to preserve our unique community quality and character We do hereby adopt this Charter and confer upon the Village the following powers, subject to the following restrictions, and prescribed by the following procedures and governmental structure. By this action, we secure the benefits of home rule democracy and affirm the values of democracy, professional management, strong direct citizen leadership, strong direct citizen participation, and regional cooperation. We the citizen are committed to support a small democratic government fully accountable and controlled by its citizens with the goal of keeping taxes low, maintaining our rural environment, and the Islands affordable pursuant to the will of our citizens.

Issues Confirmed

Form of Government will be Council/Manager

Issues to be included in proposed charter

Primary funding for capital improvements and maintenance will be by special assessments from improved properties based on a prorated share or taxable value

FEMA

Concerns over the impact of incorporation on Flood insurance will need to be studied further.

Council Makeup

Number of council members – 7 member hybrid with 5 members elected from single member districts and 2 members elected at large

Land Use in Charter

Comp plan will be included in Charter with reference to existing Pine Island Plan with dates and will only be able to be changed by referendum of the registered voters

Council Meetings

City Council will meet at least once a month for a minimum total of 12 meetings per year.

City Manager will reside in city once selected and remain during term. All staff will be hired by City Council and or Manager none will be elected.

Debt

Any long-term debt (over 5 years) will only be allowed with approval from the voters by referendum.

Budget

Budget will be adopted in compliance with Florida Law

City Staff

Original draft feasibility study included 5 employees, presently only 3. This should be reconsidered in next draft of the study.

Changes to Charter

Initiatives, reconsider ordinances and recall petitions will need 5% and Charter changes 10% signatures of registered voters.

All will be approved by 50% +1 of those voting in the election.

Term of Council Members 4years

Term Limits 2 consecutive terms including not allowing an elected official to change seats in order to extend their term to over the two term limit.

Council Elections Each candidate will need to have a majority of those voting in their election

Village Canvassing Board Canvassing board shall consist of Elected official (Mayor) and City Clerk along with County Commissioner, Supervisor of Elections and County Judge.

Eminent Domain Can only be used by the city when it approved by the voters in a referendum vote.

Committees, Boards, Departments Can be created by Council when not paid and can only be created with a referendum vote of the electors when paid.

Capital Improvement Program CPI shall be approved every 5 years by a vote of the electors. This will need researched as the CIP is part of the Comp Plan and as such may need to be approved by the voters due to the comp plan being part of the charter.