



City of Tarpon Springs, Florida

324 E. Pine Street
Second Floor Media Room
Tarpon Springs, Florida 34689
<https://tarponspringsfl.portal.civicclerk.com>

Charter Revision Commission
MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024
2:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. April 29, 2024
- b. May 6, 2024

2. CHARTER CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS BY:

- a. Commissioner Koulias (1 hour if needed)
- b. Commissioner DiDonato (1 hour if needed)

- c. Public (Limited to 15 Minutes)

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SECTIONS (Continued - only if time permits)

4. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS - NEXT MEETING May 20, 2024

PUBLIC COMMENTS

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
April 29, 2024

THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION MET IN THE SECOND FLOOR MEDIA ROOM, 324 EAST PINE STREET, TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2024, AT 2:00 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

	DR. CARRIE ROOT	CHAIR
	JIM KOLIANOS	VICE-CHAIR
	DR. TINA BUCUVALAS	MEMBER
	JOAN JENNINGS	MEMBER
	MIKE KOUSKOUTIS	MEMBER
	JOHN TARAPANI	MEMBER
ABSENT/EXECUSED:	MERLIN SEAMON	MEMBER
ALSO PRESENT:	ANDREW SALZMAN	CITY ATTORNEY
	IRENE S. JACOBS	CITY CLERK & COLLECTOR
	K. MICHELE MANOUSOS	DEPUTY CITY CLERK & COLLECTOR

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Root called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Deputy City Clerk Manousos called roll.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (APRIL 22, 2024)

MOTION: MRS. JENNINGS
SECOND: DR. BUCUVALAS

To approve minutes of April 22, 2024

Vote on Motion: Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bucuvalas	Yes
Mrs. Jennings	Yes
Mr. Kouskoutis	Yes
Mr. Seamon	Absent
Mr. Tarapani	Yes
Vice Chair Kolianos	Yes
Chair Root	Yes

2. CHARTER CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS BY:

A) PUBLIC (IF PRESENT)

Chair Root asked if there was any public present who would like to suggest changes to the charter and there were none.

3. DISCUSS PROCESS FOR INVITING BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, CHARTER OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

City Clerk Jacobs distributed the updated amended calendar listing members schedules. She then pointed out that the rescheduling date for Memorial Day would be Wednesday May 29, 2004, and if a reschedule date was needed for Labor Day, two meetings back-to-back could be scheduled the week before. A lengthy discussion then took place on the process for inviting the Board of Commissioners, Charter Officials, and Department Heads. City Clerk Jacobs advised that a press release went out inviting the public to offer suggested charter changes, and if they could not be in attendance, they could submit those suggestions to the City Clerk's Office to bring before this Commission. It was determined to try to schedule the Board of Commissioners, Charter Officials, and Department heads by June 10, 2024.

The Charter Revision Commission further discussed the timeline and discussed ways that the summary of questions prior to the election could reach the highest number of voters.

4. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SECTIONS

Section 1: Creation and Boundaries

Chair Root questioned what Appendix A was, that was referenced in this section and City Clerk Jacobs replied that Appendix A was the legal description of the boundaries of the city limits and amended as annexations occurred. Attorney Salzman then defined voluntary vs. involuntary annexations, after asked by Mr. Tarapani.

MOTION: VICE CHAIR KOLIANOS
SECOND: MR. KOUSKOUTIS

To leave section 1 as written.

Vote on Motion: Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bucuvalas	Yes
Mrs. Jennings	Yes
Mr. Kouskoutis	Yes
Mr. Seamon	Absent
Mr. Tarapani	Yes
Vice Chair Kolianos	Yes
Chair Root	Yes

Section 2: Powers

Mr. Kouskoutis asked Attorney Salzman if the powers were per statute, and he responded that this section was not verbatim statutory.

MOTION: VICE CHAIR KOLIANOS
SECOND: MRS. JENNINGS

To leave section 2 as written.

Vote on Motion: Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bucuvalas	Yes
Mrs. Jennings	Yes
Mr. Kouskoutis	Yes
Mr. Seamon	Absent
Mr. Tarapani	Yes
Vice Chair Kolianos	Yes
Chair Root	Yes

(Continued)

4. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SECTIONS (Continued)

Section 3: Limitation of Powers

The following items were discussed: subsection (h) adjustment to property purchase amounts; yearly percentage adjustments; and removal of amounts and base on index. There was additional discussion on public control through referendum, voter participation, and not tying the hands of the BOC.

Chair Root summarized information needed prior to voting on this section:

1. Which properties in the last 5 years were purchased above and below the \$ 350,000 threshold.
2. Which properties were lost because of time required for a referendum.
3. The use of those properties.
4. Which properties were passed up.

Section 4: Police Department and Section 5: Fire Department

There were no changes to the language in both sections; however, would revisit this item because some felt it would be better if these sections were placed under Section 3 Limitation of Powers. Attorney Salzman advised that even though it made sense, he cautioned proposing questions on just their location.

Section 8: Board of Commissioners, composition, duties, responsibilities, and powers

After discussion of this section, Chair Root summarized items to consider for this section:

1. In subsection (h) and (i) should the three-year requirement be retained or changed to five years with start date added.
2. In subsection (j) add wording to prioritize Board and Committee applicants by special talents, knowledge, and skill sets.
3. Add subsection (r) which requires the city to maintain their CLG (Comprehensive Local Government) status and follow guidelines and rules.
4. In subsection (q) add language regarding the city to advocate for funding for commercial shipping and boat building access from the Anclote River to the Alternate 19 bridge.
5. Ways to get the BOC to focus on dredging the required cuts.

Section 9: Duties of Mayor

MOTION: VICE CHAIR KOLIANOS

SECOND: MR. TARAPANI

To leave section 9 as written.

Vote on Motion: Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bucuvalas	Yes
Mrs. Jennings	Yes
Mr. Kouskoutis	Yes
Mr. Seamon	Absent
Mr. Tarapani	Yes
Vice Chair Kolianos	Yes
Chair Root	Yes

Section 10: Vice Mayor

MOTION: MR. KOUSKOUTIS
SECOND: MR. TARAPANI

To leave section 10 as written.

Vote on Motion: Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bucuvalas	Yes
Mrs. Jennings	Yes
Mr. Kouskoutis	Yes
Mr. Seamon	Absent
Mr. Tarapani	Yes
Vice Chair Kolianos	Yes
Chair Root	Yes

5. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS – NEXT MEETING MAY 6, 2024

Chair Root announced that the next meeting would be held on Monday, May 6, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Anita Protos, 901 Bayshore Drive, agreed with earlier comments that Boards should be staffed with people that have special skills and knowledge that pertain to the Board applying for.

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS:

Chair Root asked for staff comments and there were none.

The Charter Review Commission all felt this was a good and positive meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Root adjourned the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

DR. ROOT, CHAIR

ATTEST:

IRENE S. JACOBS, CMC
CITY CLERK & COLLECTOR

CITY CLERK'S NOTE: This meeting has been recorded in its entirety and the recordings are kept on file in the City Clerk's Office for the required retention period.

MINUTES
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
May 6, 2024

THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION MET IN THE SECOND FLOOR MEDIA ROOM, 324 EAST PINE STREET, TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024, AT 2:00 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

DR. CARRIE ROOT	CHAIR
JIM KOLIANOS	VICE-CHAIR
DR. TINA BUCUVALAS	MEMBER
JOAN JENNINGS	MEMBER
MIKE KOUSKOUTIS	MEMBER
MERLIN SEAMON	MEMBER
JOHN TARAPANI	MEMBER

ALSO PRESENT:	ANDREW SALZMAN	CITY ATTORNEY
	IRENE S. JACOBS	CITY CLERK & COLLECTOR

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Root called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Jacobs called roll.

1. CHARTER CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS BY:

- A) COMMISSIONER KOULIANOS
 - B) CITY MANAGER LeCOURIS
 - C) PUBLIC (IF PRESENT)
-

A.) COMMISSIONER KOULIANOS

Commissioner Koulianos presented a power point presentation (Exhibit 1) addressing residency requirements, and building height restrictions.

The Commission then asked questions regarding prioritizing capital improvement projects, residency requirements, building heights, property purchase amounts, maintaining cuts, CLG status, prioritizing board applicants by knowledge and skill sets of that board, volunteers being able to serve on more than one board or committee, and thoughts on revamping the Marine Commerce Committee to which he answered.

B.) CITY MANAGER LeCOURIS

City Manager LeCouris advised the Commission that at this time, he had nothing to suggest and that his philosophy was that less was more.

The Commission then asked City Manager LeCouris questions regarding prioritizing capital improvement projects, residency requirements, property purchase amounts, maintaining cuts, CLG status, prioritizing board applicants by knowledge and skill sets of that board, thoughts on revamping the Marine Commerce Committee, sidewalk improvements, maintenance requirements for Brazilian peppers, and thoughts for a household mailer for property purchase referendums and adding funding source to ballot language, to which he answered.

A five-minute break was taken at 3:52 p.m. and the reconvened at 4:02 p.m.

C.) PUBLIC COMMENTS (If present)

Peter Dalacos, 514 Ashland Avenue, had the following suggestions:

- Section 3: Limitation of Powers – felt an increase to \$500,000 would be reasonable.
- Section 8: Board of Commissioners, composition, duties, responsibilities, and powers-would like to see to citizen board members required on board makeup in subsection (g)
Would like to see the Sustainability Plan be added like subsection (H) and (i)
In subsection (q) felt grants should be given by the city to increase commercial sponging and fishing
- Wants a Land Preservation Ordinance under reserved section 28.
- Section 16: City Manager; Acting City Manager – subsection (f) add language regarding capital improvement prioritization.
- Section 19: Civil Service Board – If this Board was kept that terms be changed.
- Section 20: Residency – suggested which positions are still valid and redo titles.
- Section 23: General – require the City to post financial reports on-line and an easier way to find information.
- Section 26: Streets and Sidewalk Improvement Investment Fund – felt first line can be removed.
- Section 30: Initiative and Referendum - maybe change language to read the next election tied to county or federal due to the cost of a stand alone.
- Agrees with Commissioner Koulianos' idea for height restriction.

(Continued)

1. CHARTER CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS BY: (Continued)

A) COMMISSIONER KOULIANOS

B) CITY MANAGER LeCOURIS

C) PUBLIC (IF PRESENT)

C.) PUBLIC COMMENTS (If present)

Anita Protos, 901 Bayshore Drive, wanted the residency section, property purchase amounts to stay the way they are currently.

Georganna Frantzis, 15 Athens Street, agreed with City Manager LeCouris that less in the Charter was more. She then pointed out a few comments that were made regarding volunteer advisory boards and felt the idea of serving on more than one board was problematic. Additionally, in her opinion, felt residency should always be a requirement for volunteer advisory boards; and also agreed with former Mayor Protos on residency requirements for certain city employees.

3. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS – NEXT MEETING MAY 13, 2024

Chair Root announced that the next meeting would be held on Monday, May 13, 2024. Mr. Kouskoutis and Mr. Tarpani reminded the Commission that they would not be in attendance at this meeting. Discussion then ensued how public comments for charter changes and other generic public comments would be managed. Mr. Kouskoutis would like to the possibilities of having a night meeting and if it could be supported by staff. City Clerk Jacobs said it was not an issue with staff supporting it but if it could be televised.

2. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SECTIONS

MOTION: MRS. JENNINGS

SECOND: DR. BUCUVALAS

To not do this section as time did not permit.

Vote on Motion: Upon viva voce vote, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Anita Protos, 901 Bayshore Drive, agreed with earlier comments that Boards should be staffed with people that have special skills and knowledge that pertain to the Board applying for.

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS:

Chair Root asked for staff comments and there were none.

Mr. Tarapani wanted to be sure that Chair Root noted the option to consider doing a direct mailer requirement for referendum land purchases and a funding source disclosed on ballot language.

The Charter Review Commission all felt this was a good and positive meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Root adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

DR. ROOT, CHAIR

ATTEST:

IRENE S. JACOBS, CMC
CITY CLERK & COLLECTOR

CITY CLERK'S NOTE: This meeting has been recorded in its entirety and the recordings are kept on file in the City Clerk's Office for the required retention period.