



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
WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2024
2:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 4 minutes)

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. May 20, 2024

2. CHARTER CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS BY:

- a. Mayor Vatikiotis (1 hour if needed)
- b. Vice Mayor Eisner (1 hour if needed)

- c. Public (Limited to 10 Minutes)

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

4. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS - NEXT MEETING JUNE 3, 2024

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
May 20, 2024

THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION MET IN THE SECOND FLOOR MEDIA ROOM, 324 EAST PINE STREET, TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON MONDAY, MAY 20, 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
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.

*Mr. Seamon left the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (MAY 13, 2024)

MOTION: MRS. JENNINGS
SECOND: MR. SEAMON

To approve minutes of May 13, 2024 with
the correction to Mr. Kolianos' name.

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

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

2. CHARTER CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS BY:

- A) BASILIOS "BILLY" POULOS, INTERNAL AUDITOR
- B) PUBLIC (IF PRESENT)

A.) BASILIOS "BILLY" POULOS, INTERNAL AUDITOR

Internal Auditor Poulos advised that he had watched the meeting last week and addressed a few points from that meeting. He stated the importance of a Charter and that it was basically the structure of an internal audit office. Additionally, he said that the Internal Auditor section was well written and did not have any changes.

There was then a lengthy discussion regarding how to avoid handling a personnel issue differently on what happened and if language should be added in the Charter or if this was a process issue. Vice Mayor Kolianos said that the commission was not trying to place blame by asking questions of Mr. Poulos; but wanted to make sure this did not happen again.

The commission asked Internal Auditor Poulos his feelings on removing the City Manager from receiving audit findings, and residency. Mr. Poulos replied that he did not want to remove the City Manager from receiving audit findings, and would like to see a (mile or time) radius for the residency requirement.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Koulianos was not in attendance for the Internal Auditor presentation but commented that there needed to be a way to get a legal opinion on reports when there are significant issues of privacy rights of an employee. He suggested that if something was going to be done, to add language to the Charter to prevent this issue from ever happening again such as adding that reports need to be vetted by the Attorney prior to the report going to the Board of Commissioners.

2. CHARTER CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS BY:
A) BASILIOS "BILLY" POULOS, INTERNAL AUDITOR
B) PUBLIC (IF PRESENT) (Continued)

MOTION: MRS. JENNINGS
SECOND: DR. BUCUVALAS

To leave section 14 as written.

AMENDED MOTION: MRS. JENNINGS
SECOND: DR. BUCUVALAS

To change last sentence in section 14 (i) to report all findings or non-compliance issues simultaneously to the City Manager and City Attorney and after their review, release it to the Board of Commissioners by the Internal Auditor.

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

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

B) PUBLIC

Section 12: Zoning Powers: Commissioner Koulanos suggested abdicating responsibilities to the Planning and Zoning Board. He brought this forth because of the frustration he had heard from applicants and the public. Commissioner Koulanos highly recommended that the Charter Review Commission speak to Ms. Vincent, Planning and Zoning Director on this subject.

Mr. Tarapani believed that it was an unlawful for the Board of Commissioners to abdicate delegation of legislative responsibilities and would like Attorney Salzman to research this and bring back a ruling. There was discussion on how it could work without abdicating responsibilities. Chair Root understood it to be that the Planning and Zoning Board and the Board of Adjustments were not acting in the same way and could see having equity between these boards, but also believed that these decisions should be made at a higher level. Thought this was a great suggestion but not a Charter issue and more of a process issue.

Anita Protos, 901 Bayshore Drive, knew that government processes at times are slow; however, felt it was the Board of Commissioners and applicants' responsibility no matter how many times the application was heard. She was not in favor of the Planning and Zoning Board having final say.

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SECTIONS

Section 16: City Manager; Acting City Manager

Mr. Seamon had to left the meeting at 3:46 p.m. during this item.

The following items were discussed:

- Acting/Assistant City Manager
- Why the City Manager Section 16 paragraph 2 vs City Clerk's Section 17 (b) was not similar.

Attorney Salzman to bring back suggested language of the City Manager's section.

MOTION: MRS. JENNINGS
SECOND: MR. KOUSKOUTOS

(f) To add the word "Prioritizing" before "capital improvement programs".

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

MOTION: MR. KOUSKOUTOS
SECOND: MRS. JENNINGS

(g) To change to read "Keep the board of Commissioners fully advised as to the financial conditions and future needs of the city and to prioritize capital projects based on need and useful life and to make such recommendations to the board of commissioners concerning the affairs of the city.

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

A recess was taken at 4:10 p.m. and was reconvened at 4:15 p.m.

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SECTIONS

Section 17: City Clerk and Collector; Acting City Clerk and Collector

MOTION: MR. KOUSKOUTIS
SECOND: MR. TARAPANI

To leave section 17 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 18: City Attorney

The following items were discussed:

- If wording covered Attorney's representing the board and employees at the same time
- If board members were covered if sued individually
- Full-time in-house City Attorney

MOTION: MRS. JENNINGS
SECOND: MR. TARAPANI

To leave section 18 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

4. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS – NEXT MEETING MAY 20, 2024

Chair Root announced that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, May 29, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chair Root asked for Public comments and there were none.

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS:

Chair Root asked for staff comments and there were none.

Elections: Mr. Tarapani discussed change of election date, longer qualifying dates, better voter turnout, and mailers for qualifying. City Clerk Jacobs would bring back research for discussion on the pros and cons, what was required currently, and stated that it did not matter to her if there was a change. Additionally, she said that this comes up every charter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Frantzis arrived requested to speak.

MOTION: MR. TARAPANI
SECOND: MR. KOUSKOUTIS

To waive the rules and to reopen public comments and allow Ms. Frantzis to speak.

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

Georganna Frantzis, 15 Athens Street, spoke on the following:

- Changes to the Charter should be minimal.
- Items discussed today not part of the Charter.
- Inappropriateness of interaction with Internal Auditor (for protection of the City)
- Taking City Manager out of the Internal Auditor Section inappropriate
- Changing dates of Election cycle would not cause people to run
- Does not want Planning and Zoning to have final decision
- Board of Adjustments should have less power

Mr. Tarapani said qualifying times was shrunk many years ago to eliminate competition in the candidate pool.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Root adjourned the meeting at 4:55 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.