



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, JUNE 17, 2024
2:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 4 minutes)

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. May 29, 2024
- b. June 3, 2024

2. CHARTER CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS BY:

- a. Ryan Quattlebaum, President/CEO AdventHealth North Pinellas

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

4. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS - NEXT MEETING June 24, 2024

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

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

THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION MET IN THE SECOND FLOOR MEDIA ROOM, 324 EAST PINE STREET, TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON MONDAY, MAY 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
	MERLIN SEAMON	MEMBER
	JOHN TARAPANI	MEMBER
ABSENT/EXCUSED:	MIKE KOUSKOUTIS	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.

Public Comments:

Chris Hrabovsky, 1602 Gulf Beach Boulevard, publicly apologized to Mr. Tarapani. He did not mean to offend him in any way by referring to him as a developer that was just his understanding, and he was corrected. He had been watching these meetings and felt Mr. Tarapani was doing a great job and asked great questions.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (MAY 20, 2024)

Chair Root offered suggested changes to memorialize the process that could be done when placing certain planning and zoning items on the Board of Commissioners agenda that were discussed. City Clerk Jacobs said she would go back and capture suggested changes and bring back for approval.

MOTION: MRS. JENNINGS
SECOND: DR. BUCUVALAS

To table approval of the May 20th minutes and City Clerk would bring back for approval with suggested changes.

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

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

2. CHARTER CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS BY:

- A) MAYOR VATIKIOTIS
 - B) VICE MAYOR EISNER
 - C) PUBLIC (IF PRESENT)
-

A.) MAYOR VATIKIOTIS

Mayor Vatikiotis advised that he served on the Charter Revision Commission five years ago. He then made the following suggestions:

- Section 2. Powers - No reference to Health, Welfare, and Safety. Would like last line of this section to read: and may exercise any power for municipal purposes (including ensuring or preserving health, welfare, and safety within its boundaries) or except as otherwise provided by law.
- Section 3. Limitation of Powers (h) – No agreement between the City and CRA when monies are loaned to the CRA to memorialize, and he would like to see language added that a loan be part of a referendum and require some type of an agreement. Mayor Vatikiotis was comfortable with leaving the purchasing limit at \$ 350,000.
- Personnel issues (Department Heads and Executive Exempt Employees): He suggested that the Personnel Rules and Regulations that are approved by the Board of Commissioners by Resolution should be included in the charter and that nothing currently reference those in the Charter except a paragraph that refers it somewhere else in two places. One referred to as Personnel Rules and the other was referred to as Personnel Regulations and felt there was a disconnect that created issues. Also, it states that the Board of Commissioners must approve changes prior to implementation of personnel rules and approve all structural realignment above the Department Head level (changing duties of a department head to someone else). No where does it say the City Manager has authority to do this which was under the Board of Commissioners.
- Section 20. Residency – S
- Section 8. Board of Commissioners, Compositions, Duties, Responsibilities, and Powers: Suggested adding Sustainability Plan.
(n) City Attorney considered a contracted employee and should be excluded from Charter Official evaluations and would like to see more of a review of compliance for that official or remove this official all together. Also, in the future that the City Attorney’s contract include that the City Attorney handle all legal matters.
- Section 13: Interference with Administration: Does not feel that the City Clerk’s role and her employees are reflected in this section.
- Section 14: Internal Auditor: Suggested that the last sentence in (i) also include the City Clerk and the City Attorney.
- Section 16. City Manager: Did not know what a qualified city administrative officer meant in (2) of this section.
- Section 19. Civil Service Board: asked that the Charter Revision Commission ask the labor attorney if it creates a liability for the City having this section in the charter when there was not a Civil Service Board. (Attorney Salzman to bring back opinion on this or talk with the City’s Labor Attorney on this, as requested by Chair Root)

The Charter Review Commission asked Mayor Vatikiotis his feelings on residency, about the Board of Commissioners changing the rules of the CRA, the difference about the power difference between the Planning & Zoning Board vs the Board of Adjustment, and if Section 23 and 24 was adequate.

(Continued)

2. CHARTER CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS BY:

- A) MAYOR VATIKIOTIS
 - B) VICE MAYOR EISNER
 - C) PUBLIC (IF PRESENT)
-

B). VICE MAYOR EISNER

Vice Mayor Eisner spoke and made the following suggestions:

- Agreed with Mr. Tarapani that the CRA and Board of Commissioners were two separate entities.
- Section 3. Limitation of Powers: (h) would like to see property purchase limits increased to \$500,000 or more but not too excessive.
- Section 8. Board of Commissioners, Composition, Duties, Responsibilities, and Powers: (h) that the Comprehensive Plan review be changed from three years to five years.
- Would like to see a ruling that if Commissioners get themselves involved with outside boards as representatives of the city or on a rotating basis for other cities, they should show up to those meetings.
- Suggested Board training and that the city offer some type of signing volunteer incentive to those who apply for Boards.
- Went on record to say that he always has been an advocate on dredging the cuts.
- Section 32. Amendments: that process of selection of the Charter members be memorialized and that the Mayor and Vice Mayor get two automatic selections, and the Commissioners each get one automatic selection making up the seven-member Board.
- Section 11. Terms of office, Qualifications, Date of Annual Election: Suggested that language added that if a vacancy occurred and someone was appointed, that they would not be able to run for that office to fill the unexpired term.
- Section 14. Internal Auditor: Was okay with the audit going to the City Attorney first and okay with (i) saying “to the City Manager and then to the Board of Commissioners”.
- Section 16. City Manager: said (b) was not currently done. (g) asked how this was monitored.
- Section 20. Residency: Suggested a five-to-fifteen-mile radius
- Commented on Building Heights, restricting illegal boat parking, lobbying, his feelings on granting the Planning & Zoning Board to make minor decisions, and his thoughts on having an Assistant City Manager.

The Charter Review Commission asked Vice Mayor Eisner his feelings on Section 23 & 24 amounts, building height restrictions, filling Boards and Committees with persons in specialized fields, and CLG status.

Ms. Jennings for the record noted a scrivener’s error in Section 16 (b) to correct.

(Continued)

2. CHARTER CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS BY:

- A) MAYOR VATIKIOTIS
 - B) VICE MAYOR EISNER
 - C) PUBLIC (IF PRESENT)
-

C) PUBLIC

Anita Protos, 901 Bayshore Drive, said that the Mayor needs to learn how to use his gavel should of used it to stop the ugliness that happened at the BOC meeting last night. She also did not agree with giving an incentive using taxpayers money to get people to serve on Boards or Committees. Mrs. Protos wanted to correct comments made that she said to bring Dr. Monahan back and said that was not the case, she just said that Dr. Monohan knew about grant writing and still had connections in Tallahassee.

Chris Hrabovsky, 1602 Gulf Beach Boulevard, gave suggestion on residency that were not be a charter issue, expanding the qualifying period, petition cards and qualifying fees, giving the Planning & Zoning Board veto power, and dredging cuts.

Georganna Frantzis, 15 Athens Street, apologized for the delivery of her comments at last weeks meeting but not for the statements made. She then clarified previous comments about the Planning and Zoning Board, gave her thoughts on the Civil Service Board, and property purchases.

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SECTIONS

Dr. Root said that a few times the Charter Revision Commission heard how to deal with the way the Board of Commissioner works with each other. She said language can be placed in the charter, but the charter itself had to be self-enforced by the people. She did not see any reasons language could be considered in Section 8 in terms of their behavior and how they operate with each other and then provided articles she had read regarding behaviors (Exhibit 1). Dr. Root asked members to review these handouts for future discussion, and asked Attorney Salzman to weigh in on this. Attorney Salzman advised that he had never seen anything in the Charter but had seen strong rules and procedures.

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

Chair Root announced that the next meeting would be held on Monday, June 3, 2024.

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS:

Chair Root asked for staff comments and there were none.

The Charter Revision Commission asked that City Clerk Jacobs schedule the Hospital CEO, Ryan Quattlebaum, and re-invite Commissioner Koulianos for further building height discussion to attend the June 17, 2024 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Root adjourned the meeting at 4:51 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
JUNE 3, 2024

THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION MET IN THE SECOND FLOOR MEDIA ROOM, 324 EAST PINE STREET, TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024, AT 2:00 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Deputy City Clerk Manousos called roll.

*Mr.Seamon arrived at 2:03 p.m. during public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

David Ballard Geddis, Jr., 802 Georgia Avenue, spoke in regard to the Pinellas County Home Rule Charter 2.04 making reference to a transfer of political function and power by means of an interlocal agreement. Additionally, he said that unwarranted water jurisdictions under the 14th amendment was based on maritime law of the US Constitution and believed that such an unwarranted jurisdiction transfer would be questioned and that water districts would be held null and void.

1. CHARTER CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS BY:

A) PUBLIC (IF PRESENT) _____

A.) PUBLIC (IF PRESENT)

Vice Chair Kolianos asked if any public present had any Charter changes and there were none.

2. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SECTIONS

Section 19. Civil Service Board: Attorney Salzman advised that after research, there was no problem removing or not removing this section; however, if this section was left, a Board should be appointed.

There was a lengthy discussion on this to possibly reference language in this section on the grievance process. Attorney Salzman to provide. The Charter Revision Commission asked for City Clerk Jacobs to invite the HR Direct and possibly the labor attorney to hear their thoughts on this. In addition, they would like to get a copy of the HR rules and policies and would like to know if there was an employee handbook that was given out.

Public Comments:

David Ballard Geddis, Jr., 802 Georgia Avenue, asked that according to the last paragraph of section 19, questioned if the city would have legal recourse against such privatization and was not sure if the Harrison Act applied.

Anita Protos, 901 Bayshore Drive, advised that having a Civil Service Board kept a union away and something employees felt they had.

Section 20. Residency: After discussion on this section and the current housing market, it was agreed upon to take a two-tiered approach. The first tier would be City Manager, Fire Chief, and Police Chief were required to live in the City limits for emergency purposes and knowledge of the community, and the second tier could live within a radius. The Charter Revision Commission would like to receive a list of essential employees of the Emergency Operation Center (EOC).

Section 23. General: Dr. Bucuvalus would like Ron Haring, Finance Director or City Manager LeCouris, invited to advise if the purchasing amount was adequate or if it needed to be increased. There was further discussion on the bid process and City Clerk Jacobs informed the Charter Revision Commission that Janina Lewis, Procurement Director would be at the next meeting to discuss this.

(Continued)

2. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SECTIONS

Section 24. Emergency Purchases: The Charter Revision Commission would like to discuss this section with the City Manager. Dr. Bucuvalas thought this section could be raised as well.

Section 26. Sidewalk Improvement Fund: There was discussion on this, and City Clerk Jacobs responded that there was a sidewalk priority list for sidewalks and amounts spent that she would provide to them. After Mr. Tarapani's inquiry, she answered that this section was created originally in the charter in 1983 and that language was changed in the last charter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

David Ballard Geddis, Jr., 802 Georgia Avenue, said it was important that sidewalks remain public.

Section 29. Reserved: Mr. Kouskoutis would like to see this reserved section possibly labeled Ecological Sustainability that would mandate removal of non-invasive species or Brazilian pepper trees.

MOTION: MR. KOUSKOUTOS
SECOND: MRS. JENNINGS

To draft a specific charter amendment to address a charter requirement for removal or eradication of non-invasive species such as Brazilian pepper trees.

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	Absent

A recess was taken at 4:05 p.m. and was reconvened at 4:11 p.m.

3. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS – NEXT MEETING JUNE 10, 2024

Vice Chair Kolianos announced that the next meeting would be held on Monday, June 10, 2024.

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS:

Vice Chair Kolianos asked for staff comments and there were none.

Elections: Mr. Tarapani brought up ways to increase election participation and felt that mailers should be sent thirty days prior to qualifying and that qualifying should be expanded to thirty days. City Clerk Jacobs would bring back research for discussion.

Definitions: Mr. Kouskoutis had concerns from the last meeting with the difference between dissent and decorum and felt silencing dissent could become a problem; however, did not think this was a charter thing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Georganna Frantzis, 15 Athens Street, suggested if the cost of living was increasing that the city should paying their employees more to live in Tarpon Springs. She also spoke regarding purchasing amounts, emergency funds, and could not legislate decorum.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MOTION: MR. KOUSKOUTIS
SECOND: MR. TARAPANI

To adjourn the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

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	Absent

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.

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