



# 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, JULY 1, 2024  
2:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 4 minutes)**

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. June 17, 2024

**2. CHARTER CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS BY:**

a. Jeff Young, Police Chief

b. Irene Jacobs, City Clerk & Collector

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

**4. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS - NEXT MEETING July 8, 2024**

**BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

MINUTES  
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS  
June 17, 2024

THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION MET IN THE SECOND FLOOR MEDIA ROOM, 324 EAST PINE STREET, TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024, AT 2:00 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

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

ABSENT/EXCUSED:	DR. TINA BUCUVALAS	MEMBER
	JOHN TARAPANI	MEMBER

ALSO PRESENT:	ANDREW SALZMAN	CITY ATTORNEY
	IRENE S. JACOBS	CITY CLERK & COLLECTOR
	K.MICHELE MANOUSOS	DEPUTY CITY CLERK

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Deputy City Clerk Manousos called roll.

Public Comments:

Chair Root asked for public comments and there were none.

1a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (MAY 29, 2024)

MOTION: MR. KOUSKOUTIS  
SECOND: MRS. JENNINGS

To approve the May 29, 2024 minutes  
as corrected in Section 20 under Mayor  
Vatikiotis.

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

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

1b. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (JUNE 3, 2024)

MOTION: MR. KOUSKOUTIS  
SECOND: MRS. JENNINGS

To approve the June 3, 2024 minutes  
as presented.

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

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

2. CHARTER CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS BY:

A) RYAN QUATTLEBAUM, PRESIDENT/CEO ADVENTHEALTH NORTH PINELLAS

A) RYAN QUATTLEBAUM, PRESIDENT/CEO ADVENTHEALTH NORTH PINELLAS

Mr. Quattlebaum thanked the Charter Revision Commission for inviting him to come speak. He said that the hospitals job was to run the day-to-day operations of the hospital, and felt it was not necessary to have Section 33 City Hospital in the Charter because he felt the lease was adequate and that the hospital served the city for the last fourteen years. Mr. Quattlebaum appreciated the city taking the health care so seriously to have placed this section in the charter but said it was duplicative. He introduced guess from AdventHealth he had with him which were Melanie Brown, who oversees government relations and Jessica Schumann, Chief Legal Officer for the West Florida Division who were there for support.

Mr. Kouskoutis disclosed that he was the Vice Chairman of the Hospital Board and that he would be filing a voting conflict form (Exhibit 1) and asked the City Attorney if that precluded him from asking questions. Attorney Salzman responded that Mr. Kouskoutis could not vote and be part of the voting discussion but could ask questions. Mr. Kouskoutis then asked if the current lease language mirrors the charter provision, and Mr. Quattlebaum then read the excerpt from the lease. He then asked if there was a hospital foundation and Mr. Quattlebaum said, yes. Ms. Schumann clarified that there were two separate entities. They have a hospital foundation for the purpose of charitable functions for the hospital and the hospital itself was called the Tarpon Springs Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Root asked who the hospital lease was with, and Ms. Schumann said the lease was with Tarpon Springs Hospital Foundation, Inc. Mr. Kolianos asked Mr. Quattlebaum how section 33 harmed him from running a hospital, and Mr. Quattlebaum said it did not harm anything but was duplicative. Mrs. Jennings inquired to what the impact would be if the Hospital Foundation was disbanded, and Mr. Quattlebaum said there would be no impact.

MOTION: MRS. JENNINGS

SECOND: MR. SEAMON

To change the word "that" to "of City owned property."

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

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

(Continued)

2. CHARTER CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS BY: (Continued)

A) RYAN QUATTLEBAUM, PRESIDENT/CEO ADVENTHEALTH NORTH PINELLAS

A) RYAN QUATTLEBAUM, PRESIDENT/CEO ADVENTHEALTH NORTH PINELLAS

MOTION: MRS. JENNING  
SECOND: MR. SEAMON

To change introductory sentence "property now known as AdventHealth North Pinellas" to "doing business with Tarpon Springs Foundation, Inc. (dba AdventHealth North Pinellas).

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

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

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SECTIONS

Section 31. Prior obligations, rights, ordinances not impaired:

MOTION: MR. KOUSKOUTIS  
SECOND: MR. SEAMON

To keep this section as is.

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

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

(Continued)

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SECTIONS (Continued)

Section 32. Amendments:

Chair Root had notes that the Commissioner Eisner suggested that this section include and change how the Charter Revision Commission was selected. The Charter Revision Commission said that the process was not currently in the charter and did not feel that it should be added.

Mr. Kouskoutis asked if Florida changed and Attorney Salzman replied it was still in existence.

MOTION: MR. KOUSKOUTIS  
SECOND: MR. SEAMON

To incorporate language in the last sentence to add "of the electorate" after affirmative votes.

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

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

MOTION:  
SECOND:

There was discussion that this section was mainly for the Charter Revision Commission; however, it was not felt that the last sentence belonged in Section 32.

AMENDED MOTION: MR. SEAMON  
SECOND: MRS. JENNINGS

To remove the last sentence and remove the words "and also including public initiative proposals" from the sentence before and change "own proposals" in that sentence to "proposed charter revisions".

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

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

(Continued)

### 3. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SECTIONS (Continued)

Recess at 2:57 and reconvened at 3:04 p.m.

Building Heights: Mr. Kouskoutis expressed his reservations that the Land Use Plan covered building heights and does not feel that a height restriction should be placed in the Charter. However, should be done by an Ordinance approved by a supermajority vote. Chair Root and Mrs. Jennings agreed.

There was discussion if the Sustainability Committee reviewed site plans and staff did not believe so other than Mr. Kieger, Sustainability Liaison and Public Services Director, sits in on TRC.

#### Section 8. Board of commissioners, composition, duties, responsibilities, and powers:

Chair Root summarized and read what she had as outstanding issues which were:

- Capital Improvement plan (a prioritized list made available annually)
- Add Sustainability plan in the charter
- Add citizens to the makeup of the CRA Board
- Dates of review for plans
- Appointed Boards prioritized by: talent, knowledge, and skill sets
- Bring in advisors for candidates with no appropriate skill sets
- Board or Committee members serving on more than one Board or Committee
- Maintain CLG status and follow national historic guidelines
- Commercial fishing and boat builder access
- Requiring historic periodic property assessments
- Activate Marine Commerce Committee with importance beyond navigation
- Review the charter as part of the budget process

MOTION: MR. KOUSKOUTIS

SECOND: MR. SEAMON

To make a recommendation that the Charter be reviewed as part of the budget process and make sure that items required by the charter are addressed.

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

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

(Continued)

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SECTIONS (Continued)

Section 8. Board of commissioners, composition, duties, responsibilities, and powers:

Ms. Vincent, Planning Director, was present if the Commission had any questions regarding sustainability and site plan TRC review. She said currently, the committee does not review site plans and do not have this authority but was working adding sustainability items in the comprehensive plan. Chair Root made Ms. Vincent aware that the Commission was looking at adding a separate section on the sustainability committee to talk about invasive and desired species and ensure that appropriate focus was given, and that the sustainability action plan needs and requirements were reflected in the budget.

Section 3. Limitation of Powers:

MOTION: MR. KOUSKOUTIS

SECOND: MR. SEAMON

To change \$ 350,000 to  
\$ 500,000 in Section 3(h).

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

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

MOTION: MRS. JENNINGS

SECOND: MR. KOUSKOUTIS

To add spoil sites to Section 3(b).

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

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

(Continued)

### 3. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SECTIONS (Continued)

#### Section 11. Terms of office, qualifications, date of annual election:

City Clerk Jacobs informed the Commission that she would be bringing back election information next week.

#### Section 19. Civil Service Board:

Deputy City Clerk Manousos advised that Ms. Kniffen was scheduled to make a presentation on this item, so the Charter Revision Commission would hold off on this section until such time.

#### Section 20. Residency:

Chair Root started the discussion that she had found that places all over that require residency, provide opportunity for housing for those individuals. A lengthy discussion took place that the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Fire Chief, and Police Chief live in the city limits. Additionally, the Charter Revision Commission wanted to add language if current personnel get promoted to one of those main four positions, they would be grandfathered in; however, if one of the exempted parties elects to move their residency, then the exemption would be forfeited. It was also discussed that all other Directors or Department heads live within a twelve-mile radius of City Hall.

### 4. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS – NEXT MEETING JUNE 24, 2024

Chair Root announced that the next meeting would be held on Monday, June 24, 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.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Root adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

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DR. ROOT, CHAIR

ATTEST:

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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.*

Unofficial Copy



# Charter Change Research

By: Irene S. Jacobs, CMC  
City Clerk & Collector  
June 24, 2024

# Introduction:

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- The purpose of this presentation is to bring forth researched information for this Commission to make an informed decision.

# Topics of Discussion

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- Election Data (Surrounding Municipalities)
- Election Cost
- Election Date: November vs. March

# Election Data:

	Clearwater	Dunedin	Largo	Oldsmar	Pinellas Park	Safety Harbor	Tarpon Springs
<b>Qualifying Period</b>	11 Days	14 Days	15 Days	30 Days	15 Days	11 Days	8 Days
<b>Fees/Petition Cards</b>	\$100 & 250 Cards	\$150/1% of Annual salary or No fee & 1% of reg. voters	200 Cards	\$25/150 Cards	200 Cards/or \$50 & 40 Cards	\$65 Mayor/\$40 Com'r/100 cards	\$25/25 Cards
<b>Elections Dates</b>	March	November	November	March	March	March	March
<b>Terms</b>	4 yr. terms	4 yr. terms	4 yr. terms	3 yr. terms	Mayor 2 yrs. Com'r 4 yrs.	3 yr. terms	3 yr. terms
<b>Sitting out period</b>	2 yrs.	1 yr.	No Term Limits	Cannot serve again After 2 consecutive terms	No Term Limits	No Term Limits	1 yr.
<b>Int./Ref. Signature %</b>	10% last reg. voters	15% last reg. voters	5% last reg. voters	20% last reg. voters	10% last reg. voters	10% last reg. voters	15% last reg. voters

# Election Cost:

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>ELECTION TYPE (Last 10 Years)</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b># of Voters</b>
March 11, 2014	Gen. Municipal Election (Seats 1 & 2/Sale of Walton Assisted Living)	\$25,296.94	
2015	No Election (Off Year)		
March 15, 2016	Gen. Municipal Election/in conjunction Pres. Preference Primary (Mayor/Seats 3 & 4/Hospital questions)	\$ 5,462.40	
March 14, 2017	Gen. Municipal Election (Seats 1 & 2)	\$31,280.31	
November 6, 2018	Sp. Referendum/in conjunction PC General Election (Extending Hospital Lease/ Sale of easement Am. Tower Comm.)	\$ 8,558.40	
March 12, 2019	Gen. Municipal Election/Referendum (Mayor/Seats 3 & 4/Property Tax exemptions businesses)	\$25,713.54	
March 17, 2020	Gen. Municipal Election/Charter Referendum (Seats 1 & 2/12 Charter questions)	\$15,205.92	
November 3, 2020	Sp. Referendum/in conjunction with PC General Election (Hoffman Property)	\$ 3,128.60	
2021	No Election (Off Year)		
March 15, 2022	Gen. Municipal Election (Mayor/Seats 2, 3, & 4)	\$39,092.92	
March 14, 2023	Gen. Municipal Election (Seats 1 & 2/Purchase Ross Property/ budget public hearing prior to budget cycle/review strategic plan every 3 years)	\$38,765.58	
November 7, 2023	Sp. Referendum (purchase Roosevelt property)	\$43,197.67	20,847

**(Cost are only Supervisor of Election cost and do not include other city cost for legal publications, bilingual language compliance requirements (Section 203, Voting Rights Act), re-printing, re-mailing, and poll place change mailers in which could range from \$ 5 to \$9,000)**

# November vs. March Elections

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## November

### Pro's

- Cost Savings
- Increased voter turn out

### Con's

- Placement on the ballot
- Change terms to even years
- Political Signs integrated with other elections
- Increased turnout does not mean Tarpon's items are voted on

## March

### Pro's

- Stand-alone
- Only Tarpon's items on ballot
- Political signs not integrated with other elections

### Con's

- Higher cost

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Any Questions?