



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 8, 2024
2:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 4 minutes)

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. June 24, 2024

2. CHARTER CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS :

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SECTIONS (Continued)

4. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS - NEXT MEETING July 15, 2024

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
June 24, 2024

THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION MET IN THE SECOND FLOOR MEDIA ROOM, 324 EAST PINE STREET, TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON MONDAY, JUNE 24, 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
	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.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (June 10, 2024)

MOTION: MRS. JENNINGS
SECOND: MR. KOULIANOS

To approve the June 10, 2024 minutes
as presented.

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 Koulianos	Yes
Chair Root	Yes

2. CHARTER CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS BY:

- a. Commissioner John Koulianos
- b. Jane Kniffen, Human Resources Director

a. Commissioner John Koulianos:

Mr. Tarapani explained why Commissioner Koulianos was asked back to speak on his idea of adding building height restrictions to the charter. Dr. Bucuvalas said that she had did a quick search and there were many Florida cities that do have building height restrictions in their charter.

Commissioner Koulianos advised that in speaking with residents, no one wants high rise buildings in Tarpon Springs higher than five stories. In order to secure the town for the future, he was recommending placing something in the charter regarding heights that would be more difficult to change. He felt five stories was a decent amount for a development and that the Hospital and Government buildings could be exempt, and if a development was over five stories, it would go to referendum.

Mr. Tarapani felt the conflict was that the code says up to seventy-five feet for hotels. He could see this possibly in the Historic and Sponge Dock district but could not see this restriction on the highway district. Dr. Bucuvalas thought his idea was on the right track for the city to maintain its history and heritage. Mrs. Jennings agreed and must avoid blocking views and the working waterfront views. Vice Chair Koulianos suggested that seventy-five feet include air conditioners on roofs and felt restrictions should only be in certain areas.

Mr. Tarapani provided background how things in the seventies were down zoned to limit growth. He felt that if anything was placed in the charter, it should be only for the historic and sponge docks districts. He was okay with the concept but was not interested on a blanket over the town. He also felt there should be allowance entitlement for any existing structures that currently exceed five stories. The Charter Revision Commission entertains that this suggestion be looked at, and understood that any change to the restriction would be done by referendum vs. by ordinance.

(Continued)

2. CHARTER CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS BY: (Continued)

a. Commissioner John Koulianos

b. Jane Kniffen, Human Resources Director

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Ms. Kniffen, Human Resources Director, said why the Civil Service Board was created. She said in her twenty-four years of employment with the city, there had only been four cases where the Civil Service Board was used and that there has not been an active board for some time. The Civil Service Board also proctors employee examinations. Chair Root explained the reason Ms. Kniffen was brought to this meeting was to hear her thoughts if the Civil Service section was needed. Ms. Kniffen was asked if there was training available, how does Human Resources handle work site personnel complaints, and what the progression level for discipline was, to which Ms. Kniffen explained.

Vice Chair Koulianos was concerned if the Civil Service Board requirement was removed, a union could step in.

The Charter Revision Commission took a break at 3:16 p.m. and reconvened at 3:24 p.m.

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SECTIONS

Chair Root reviewed her handouts, discussions that needed to be made, and a list of suggested items for the Board of Commissioners (Exhibit 1).

Mr. Tarapani was surprised that at the meeting he missed, there was not an agenda item regarding eminent domain for spoil sites but was discussed. Chair Root replied that this was something she captured at one of their meetings that was discussed where there were opinions, but no decisions were made on the topic. He also would like Attorney Salzman to give his opinion if delegating legislative powers was legal.

(Continued)

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SECTIONS (Continued)

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

Additional commission comments continued regarding having a public campaign to get quality board or committee volunteers. There was also further discussion on changes summarized in Chair Roots handouts and if those things should be added to the charter. Mr. Tarapani noted that things that are in the comprehensive plan should not be taken out and placed in the charter. Vice Chair Koulianos was confused on the discussion and said that the charter should not be overload and that everything in the charter was definitive.

MOTION: MR. TARAPANI
SECOND: MRS. JENNINGS

Add 8 (r), add the words (The Board of Commissioners shall appoint and maintain a sustainability committee who shall report updates and changes as needed to the Board of Commissioners.

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

MOTION: MRS. JENNINGS
SECOND: DR. BUCUVALAS

In 8 (q2) add the words and Commercial after (Recreational).

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

(Continued)

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CHARTER SECTIONS (Continued)

MOTION: MRS. JENNINGS
SECOND: MR. TARAPANI

To rescind prior motion In 8 (q2) add the words and Commercial after (Recreational).

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

Mrs. Jennings also corrected a scrivener's error in 8 (q2) to capitalize the word "Engineers" in United States Army Corp of Engineers.

Vice Chair Koulianos said he did not understand Chair Root's notation for sections 4 and 5, and Chair Root clarified that the names do not reflect the contents of those sections. She said the thought was if they did not have many changes, this name change be considered to be consistent.

Reserved Sections:

MOTION: MR. SEAMON
SECOND: MRS. JENNINGS

To leave reserved sections 6, 7, 15, 25 and 27 as is, and leave 21 and 22 open in case new sections are added.

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

4. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS – NEXT MEETING JULY 1, 2024

Chair Root announced that the next meeting was Monday, July 1, 2024 and asked City Clerk Jacobs to schedule herself on the agenda to present researched election information.

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS:

City Clerk Jacobs invited all to attend the candidate forum tomorrow night in the Auditorium from 6 to 7:30 p.m. that the city was co-hosting with the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Root adjourned the meeting at 4:58 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.