



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, DECEMBER 4, 2024
2:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 4 minutes)

1. Review Draft Questions
2. Review Draft Summary of Amendments

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Proposed Draft Charter Questions

City of Tarpon Springs No. 1 Charter Amendment

Adding Dredge and Spoil Sites to Acquisition by City Eminent Domain (11)

Sponsored by the Charter Revision Commission. The City Charter presently allows for the acquisition by the city of real property under the power of eminent domain exclusively for water and sewer utility easements, public rights-of-way, public parking, and storm drainage improvements. Shall the Charter be amended to include eminent domain for dredge and spoil sites? (55)

_____ YES

_____ NO

City of Tarpon Springs No. 2 Charter Amendment

Increasing Exemption Threshold for Real Property (6)

Sponsored by Charter Revision Commission. The City Charter presently requires a voter referendum and approval by the affirmative vote of four members of the Board of Commissioners if the City wishes to purchase, sell, exchange, convey, or lease real property in any amount greater than \$350,000.00. Shall the Charter be amended to increase the amount to \$500,000.00? (57)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 3 Charter Amendment**

Identifying Funding Source (3)

Sponsored by Charter Revision Commission. The City Charter presently provides for the Board of Commissioners to adopt sale, purchase, conveyance and leasing procedures by ordinance. Shall the Charter be amended to require the board of commissioners to identify funding sources as part of the sale, purchase, conveyance and leasing procedures? (50)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 4 Charter Amendment**

Real Property Acquired by Referendum or Maximum Purchase Price Requires Disposal by Referendum (13)

Sponsored by Charter Revision Commission. Proposed restrictions on disposal of real property owned by the City. Shall the Charter be amended to require real property purchased by the City by public referendum or real property which has a value equal to or greater than the maximum value the City may purchase without requiring a referendum, be sold, swapped, or traded only upon approval by referendum? (65)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 5 Charter Amendment**

**Enumerating the Powers, Responsibilities, and Duties of the Board of
Commissioners (11)**

Sponsored by Charter Revision Commission. The City Charter presently provides the Board of Commissioners with numerous duties, responsibilities and powers including the adoption of a budget. Shall the Charter be amended to require the Board of Commissioners to review the Charter for funding requirements when adopting the City budget? (49)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 6 Charter Amendment**

**Enumerating the Powers, Responsibilities, and Duties of the Board of
Commissioners (11)**

Sponsored by Charter Revision Commission. The City Charter presently provides for the Board of Commissioners to review and update all elements of the Comprehensive and Master plans every three (3) fiscal years. Shall the Charter be amended to require the Board of Commissioners to review, update, retire, abandon or deem completed all City Master, Action, Sustainability, Comprehensive and Strategic Plans every five (5) years? (64)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 7 Charter Amendment**

Qualifications and Dates for Annual Election (6)

Sponsored by Charter Revision Commission. The City Charter presently does not contain language specifying the qualifying time for City Commission elections. Shall the Charter be amended to provide for a qualifying time for thirty (30) days for the office of city commission? (42)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 8 Charter Amendment**

Qualifications and Dates for Annual Election (6)

Sponsored by Charter Revision Commission. The City Charter does not specifically notify registered voters prior to qualification as to which Commission seats are open for election. Shall the Charter be amended to provide registered voters notification by first class mail thirty (30) days before qualifying the specific Commission seats open for election? (52)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 9 Charter Amendment**

Interference with Administration (3)

Sponsored by the Charter Revision Commission. The City Charter contains redundant language regarding individual Commissioners' contact with the City Manager. Shall the Charter be amended to remove the redundant language? (30)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 10 Charter Amendment**

Legal Review of Non-compliance Issues (5)

Sponsored by Charter Revision Commission. The City Charter presently does not require legal review of non-compliance issues raised in the City's internal audit. Shall the Charter be amended to require legal review of any non-compliant issues raised by the Internal Audit? (41)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 11 Charter Amendment**

Prioritizing Future Capital Improvement Programs (5)

Sponsored by Charter Revision Commission. The City Charter authorizes the City Manager to keep the Board of Commissioners fully advised as to the financial condition and future needs of the City. Shall the Charter be amended to require the City Manager to prioritize future capital improvement programs? (47)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 12 Charter Amendment**

Residency Requirement for the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Fire Chief and Police Chief (14)

Sponsored by Charter Revision Commission. The City Charter presently requires the City Manager and limited positions to establish legal residency in the City, and allows the Board of Commissioners to temporarily excuse the residency requirements for up to one year. Shall the Charter be amended to require the City Manager, the Assistant City Manager, the Fire Chief and Police Chief to reside within the City's planning boundaries? (67)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 13 Charter Amendment**

Residency Requirements for Department Heads and Directors (7)

Sponsored by Charter Revision Commission. The City Charter presently requires certain directors to reside within the City and allows the Board of Commissioners to temporarily excuse the residency requirements for up to one (1) year. Shall the Charter be amended to require all Department Heads and Directors to reside within ten (10) miles of the Tarpon Springs City Hall? (59)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 14 Charter Amendment**

Increase the Authority to Expend Budgeted Funds Without Competitive Bidding (10)

Sponsored by the Charter Revision Commission. The City Manager is currently authorized to spend only up to \$25,000.00 on budgeted goods or services without competitive bidding. Shall the Charter be amended, due to increased costs of goods and services, to increase the City Manager's authority to \$50,000.00? (47)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 15 Charter Amendment**

Increase the Monetary Requirement for Competitive Bids (7)

Sponsored by the Charter Revision Commission. The Charter currently limits all purchases of \$25,000.00 or more, for which bids are required, to be competitively bid. Shall the Charter be amended, due to increased costs of goods and services, to increase the amount to \$50,000.00 for statutory competitive bids? (48)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 16 Charter Amendment**

Financial Statements (2)

Sponsored by the Charter Revision Commission. The City posts all financial statements on its web site and has hard copies available at City Hall. The Charter currently requires financial statements to be made available at the office of the City Clerk and quarterly financial statements at the library. Shall the Charter be amended to remove the outdated requirements for posting financial statements? (62)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 17 Charter Amendment**

Providing for a City Sidewalk Improvement Plan (7)

Sponsored by the Charter Revision Commission. The Charter has a sidewalk improvement fund but is silent as to a sidewalk improvement plan. Shall the Charter be amended to require a Sidewalk Improvement Plan by 2029 in place of the sidewalk improvement fund? (42)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 18 Charter Amendment**

Providing for an Increase in Sidewalk Improvement Funding (8)

Sponsored by Charter Revision Commission. The City Charter created a street and sidewalk fund to support street, drainage, and sidewalk improvements annually in the amount of \$100,000.00. The Charter Revision Commission has determined that the annual funds are insufficient. Shall the requirements of the sidewalk fund be amended to allow the Board of Commissioners to appropriate up to \$300,000.00 annually for sidewalk improvements from the fund? (66)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 19 Charter Amendment**

Initiative and Referendum (3)

Sponsored by Charter Revision Commission. The City Charter presently requires initiative petitions to contain verified signatures of at least 15% of the qualified electors registered to vote at the last regular municipal election. Shall the Charter be amended to reduce the percentage of qualified electors to initiate a petition to 10%? (51)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 20 Charter Amendment**

Initiative and Referendum (2)

Sponsored by the Charter Revision Commission. The Charter requires a referendum election be held 90 days from the date of filing thereof, or as soon thereafter as the supervisor of elections shall permit. Shall the Charter be amended to simply require a referendum election be held at the next city or county election? (53)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 21 Charter Amendment**

Amend City Hospital Name (4)

Sponsored by Charter Revision Commission. The City Charter presently references the City owned hospital as Advent Health North Pinellas. The name of the hospital Lessee is Tarpon Springs Hospital Foundation, Inc. Shall the Charter be amended to reflect the current and accurate name of the Lessee of the City owned property, Tarpon Springs Hospital Foundation, Inc.? (56)

_____ YES

_____ NO

**City of Tarpon Springs
No. 22 Charter Amendment**

Clarification of Grammar and Scrivener's Errors (6)

Sponsored by Charter Revision Commission. Currently, the City Charter contains multiple grammar and scrivener's errors. Shall the City Charter be comprehensively amended to correct any and all grammar and scrivener's errors? (31)

_____ YES

_____ NO

Summary of Amendments to City Charter as recommended by the 2024 Charter Revision Commission

Section 32 of the City Charter requires the Board of Commissioners to appoint a Charter Revision Commission (CRC) every five years. As a result of the CRC meetings, on March 11, 2025, Tarpon Springs voters will have an opportunity to cast a ballot on 22 charter questions proposed by the Charter Revision Commission. The CRC would like to give the electorate a summary of each of these proposed changes, so the electorate will be better prepared to vote with all the appropriate facts at that election.

Charter Item # 1: Section 3b (Limitation of Powers) of the City Charter presently allows for the acquisition by the city of real property under the power of eminent domain, and storm drainage improvements.

The CRC recommends amending Section 3b of the City Charter to include eminent domain for dredge and spoil sites.

Charter Item #2: Section 3b (Limitation of Powers) of the City Charter presently requires a voter referendum and approval by the affirmative vote of four members of the Board of Commissioners if the City wishes to purchase, sell, exchange, convey, or lease real property in any amount greater than \$ 350,000. However, the sale, exchange, conveyance, or lease of parks, waterfront, and recreational property owned by the City shall require a voter referendum for any value.

Therefore, to give some flexibility to the Board of Commissioners to allow the City to operate efficiently and resourcefully when it comes to purchasing, selling, exchanging, conveying, or leasing the CRC is recommending that the City Charter be amended to increase the real estate threshold to \$ 500,000.

Charter Item #3: Section 3b (Limitation of Powers) The City Charter presently provides for the Board of Commissioner to adopt sale, purchase, conveyance and leasing procedures.

The CRC is recommending that the City Charter be amended to require the Board of Commissioners to identify funding sources as part of the sale, purchase, conveyance and leasing procedures.

Charter Item #4: Section 3i (Limitation of Powers)

The CRC recommends that 3i be added to the City Charter requiring real property purchased by the City by public referendum or real property which has a value equal to or greater than the maximum value the City may purchase without requiring a referendum, be sold, swapped or traded without first receiving approval by a public referendum.

Charter Item #5: Section 8d (Board of Commissioners, Composition, Duties, Responsibilities, and Powers) of the City Charter presently states that the Board of Commissioners adopt a City budget as prescribed by law.

The CRC is recommending amending Section 8d of the City Charter that would require the Board of Commissioners to review the Charter for funding requirements when adopting the City budget.

Charter Item #6: Section 8i, 8j, and 8l (Board of Commissioners, Composition, Duties, Responsibilities, and Powers) the City Charter presently provides for the Board of Commissioners to review and update al elements of the Comprehensive and Master plans every three (3) fiscal years.

The CRC is recommending an amendment to the City Charter to require the Board of Commissioners to review, update, retire, abandon or deem completed all City Master, Action, Sustainability, Comprehensive and Strategic Plans every five (5) years.

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Charter Item #7: Section 11a (Terms of Office, Qualifications, Date of annual election) of the City Charter presently deals with the terms of office, qualifications, and date of annual elections, but is silent to the qualifying time which is currently for 8 days and listed in code section 2-13.

The CRC recommends amending Section 11a of the City Charter that the qualifying time be added to the Charter and to increase the qualifying time to 30 days.

Charter Item #8: Section 11a (Terms of Office, Qualifications, Date of annual election) of the City Charter presently does not include or does election laws require a mailer to be sent on the qualifying time, what offices are up for elections, and who the incumbents are. The city posts that information on the City 's website, hard copies available in the City Clerk's Office, and does a legal add prior to the qualifying time.

The CRC recommends adding a requirement of the City Charter that in addition to what the city is currently doing, that a first-class mailer be sent to all registered voters thirty (30) days prior to the qualifying time identifying all Commission seats open, indicating who currently holds the seat and their eligibility for reelection.

Charter Item #9: Section 13 (Interference with administration) of the City Charter presently prohibits the Board of Commissioners from directing and supervising City employees that are under charter officers and contains redundant and unnecessary verbiage regarding the City Manager.

The CRC recommends removing the last paragraph in Section 13 of the City Charter which reads: It is the express intent of the Charter, however; that recommendations for improvement in city operations, under the jurisdiction of the city manager, by individual commissioners be made to and through the city manager, so that the manager may coordinate efforts of all city departments to achieve the greatest possible savings through the most efficient and sound means available because it is redundant and unnecessary.

Charter Item #10: Section 14 (Internal Auditor) the City Charter presently reports all findings or non-compliance issues to the City Manager and the Board of Commissioners and does not include legal review of noncompliance issues.

The CRC recommends amending the language of the City Charter for this section to include legal review of any non-compliance issues prior to being provided to the Board of Commissioners.

Charter Item #11: Section 16g (City Manager; Acting City Manager and Assistant City Manager) of the City Charter presently states that the City Manager fully advise the financial condition and future needs of the city and make such recommendations to the Board of Commissioners concerning the affairs of the City.

The CRC recommends adding language to the City Charter that the City Manager shall prioritize future capital improvement programs.

Charter Item #12: Section 20 (Residency) of the City Charter presently requires the City Manager and limited positions to establish legal residency in the City and allows the BOC to temporarily excuse the residency requirements for up to one year.

The CRC recommends that the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Fire Chief, and Police Chief should be required to reside within the city limits as defined by the City's planning boundaries. In addition, established City employees who are promoted to one of the positions above do not have to meet the residency requirements unless they change their residence during their employment in the positions above.

Charter Item #13: Section 20 (Residency) of the City Charter presently requires limited positions to establish legal residency in the City and allows the BOC to temporarily excuse the residency requirements for up to one year.

The CRC recommends amending the City Charter that all department heads and directors, be required to live within ten (10) miles of the Tarpon Springs City Hall. Established City employees who are promoted to Department Head or Directors do not have to meet this residency requirement unless they change their residency during their employment as a department head or director. In addition, the Board of Commissioners may temporarily excuse the residency requirement for such time periods, no one time-period to exceed one year, as it deems appropriate in the best interest of the city.

Charter Item #14 Section 23 (General) of the City Charter presently allows the City Manager to expend up to \$25,000 for budgeted goods or services without competitive bidding.

The CRC recommends amending the City Charter to increase the City Manager's authority of costs of goods and services to \$ 50,000.

Charter Item #15 Section 23 (General) of the City Charter currently limits all purchases of \$25,000 or more, for which bids are required.

The CRC recommends amending the City Charter due to increased costs of goods and services, to increase the amount to \$ 50,000 for statutory competitive bids.

Charter Item #16 Section 23 (General) of the City Charter requires the City have all monthly financial statements available in the office of the City Clerk and Collector, and quarterly financial statements made available in the public library.

The CRC recommends amending the City Charter to remove this outdated requirement because these are posted on the City's website and hard copies are made available at City Hall.

Charter Item #17: Section 26 (Sidewalk Improvement Fund) of the City Charter created a sidewalk improvement fund with the goal to help fund sidewalk improvements throughout the City; however, it does not provide for a sidewalk improvement plan and contains insufficient annual funding.

The CRC recommends amending the language of the City Charter to provide for the adoption of a sidewalk improvement plan by 2029.

Charter Item #18: Section 26 (Sidewalk Improvement Fund) The CRC determined that sidewalk improvement fund could be better utilized to help repair, restore, complete, and improve much needed sidewalks throughout the City. Currently, it allows the Board of Commissioners to use up to \$100,000.00 per fiscal year for sidewalk improvements only, on a dollar-for-dollar match tied to the amount appropriated for sidewalk improvement in the City's Capital Improvement fund, and direct that the funds shall solely be used throughout the City for sidewalk extensions, repairs, and after improvements only along roadways, or roadway extensions, whether commercial or residential, where roadways or roadway extensions are physically in existence at the time of the adoption of this section.

The CRC has determined that the annual funds expended are insufficient. The CRC recommends amending the language of City Charter that if the City appropriates a minimum of \$ 100,000.00 per year from the general fund; the City may withdraw up to \$ 300,000.00 per year from the sidewalk improvement fund until the fund is depleted.

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Charter Item #19: Section 30 (Initiative and Referendum) of the City Charter presently requires initiative petitions to contain verified signatures of 15% of the qualified electors registered to vote at the last regular municipal election.

The CRC recommends amending the language of the City Charter to reduce the requirement of qualified electors registered to 10%, and that a referendum election shall be held at the next city or county election, so it can be supported by the Supervisor of Elections

Charter Item #20: Section 32 (Amendments) of the City Charter presently states that a referendum election shall be held 90 days from the date of filing.

The CRC recommends amending the language of the City Charter to state that a referendum election shall be held at the next city or county election, so it can be supported by the Supervisor of Elections, and that recommended proposals be changed to proposed Charter revisions.

Charter Item #21: Section 33 (City Hospital) of the City Charter presently references the city owned hospital as Advent Health North Pinellas and the name of the hospital lessee is Tarpon Springs Hospital Foundation, Inc.

The CRC recommends amending the language in Section 33 of the City Charter to reflect the current and accurate name of the hospital lessee of the City owned property), to Tarpon Springs Hospital Foundation.

Charter Item #22: Currently, the City Charter contains multiple grammar and scrivener's errors.

The CRC recommends that the City Charter be comprehensively amended to correct any and all grammar and scrivener's errors.