

**CHARTER REVIEW ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA**  
Old City Hall  
315 E Kennedy Blvd.  
Tampa, Florida 33602

APPROVED MINUTES FOR MEETING ON: January 20, 2026, AT 6:03 P.M.

The Charter Review Commission of the City of Tampa, Florida convened in a regular meeting in the Sister Cities Room at Old City Hall, 315 E. Kennedy Boulevard, First Floor, at 6:03p.m. on the 20th day of January 2026. The meeting was recorded, and minutes prepared by Karencia Ciagala, Senior City Council/City Clerk Support Specialist, Office of the City Clerk.

Members present upon roll call: Stephen Benson, Bobby Creighton, Ron Christaldi, Ashley Morrow, Rebecca Kert, Alan Cohn, Kathleen Shanahan (virtually), Bill Schifino, Garrett Greco, and Alternates Sue Carlton and Alison Hewitt.

City Staff in attendance were City Clerk Shirley Foxx-Knowles, Legislative Aide Samuel Thomas, Office of the Mayor Director of Strategic Initiatives Marley Wilkes, T & I Support Technicians Gavin Barrera and Carlos Ruiz, and Sr. City Council/City Clerk Support Specialist Karencia Ciagala.

Others in attendance were CRC Facilitator Robert Hendrickson and CRC Attorney Kenneth Tinkler of Carlton Fields.

Administration of Oath of Office by the City Clerk

City Clerk Shirley Foxx-Knowles administered the Oaths of Office to Stephen Benson, Bobby Creighton, Ron Christaldi, Ashley Morrow, Rebecca Kert, Alan Cohn, Bill Schifino, Garrett Greco, and Alternates Sue Carlton and Alison Hewitt. After the Oaths roll call was taken by Karencia Ciagala, with all members present except for the virtual participation of Kathleen Shanahan.

Welcome

Facilitator Hendrickson introduced himself and welcomed the members. He explained his background in strategic planning and consulting and that he will be the facilitator working with the Charter Review Advisory Commission (CRC) for the next several months. He then introduced the CRC's Legal Counsel, Kenneth A. Tinkler of Carlton Fields.

Attorney Tinkler explained to the members that he has been appointed to serve as advisory counsel for the CRC for the duration of the commission." He outlined his background working in local government law and with charters. He explained that his engagement with the City of Tampa has two stages. In this first stage, he will only serve as legal counsel for the CRC. When the CRC's work is completed, that stage will end and he will have the city council as his client as an outside attorney, to complete whatever steps need to be taken to complete the process regarding placement

of an item on the ballot. At this point the Facilitator asked members to introduce themselves. Each member introduced themselves and provided background information.

### Public Comment

Facilitator Hendrickson opened the floor for public comment. No public comment was made.

### CRC Background, Objectives, Timeline

Facilitator Hendrickson explained that this meeting was informational in purpose. He reminded members to forward any personal notes to their city emails for public records purposes.

He explained the section of the City Charter which dealt with the CRC and the history of prior 2023 charter amendments. He explained that the CRC is to supply Tampa City Council with recommendations for amending the Tampa Home Rule Charter and that the deadline for submitting amendment recommendations is Sept. 17, 2026. He outlined that the Tampa City Council will then decide which, if any, Home Rule Charter amendments to place on the ballot in March 2027.

### Charter Overview

Attorney Tinkler summarized the Tampa City Charter to provide a basic framework for future discussion.

### Resolution 2025-1044

Questions were posed from members regarding City Council Resolution 2025-1044. Member Christaldi moved to have the CRC require a super majority vote (with a minimum of 6 votes) before sending any recommendations to city council. A second was made. After discussion, Member Christaldi then asked to rescind his motion.

### Sunshine & Public Records Laws/State and City Ethics Codes

Attorney Tinkler provided each member with an outline of Florida's Sunshine and Public Records Laws and explained their obligations. He further outlined the State and City ethics laws that apply to their positions.

### Charter Review Approach

Facilitator Hendrickson said that it will be his goal that all the members will be heard. He provided the following outline for their efforts:

- Focus on one section at a time
- Solicit input from everyone
- Apply a problem-solving lens
- Focus on substance changes – then engage legal counsel to convert those changes to correct language
- Attempt consensus on strong majority decisions – but use simple majority voting if necessary to maintain momentum
- Allow for a final CRC review of all changes – with tweaks if necessary and time allows – at the end of our process

### Meeting Schedule

Facilitator Hendrickson stated that meetings will occur on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, starting on February 10 and running through September 9, 2026, from 6pm to 9pm.

Members inquired about the option of participating virtually, as some members thought they might otherwise exceed the three allowed absences (or two consecutive absences). Facilitator Hendrickson explained that a mix of in-person and virtual attendees would impede his ability to facilitate and slow the CRC's progress. He asked members to email him their known absences and said he and Attorney Tinkler would take the recommendation under advisement.

### File Sharing & Communications

The members discussed using their City of Tampa email accounts for all correspondence and that all CRC files are and will be saved on the City's internal CRC SharePoint website. The members discussed public accessibility.

### Selection of Chairperson & Vice Chairperson

Facilitator Hendrickson asked members if anyone wanted to serve as chairperson or vice chairperson. Bobby Creighton nominated Stephen Benson as Chairperson, and Mr. Benson declined the nomination. Rebecca Kert nominated Ashley Morrow as Chairperson, and Ms. Morrow accepted the nomination. Kathleen Shanahan nominated Ron Christaldi as Chairperson. Christaldi accepted the nomination. Bill Schifino nominated Alan Cohn for Vice Chairperson, and Mr. Cohn accepted the nomination. Ron Christaldi nominated Kathleen Shanahan as Vice Chairperson, and she accepted the nomination.

Facilitator Hendrickson then asked for a show of hands for Ashley Morrow as Chairperson and counted out loud a show of six (6) hands. The facilitator then asked for show of hands for Ron Christaldi and counted out loud a show of three (3) hands, making Ashley Morrow Chairperson.

Facilitator Hendrickson then asked for a show of hands for Alan Cohn for Vice Chairperson and he was elected unanimously.

### Discussion

The members discussed consensus versus majority voting per the CRC resolution. Attorney Tinkler read the City Council's resolution to the CRC and recommended that any deviation would need to go back to city council to amend the resolution.

**Motion: (Schifino/Christaldi) to ask city council to amend the CRC enabling resolution to require a super-majority of six (6) affirmative votes by the CRC to be able to send recommendations back to city council. Motion carried unanimously.**

Attorney Tinkler said that he would prepare a memo to city council based on the motion made today and would transmit it to the City Council Chair.

The members discussed whether CRC meeting recordings would be made available to the public by placing them on the City's website or YouTube page (in addition to the meetings being available via a public records request). Facilitator Hendrickson committed to saving those recordings to the CRC SharePoint site and said he and Attorney Tinkler would take the recommendation under advisement.

The members then discussed public comment procedures.

#### Preparation

Facilitator Hendrickson went over a presentation on the CRC's homework for the next meeting as it will focus on Article 1 (Sections 1.01 – 1.04) and Article 2 (Sections 2.01 – 2.14).

#### Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Charter Review Commission at this time, upon no objection, CRC Chair Ashley Morrow adjourned said meeting at 8:12p.m., on this the 20th day of January 2026.



Minutes Approved by CRC on Feb 24, 2026  
Chairperson Ashley Morrow