

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

APPROVED MINUTES FOR MEETING ON: February 10, 2026, AT 6:01 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 6:01p.m. on the 10th day of February 2026. The meeting audio 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, Bill Schifino, Garrett Greco, and Alternates Sue Carlton and Alison Hewitt.

City Staff in attendance were: 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.

Public Comment

Facilitator Hendrickson opened the floor for public comment.

Stephanie Poynor spoke and provided a copy of the Memo from City Attorney Scott Steady to the Mayor and City Council, and on the reverse side a copy of Sections 5 and 7 of Ordinance 2025-98.

Approval of 1/20/26 Kickoff Meeting Minutes

Facilitator Hendrickson stated that copies of the minutes will be provided at future meetings. Some members agreed they would like to review the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, so they will be brought back to the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting for CRC approval.

Hendrickson revised the agenda to change the order and discuss Ground Rules, City Council's Review, Procedural Matters, and Game Plan and Preparation.

Ground Rules

Facilitator Hendrickson reminded CRC members that when suggesting changes to the City of Tampa Charter they should state how it will affect the future, and to explain the issues. The role should go beyond today for a different future, setting precedent for changes. Members should be strategic in their advisory role.

Review and Discuss Potential Amendments to the Tampa City Charter (Articles 1 – 3)  
Charter Review

The facilitator asked the CRC for feedback on each section of articles 1 through 3. In summary, the CRC had no changes to or questions about 1.01 – 1.04, 2.05 – 2.07, and 2.10 – 2.14. For the other sections, the Facilitator utilized a whiteboard to take notes covering recommended changes, items requiring clarification, and action items for follow up. Attached to the minutes at Exhibit A are the whiteboard notes.

Procedural Matters

Facilitator Hendrickson advised members that in-person CRC meetings would allow him to facilitate more effectively and for the group to make more substantial progress.

Discussion

The members discussed public participation and input, remote participation at meetings, and posting and livestreaming meetings online for more transparency and greater public participation.

MOTION by Ron Christaldi to allow virtual participation by members if they are more than 200 miles from Tampa, are ill, or have other emergencies and cannot attend. Christaldi then withdrew his original motion.

**MOTION (Christaldi/Greco) to allow members virtual participation for CRC meetings, up to four (4) times, if they are outside the city limits, ill, or have other emergencies and cannot attend in person. Motion carried 7-2, with Creighton and Morrow voting no.**

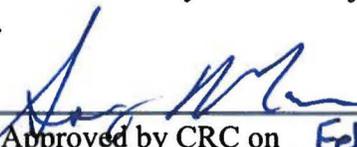
**MOTION (Christaldi/Shanahan) to recommend to city council and the mayor to live stream meetings of the CRC and to post online. Kert added to the motion to include based on the need for transparency and access. Motion carried 8-1, with Benson voting no.**

**MOTION (Creighton/Christaldi) for Attorney Tinkler to send a memo to the mayor and the chair of city council advising them of the motions made today. Motion carried 8-1, with Morrow voting no.**

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

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Morrow/Kert): 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 9:15p.m., on this the 10th day of February 2026.

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

2.01

- Enough representation?
- Need more data to shape this
- 7 in 1945 prior 12 independent
- Up to 100K per district harder to represent as district 5
- Also dilute votes if more seats
- taxes v. services unbalanced
- A) ask for more info from cities or invite?
- A) research independently

2.02

- One year residency before filing (moves to a district just to run)
- Filing deadlines may be unclear
- Also FYI planning comm could change the districts

2.03

- "Compel" → what does that look like?
- \* [this can be clarified] < resolution today?  
< clarify ...
  - Incl. "expedient" + necessary

## 204 Staff

- More info - pros v cons of council atty v none
- Council atty about # apps (20 yrs)
- A) Rebecca back AS to charter re This.

### Issues

- conflicting legal opinions
- divisiveness
- overlapping roles/spans of authority
- reporting lines ("who is the client?")

- More intel/insight would be helpful

↳ why was this role est'd?

↳ FL bar rules may guide

↳ Council atty → how makes decisions

↳ Ask SS + MS to attend

(Ask MS about need more staff)

- Sec 7.012 re council approving new staff → re budget
- D) clearing bullet 4 "found in the budget" not charter-opp

idea?  
today?

2.08

- Not best use of time to read on 2 sep days
- A) Follow state law ... "pursuant" - update it to stay this in 6

2.09

- ensure state chapter reference is still valid in  $\Delta$ .

~~2.11~~ 2.14

- 2.14 - keep but no to question - "stay in law"

3.01

- removed dept head residency requirement
- A) check 1 first then  $\Delta$
- ↳