

**CHARTER REVIEW ADVISORY COMMISSION**

CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA

Old City Hall

315 E Kennedy Blvd.

Tampa, Florida 33602

MINUTES FOR MEETING ON: June 9, 2026, AT 6:01 P.M.

The Charter Review Advisory Commission (CRC) 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 6:01 p.m. on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of June 2026. The Zoom meeting was live streamed and recorded, and available on YouTube and minutes were prepared by Dharsh Saravana, City Council/City Clerk Support Specialist, Office of the City Clerk.

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

City Staff in attendance were Gavin Barrera, T&I Support Technician, Samuel Thomas, Legislative Aide, and Dharsh Saravana, City Council/City Clerk Support Specialist.

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

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of 5/26/26 Meeting Minutes

Chair Ashley Morrow asked for a motion to approve minutes. Bobby Creighton identified that Stephen Benson (not Bobby Creighton) requested the CRC to investigate requiring early voting for city elections, which currently is only a feature of state and federal elections.

**MOTION (Christaldi/Creighton) to adopt the May 26, 2026, CRC Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.**

Review and Discuss Potential Amendments to the Tampa City Charter (Sections 6.03, 9.02, 10.01, 10.02, 10.03, 10.04, 10.05, 10.06, 10.07, 10.08, 10.09, 10.10, 10.11, 11.01, 11.02, 11.03, 11.04, 11.05, 11.06, and 11.07)

The Facilitator led the CRC through a review and discussion of sections 6.03, 9.02, 10.01, 10.02, 10.03, 10.04, 10.05, 10.06, 10.07, 10.08, 10.09, 10.10, 10.11, 11.01, 11.02, 11.03, 11.04, 11.05, 11.06, and 11.07. In summary, no changes were made regarding these sections except for sections 6.03, 9.02,

10.06, 10.10, and 11.03, which are recorded in the whiteboard notes attached to the minutes. The CRC with respect to section 10.07 is awaiting more information from the CRC attorney regarding how the city's recall process is practically applied to the initiative and referendum process.

**MOTION (Christaldi/Shanahan) to approve the section 6.03 amendment as presented by the CRC Attorney which allows the mayor to appoint administration staff and the City Council to confirm appointments. Motion carried 8-1 with Creighton voting no.**

**MOTION (Christaldi/Creighton) to approve the section 9.02 amendment as presented by the CRC Attorney which removes language requiring the chief building inspector to be the ex officio director of the zoning adjustment board. Motion carried unanimously.**

The CRC, by unanimous consent, with respect to section 10.06 removed language requiring the section's provisions to not take effect until 1976.

**MOTION (Kert/Shanahan) to increase charter review commission's convening to every 12 years instead of the current 8 years in section 10.10. Motion carried 8-1 with Benson voting no.**

**MOTION (Shanahan/Greco) to request the CRC attorney to draft language changing "established by ordinance" to "established by resolution" by City Council in section 10.10. Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION (Cohn/Greco) to remove the provisions for elected officials in the 1975 regular election in section 11.03. Motion carried unanimously.**

For all 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 are Exhibits A, B, C, D and E the whiteboard notes.

### Discussion

The members reviewed all public comments received since the CRC's inception and expressed their views regarding mandating an independent ethics commission in the charter, the implications of shifting a regular city council meeting to the evenings to increase participation of working residents, improving the CRC's ability to obtain necessary information to make informed charter revisions, whether the CRC recommendations should directly go to voters for approval, and supporting long range zoning/ planning in the charter by requiring a zoning hearing master.

**MOTION (Creighton/Greco) to request City Council to consider all available options by which they may increase public participation in their meetings to include evening sessions or multiple meeting dates. Motion carried 7-2 with Cristaldi and Shanahan voting no.**

The Facilitator provided a recap regarding the charter action items, and how the CRC is progressing with its review.

### New Business

There was no new business.

### Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn (Creighton/Cohn):** 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 9:03p.m., on this the 9th day of June 2026.

Minutes Approved by CRC on 6/23/2026  
Chairperson Ashley Morrow

# Minutes

- Mr Benson re early voting not BC

## Article 10

- Re election date - keep as is

10.01 - no Δs

10.02 - no Δs

10.03 - no Δs

10.04 - no Δs

10.05 - no Δs

10.06 - remove 76 language

10.07 - <sup>Ken T.</sup> awaiting ordinance from city - near end of language

10.08 - no Δs

10.09 - no Δs

10.10 - Send to ppl v. CC?

10 yrs v. 8 - not on mayoral cycle (could be 8 and off-cycle too)

- Add resources to support our CRC work eg surveying research

- Perhaps supermajority of CC app may veto

### 10.10 continued

Timings - maybe 8 to bypass costs of spec election

\* Motion - Δ to 12 yrs

Leave as advisory

10.10 cont. novel

More CRC resources?

more authority to set rules, procedures, rules dates <sup>and act independently</sup>

→ Ken to draft language re more resources as req'd by CRC

↳ maybe not by ordinance but by charter

→ Delete 'est by ordinance' + 'within direction of ord.' replace w/ by appts by resolution

10.11 No Δs

Article 11

11.03 - Remove last sentence re 1975

All others - No changes

What are the...  
10/10 comparison

# Public Comment

- I F/ethics/auditor
  - \* Tax city has. State too.
  - \* Learn more about what others do. (Ken?)
  - How oversight by State or otherwise would work (Ken)
  - Maybe city atty v. HR does this?
  - Public or employee complaints only?
  - City has an ethics commission
  - \* Request HR to describe policy + process

## - 5 pm CC mtgss topic

- state statute reqs one land use @ night (of two)
- there are other ways to participate
- physical presence shows support of a speaker
- cost implications potentially
- \* Made a recommendation to CC to consider for reasons stated

Major Comment

# Discussion Items

2 - Use of clerk dismissal language for city atty (independence issue)

5 - Projects being completed on time  
- Ashley to learn more v. what was discussed

5 - Zoning ... should we address in charter?

4 - Early voting → SoE does but not required (state law gives option to cities) - funding by city

[ Better <sup>servicing</sup> ~~servicing~~ residents w/ the charter.  
via other means e.g. more resources  
evening mtgs  
maybe other room ]

# Land Use / Zoning

- = Education needed for CC
- State req's comprehensive plan w/ much public input
- Much dictated by state law + court decisions
- State law is often so charter being drafted would mean frequent Δ's (duplicative)
- Some support for zoning hearing master like County uses in the charter - does findings of fact + expert opinion for BOCC
- Various groups offer <sup>zoning</sup> opinions in the city of ~~zoning~~
- Would need to decide who appoints <sup>zoning</sup> hearing master
- \* Ken to find/share what other charters cover for zoning.
- \* Rob to ask Julia Mandell to come
- \* Rob to ask Abby Feely how done now / thoughts about the process
- \* Rob to ask CC chair for input on this idea