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

AMENDED MINUTES FOR MEETING ON: July 14, 2026, AT 6:04 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 6:04 p.m. on the 14th day of July 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 (late arrival), Garrett Greco, Bobby Creighton, Ashley Morrow, Rebecca Kert, Alan Cohn, Kathleen Shanahan (virtual), Bill Schifino, Ron Christaldi (virtual), Alison Hewitt (virtual), and Sue Carlton.

City Staff in attendance were Gavin Barrera, T&I Support Technician, Marley Wilkes, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Mayor, 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

The following individuals appeared before the Charter Review Commission to make public comment:

Joe Citro commented on making charter revisions that serve the best interests of the constituents. He spoke in favor of a zoning hearing master, noting that it allows the city to streamline the land use hearing process, expand opportunities for public comment, and allow city council members to focus on other priorities.

Approval of 6/23/26 Meeting Minutes

Chair Ashley Morrow asked for motion to approve minutes.

MOTION (Creighton/Greco) to adopt the June 23, 2026, CRC Minutes. Motion carried unanimously with Benson absent at vote.

Review Potential Amendments to the Tampa City Charter

The CRC facilitator shared with the members that the review of the current Charter and the agreed-upon amendments are now complete.

Discussion

The CRC members continued discussions on establishing an independent ethics function integrating an interim review body for zoning hearings and taking measures to help ensure the timely completion of City projects.

The CRC Attorney summarized how a few cities across Florida implemented and structured an Inspector General office and the Facilitator shared the job description of the City's Director of Internal Audit, confirmed a compliance officer role does not exist, and shared the City's current procedures on addressing fraud/waste/abuse allegations. The CRC members debated whether an Inspector General office duplicates existing city procedures and debated some of the role's parameters, including its duration.

Motion (Creighton/ Greco) to amend the charter to include an independent inspector general. Motion carried 6-3 with Kert, Cristaldi, and Shanahan voting no.

Motion (Kert/ Creighton) to recess. Motion carried unanimously.
The meeting recessed at 7:22 and reconvened at 7:37.

Motion (Cristaldi/ Schifino) to adopt the more prescriptive language requiring a Zoning Hearing Officer, as presented by the CRC Attorney, with clarification that the appointment process shall mirror the application and appointment process used by the Planning Commission. Motion carried 8-1 with Greco voting no.

Chair Ashley Morrow shared recommendations to improve the timely completion of all city-funded projects, including requiring the mayor's administration to provide quarterly project execution reports/ schedules and automatic public hearings for stalled projects with a revised implementation plan. The CRC members requested the CRC attorney to research if and how other municipalities incorporated charter language to reinforce project delivery accountability.

For each discussion item, the Facilitator utilized a whiteboard to take notes covering recommended changes and items requiring clarification, and action items for follow-up. Attached to the minutes are Exhibits A, B, C, D, E, and F.

New Business

The CRC deliberated on the motion made by Councilmember Carlson during the 6/11/2026 evening council meeting requesting the CRC to provide a 10-minute update on how the CRC addressed the questions City Council Chairman Alan Clendenin provided to the CRC in his January 29, 2026 memorandum, "Questions from Tampa City Council for Consideration." The CRC designated Chair Ashley Morrow to request a continuance of this motion, to allow the CRC adequate time to respond.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Creighton/Benson): 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 9:31 p.m., on this the 14th day of July 2026.

Minutes Approved by CRC on 07/28/2026
Chairperson Ashley Morrow

Exhibit A

JULY 14 (last one?)

- IG/ethics etc

> could IG services be outsourced?
  - L would potentially save costs v perm staff
  - L city council could always hire a firm

> IGs typically chosen via committee

> Re: 3 options, all can perform audits but don't fill the formal audit role

> CoT process per BC lacks oversight, a political role and HR is/oversees ethics function

> May be more 'fair' if function was independent v inside HR → w/ findings pulling in depts like HR

> View Miami Beach model? (see model online)

> How diff. from CoT ethics commission? →

> CoT has bases covered but no body overseeing like an IG

> Doral has IG selection committee (1 term went to voters)

Exhibit B

IG etc (cont).

> IGs take politics out of the process
↳ may build trust

> could ethics commission be expanded to include an IG?

> An IG may not understand all issues well enough

> Maybe explore separating HR from process → conflict of interest?
eg ethics officer rpt to ethics commission

> paying someone/a firm better than volunteer board

> Independence always good

> Could be 2yr terms or indep. review of how gov. runs

> Is it to perform or oversee/improve the function?

> Ethics officer is an embedded HR duty - clarification point

>

Exhibit C

IG etc (cont.)

> IG as a concept is well understood

> 2yr term may be too short

note motion has been made re this

> Ken to bring back options

↳ 3 options (enhanced HR separate, req for IG but not how, very concrete)

> need to be mindful of costs given prop tax.... but still to voters

ZONING

> Walkthrough of 3 optional charter Δs

> Having a body v. skilled Hearing master may defeat the purpose → could add bureaucracy

> @ County there is an application process for the HM? zoning master

Exhibit D

Zoning (cont.)

> Let's ensure this is not perceived to be a role / position in the mayor's cabinet

* > Model planning comm. appt. process in the language (Ken action)

>

> Motion to adopt Option 1 w/ p.c. appointment language incorporated

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Ashley [illegible]

Exhibit E

Timely completion of projects

> Perhaps incorp into budgeting process → acting on/ relocating funds

> Fund balances ~~rep'd~~ reported in spring; could be tied to This

> Budgeting is not a mandate to do projects; There will be good reasons to not proceed

> Council can request This info today

> Desire to explore charter language

* > Action - Ken to check other charters for language re: projects delivered including

> ~~Action - Ask admin for language/input re this issue →~~

Exhibit F

New Business

Bill → recent council CRC comments

- Ashley to request continuance
- Rob to check all ?s were addressed