

## CHARTER REVIEW ADVISORY COMMISSION

CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA

Old City Hall

315 E Kennedy Blvd.

Tampa, Florida 33602

AMENDED MINUTES FOR MEETING ON: July 28, 2026, AT 6:02 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 6:02 p.m. on the 28<sup>th</sup> 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, Garrett Greco, Bobby Creighton, Ashley Morrow, Rebecca Kert, Alan Cohn, Kathleen Shanahan (virtual), Bill Schifino, Ron Cristaldi (virtual), Alison Hewitt (late arrival), 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 individual submitted a written public comment to the Charter Review Commission.

**Brittney Llewellyn** submitted written comment encouraging the CRC members to establish through charter an Inspector General that is independent, effective, and accountable, which is attached to the minutes.

### Approval of 7/14/26 Meeting Minutes

Chair Ashley Morrow asked for motion to approve minutes. Bobby Creighton identified that Garrett Greco (not Bobby Creighton) voted no to the motion initiated by Ron Cristaldi to include language requiring a Zoning Hearing Officer in the Charter.

**MOTION (Schifino/ Creighton) to adopt the July 14, 2026, CRC Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.**

### Review Potential Amendments to the Tampa City Charter

The CRC attorney shared a memo from the City Attorney's office stating that Ordinance 2018-129, enacted on August 23, 2018, proposed several amendments to the Charter for consideration by voters at the March 5, 2019, election. Sections 6.02, 6.05, 6.06, 7.05, and 10.07 had revisions approved by the 2018 CRC and Tampa City Council that were not included on the ballot form due to a drafting error but were incorporated into the Charter.

**Motion (Kert/ Creighton)** to accept the changes proposed and approved by the previous CRC and Tampa City Council in 2018 but not included in the ballot on the March 5, 2019, election for City Council to reconsider and place on the ballot for voter approval. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Discussion

CRC Attorney with respect to enforcing project accountability reported not finding any language in Florida municipal charters but presented sample language modeled from a City of Jacksonville ordinance. The CRC proposed language amendments clarifying reporting only materials delays and delays in current projects.

**Motion (Morrow/ Kert)** to accept the project accountability charter language presented by the CRC Attorney as amended with the annual reporting date for project delays to be set by City Council. Motion carried 8-1 with Christaldi voting no.

The CRC Attorney presented sample charter language to establish an Inspector General position. The CRC members discussed in detail how an Inspector General could complement existing city processes, the mechanisms to safeguard its operational independence, the staffing and workload required for the position, and methods to ensure performance accountability. The CRC members proposed charter language amendments to emphasize commitment to transparency, change the reporting frequency from 6 to 12 months, and include designees from the George Edgecomb Bar Association and the Public Defender's office in the selection and retention committee.

The CRC will revisit discussions on whether the Inspector General should have subpoena power, and which authorities/ duties should be described in the charter versus an ordinance. For each discussion item, the Facilitator utilized a whiteboard to take notes covering recommended changes and action items for follow-up, which are attached to the minutes as Exhibits A, B and C.

#### New Business

There was no new business.

#### Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn (Morrow/Creighton):** There being no further business to come before the Charter Review Commission at this time, upon no objection, CRC Chair Ashely Morrow adjourned said meeting at 8:58 p.m., on this the 28th day of July 2026.

Minutes Approved by CRC on  
Chairperson Ashley Morrow

## Runway

2 docs

1) amendments

2) process nee's \* Rob to share outline  
\* Rob to confirm this is wanted.

## Project Accountability

- Not in charters, only one ordinance

- Proposed language:

- need to confirm date?
- remove grant text at end?
- replace "any" with "material" delays?
- replace "previously funded" with "active"?
- ~~check if CRA projects~~
- CRA.. confirm covered.
- "delays" → add "current" before

IG

- This is "super broad" - <sup>esp.</sup> "oversight of city matters" - "arm of city council"
- Concerns → reviewing agencies is a large task
  - Doran does not have a strong mayor + other functions city has
  - mayor should decide what agencies review depts
  - what if mayor doesn't buy in to the IG's recommend's.
  - will create conflict ex HR dir v. IG.
  - maybe CC hires someone as needed to investigate
  - ordinance gives power to rpt to CC
- Maybe IG doesn't solve issues but is independent + report findings to city council, mayor, public.
- Unfunded mandate ... need checks + balances
- Committing resources esp with prop tax possibility problematic
- Potential changes
  - transparency language
  - annual reviews not 6 mos
  - add public defender's
  - remove mayor + CC chair from committee
  - committee appoints not CC/mayor
  - extend nomination period to 60 days from 30
  - perhaps change committee to include role/person of color (GEBA?)
  - perhaps member of color
  - Union person to offset "elitist" members
  -
- Fed system reports to dept heads (admin) + congress (legislative)
  - ↳ key point of this

16 cont.

- needs to be accountability to the voters of Tampa

straw poll ye's / N's

- GUSA
- PD
- keep mayor govt / CC confirm.
- keepings on selection committee
- 12 no reviews.
- bi-directional removal initiation
- vacancy re-starts committee search 90-day window
- one employee position
- narrow ordinance powers

- Selection committee comp.
  - ↳ keep mayor and CC Chair
- \* Find out if chief judge, etc. have ethics rules preclude participation. Or appoint.

Bill will ask

\* 2017-61 and ethics charter share

discuss

- Consider removing subpoena power ...
- revisit broad powers language "powers"
- further regulation by ordinance allows too much authority → section 6
- Doesn't limit authority at all.



**City of Tampa**  
*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**Office of the City Attorney**  
**Scott I. Steady, City Attorney**

315 E. Kennedy Blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tampa, Florida 33602

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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** July 24, 2026  
**TO:** The Honorable Mayor Jane Castor  
The Honorable Chair and Members of Tampa City Council  
Shirley Foxx-Knowles, City Clerk  
**THROUGH:** Scott Steady, City Attorney   
**FROM:** Scott Davis, Assistant City Attorney I   
**SUBJECT:** Identification of Inaccuracies in the City of Tampa Charter Following  
Amendments Made Pursuant to Ordinance 2018-129 and the March 5,  
2019 Election.

**INTRODUCTION:**

Ordinance 2018-129, enacted on August 23, 2018, proposed several amendments to the City of Tampa Charter (the "Charter") for consideration by voters at the March 5, 2019 election. However, the ballot form attached to Ordinance 2018-129 as Exhibit A did not include for consideration all proposed amendments. As a result, some changes were never presented to voters, yet all revisions described in Ordinance 2018-129 were nevertheless incorporated into the Charter.

The City Attorney's Office (the "Office") recently identified these inaccuracies in the Charter, as published on Municode, involving several sections that are amended based on Ordinance 2018-129 and the March 5, 2019 election, even though those revisions were never placed on the ballot for voter approval.

**APPLICABLE LAW & ANALYSIS:**

In accordance with Charter § 10.11, the City Council may propose amendments by ordinance to the Charter. See § 166.031(1), Fla. Stat. ("The governing body of a municipality may, by ordinance ... submit to the electors of said municipality a proposed amendment to its charter...."). As further provided in Charter § 10.11(a), "[u]pon adoption of the initiating

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ordinance, and unless provided for otherwise in this charter, the city council shall submit the proposed amendments to a vote of the electors at the general election held within the city, or at a special election called for such purpose."

Following a comprehensive review, the Office determined that five sections improperly include Charter revisions attributed to Ordinance 2018-129 and the March 5, 2019 election even though those amendments were never submitted to or approved by the voters. The five inaccurate sections, detailed in Exhibit A - Charter Sections and Corresponding Invalid Changes, are:

- Section 6.02 – Term;
- Section 6.05 – Oath;
- Section 6.06 – Salaries;
- Section 7.05 – Millage; and
- Section 10.07 – Initiative and Referendum.

Accordingly, the amendments to these sections, detailed in Exhibit A, are invalid because they were not submitted to the electors as required by Charter § 10.11(a).

**CONCLUSION:**

The Office recently identified inaccuracies in the Charter, as published on Municode, involving several sections that were shown as amended pursuant to Ordinance 2018-129 and the March 5, 2019 election, even though those revisions were never presented to voters for approval. The amendments made to the five sections listed in Exhibit A were improperly attributed to Ordinance 2018-129 and the March 5, 2019 election and are therefore invalid. The Office notified the Office of the City Clerk on July 24, 2026, and requested the removal of the invalid amendments to reflect only those changes properly approved by voters.

cc: John Bennett, Chief of Staff  
Martin Shelby, City Council Attorney  
Suling Lucas, Deputy City Clerk

**Exhibit A**  
**Charter Sections and Corresponding Invalid Changes**

**Section 6.02. – Term.**

The term of ~~all officers~~ the mayor, and city council members, created as provided for by this charter shall be for four years and until their successors have been duly qualified; ~~provided however, that the mayor and city council members elected in the 1979 municipal elections shall hold office for a term of three and one half (3½) years and~~ provided further that the terms of all officers appointed by the mayor shall terminate with the term of office of the mayor so appointing, except the city clerk and those board members appointed for fixed and staggered terms.

**Section 6.05. – Oath.**

Each officer of the city before entering upon the discharge of the officer's duties shall take and subscribe an oath, before a person authorized to administer oaths in the city, that the officer is ~~a resident of the city and is~~ entitled to hold and will faithfully perform the duties of the office to which the officer has been elected or appointed and will support, uphold, and defend the charter and ordinances of the City of Tampa, the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, and the Constitution and laws of the United States of America.

**Section 6.06. – Salaries.**

The ~~initial salaries or compensation of all officers of the city shall be the same as they were upon the date of the referendum upon this charter, provided that from and after October 1, 1975, any such~~ salary or salaries of officers of the city may be increased or decreased at any time by the concurrence of the mayor and a majority of no fewer than four votes of the entire city council, which concurrence shall be documented by resolution, or ordinance of the council recommended or approved in writing by the mayor.

**Section 7.05. – Millage.**

Upon adoption of the annual budget, or as soon thereafter as practicable, the city council shall proceed to determine the amounts which may be necessary for the carrying on of the municipal government during the next ensuing fiscal year from ad

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valorem taxes and shall proceed to fix the millage or tax necessary in accordance with state law [F.S. § 200.065, as it may be amended from time to time], which millage as so determined shall be certified by the mayor to the proper authorities.

**Section 10.07. – Initiative and Referendum.**

The qualified voters of the city shall have power to propose ordinances to the council or to require reconsideration of any adopted ordinance by petition signed by the electors of the city equal in number to nor less than 10 percent of the electors of the city qualified to vote at the last general municipal election; the form and content of such petition shall provide for under the provisions relating to recall of officers as provided herein. If the council fails to adopt an ordinance so proposed or to repeal an ordinance so reconsidered, the qualified voters shall approve or reject such ordinance at a city election provided that such powers shall not extend to the budget or capital improvement program, zoning, the comprehensive plan, or any emergency ordinance, or ordinance relating to the appropriation of money, levy of taxes or salaries of city officers or employees. The procedure to be followed for citizen initiative and referendum will be provided by ordinance in accordance with F.S. § 166.031 (as it may be amended from time to time), which ordinance shall be initially enacted within six months of the passage of (this amendment to) the charter and once passed shall not be amended more frequently than once every two years and only within a time frame of ninety (90) days after a general election.

Good evening, Chair and members of the Charter Review Commission.

My name is Brittney Llewellyn. I am a Tampa native, a former City of Tampa employee, and a resident who cares deeply about the future and integrity of our local government.

First, I would like to thank the Commission for its work and for its recent 6–3 vote recommending the establishment of an independent Inspector General for the City of Tampa. I believe that was an important first step for our City.

Now comes the equally important responsibility of determining how the office will be structured. The decisions you make today, and those you leave for the future, will determine whether the office can fulfill its intended purpose.

My interest in this issue comes directly from spending the last several years trying to navigate the City's many internal systems as an employee. Those experiences led me to spend more time than I ever expected studying municipal governance, state and federal law, and government oversight frameworks – including one proposed by the U.S. Department of Justice in recent matters involving the City of Tampa.

That journey brings me before you this evening to respectfully ask the Commission to establish, through the Charter, the structural safeguards necessary to ensure the City of Tampa's Inspector General remains independent, effective, and accountable for generations to come.

The City of Tampa is a large and complex organization with an annual budget approaching \$2 billion and responsibilities that touch every resident. Effective oversight of an organization of this size cannot be treated as a part-time responsibility. While some may focus on the cost of funding such an office, the real cost is failing to identify waste, inefficiencies, and systemic problems before they become more expensive to correct. If this office is expected to strengthen accountability, protect public resources, and build public trust, it must be established with the authority, resources, and staffing necessary to carry out that mission.

To that end, I encourage the Commission to include the following foundational safeguards directly in the Charter:

- independence from political or administrative influence;
- meaningful authority to conduct objective and proactive oversight across all City departments;
- a full-time Inspector General supported by sufficient staffing; and
- stable funding sufficient to fulfill its mission.

By embedding these safeguards in the Charter, you make them part of the City's enduring framework rather than leaving them to future ordinances or administrative decisions.

Thank you again for your time and thoughtful consideration.

*Brittney Llewellyn*