

BOARD MEMBERS:
ANNIE DAVIS
JEREMY DAVIS
TOM DOLAN
TERRILL HILL
TERESA JACKSON
ALLEGRA KITCHENS
JAMES NORWOOD
TIFFANY PARKER FLANDERS
LEIGH RION
MATT SHULER
AUDREY WISE
ANNIE SVETLIK (ALTERNATE)

TROY BELL, ICMA-CM
MPA, MS-Finance
CITY MANAGER
JANE WEST, ESQ.
CITY ATTORNEY
SUNNI KRANTZ, CMC
CITY CLERK



AGENDA
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
August 22, 2024 at 4:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Special Called Meeting Notice
- b. Roll Call
- c. Approval of Minutes of May 29, 2024 meeting
- d. General Public Comment - (Public Comment is limited to 3 minutes. No action taken on items.)

II. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Reminder of Timelines

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

- a. Recommendations regarding Charter Article II - City Commission
 - i. Report of fact-finding subcommittee on voting at-large vs. single district (and other options) - Ms. Wise, Ms. Parker Flanders, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Shuler
 - ii. Report of Section 22 fact-finding subcommittee (includes time of elections) - Ms. Kitchens, Mr. Dolan, Ms. Davis, and Mr. Norwood
 - iii. Continuation of Discussion of Article II - Sec. 23 - 28, not limited to but including discussions:
 - Sec. 23. - Discussion —Majority constitutes quorum
 - Sec. 24. - Discussion - Lead time and location
 - Sec. 25. - Discussion - Filling vacancies on Commission, State Statutes, Governor's appointment, local election and Commission vote
 - Sec. 26. - Discussion - Mayor's powers
 - Sec. 27. - Discussion - Oath of office; required; filing
 - Sec. 28. - Discussion - Explanation of Home Rule Powers granted by this act and general state law vest in commission; exercise of same
- b. Recommendations regarding Charter Article III - City Manager, not limited to but including discussions:
 - Sec. 36 - Discussion - Should majority be super-majority
 - Sec. 37 - Discussion - Should majority be super-majority
 - Sec. 38. - Discussion - How to designate who is acting city manager, current organization chart, acting city manager vs. interim city manager
 - Sec. 39. - Discussion - Powers and duties of the City Manager

- c. Set Reoccurring Charter Review Committee Meeting Date
 - i. Recommendations regarding Charter Article IV - Elections

IV. ADJOURN

Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at 386-329-0100 at least 24 hours in advance to request accommodations.

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CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING NOTICE

TO BOARD MEMBERS: Annie Davis, Jeremy Davis, Tom Dolan, Teresa Jackson, Allegra Kitchens, James Norwood, Tiffany Parker Flanders, Leigh Rion, Matt Shuler, Audrey Wise, and Annie Svetlik (Alternate)

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED a special called meeting of the Palatka Charter Review Committee is hereby called to be held on August 22, 2024 at 4:00 PM at City Hall Annex, 205 N. 2nd St., Palatka, FL 32177. The purpose of the meeting is to review the City's Charter. Please govern yourselves accordingly.

/s/ Terrill L. Hill,
Chair

/s/ Sunni Krantz, CMC
City Clerk

Approval of Minutes of May 29, 2024 meeting
Approval of Minutes of March 26, 2024 meeting

STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 22, 2024
TO: City of Palatka Charter Review Committee
FROM: City Staff

APPLICATION REQUEST

The Clerk is requesting approval of the May 29, 2024 meeting minutes.

BACKGROUND

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Staff Recommendation

ATTACHMENTS

1.	2024.05.29
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BOARD MEMBERS:
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CITY CLERK



**MINUTES
CITY OF PALATKA
May 29, 2024**

I. CALL TO ORDER at 4:00 PM

A. Special Called Meeting Notice

The notice of the meeting was read by the Chair.

B. Roll Call

Present:

Absent: Teresa Jackson

Tiffany Parker Flanders

Matthew Shuler

Thomas Dolan

Allegra Kitchens

Audrey Wise

Annie Davis

Jeremy Davis

James Norwood

Leigh Rion

Terrill Hill, Chair

Annie Svetlik, Alternate

Also Present: Jane West, City Attorney; Sunni Krantz, City Clerk; Alonzo Mulberry, City Chaplain; Sarah Cavacini, Palatka Daily News; Also present via telecommunications technology: Troy Bell, City Manager; Marcia Carty, Finance Director; Jason Shaw, Police Chief; Matt Newcomb, Assistant Police Chief

C. Introduction of Board Members

Each committee member gave introductory remarks.

The City Chaplain led an invocation.

D. Approval of Minutes of March 26, 2024 meeting

Motion to approve by Ms. Kitchens. Seconded by Ms. Wise. Motion unanimously.

E. General Public Comment - (Public Comment is limited to 3 minutes. No action taken on items.)

The floor was opened to public comment. Hearing none, the floor was closed to public comment.

II. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. General Discussion

Ms. West reminded the Charter Review Committee of deadlines from the agenda packet. She advised the metes

and bounds legal descriptions found in Article I do not need reviewed by the Board, while the remainder of the Charter can be reviewed. She advised the Committee can create sub-committees and can bring in persons with expertise from outside City Staff.

B. Confirmation of Charter Review Focus

1. Creation of Subcommittees for Research (if needed)

Mr. Hill advised the committee can create subcommittees of 3 - 4 members to find facts regarding certain articles of the Charter. Ms. West advised the Charter Review Committee is governed by the sunshine law meeting notice requirements. Ms. West advised subcommittees that only fact-find would not governed by Sunshine, whereas subcommittees that make a recommendation to the Charter Review Committee would be governed by the Sunshine law. The Clerk recommended each subcommittee file minutes of each meeting with the Clerk, so that it can be shown that the subcommittee only participated in fact-finding activities and the Clerk can disseminate the Minutes to the other committee members. The subcommittee should designate a person taking minutes and a chair.

Discussion commenced on how and when to create subcommittees.

Ms. Parker Flanders suggested a subcommittee on geographical regions and Ms. Davis suggested creating a subcommittee on each article, as the Committee had the information in advance. Initially, Ms. Kitchens spoke in opposition to subcommittees as duplicative and suggested they might be needed later. She spoke expressed desire to know what happens at all subcommittee meetings. Ms. Wise spoke in favor of subcommittees with specific items earmarked. Mr. Dolan expressed subcommittees are premature at this time.

Motion to use subcommittees as apart of the work product as needed as we go through the charter by Ms. Kitchens. Seconded by Mr. Norwood. Motion Yes 9, No 2, with Ms. Wise and Ms. Davis dissenting.

Motion to put subcommittees in place and when needed be adhered to if and when we might need it by Ms. Wise. Motion died for lack of a second.

The Clerk offered to provide contact numbers or connections if needed during the course of the Charter Review subcommittee's research.

2. Timelines

The Clerk reminded the Committee will need to take recommendations back to the City Commission by a certain date (see agenda packet).

3. Recommendations regarding Charter Articles I and II

Discussion commenced regarding Article I, Chair Hill advised the metes and bounds of the City change as the City annexes property in, which is done by City Ordinance.

Motion to accept article I as written by Mr. Norwood. Seconded by Ms. Davis. Motion Passed unanimously.

The topic of the number of City Commissioners was raised. The Chair advised 5 is the most common number of Commissioners across Florida. Mr. Bell spoke regarding the question of where executive authority would lie. The Clerk provided statistics received by the Florida League of Cities: there are 275 city manager forms of government and 54 strong mayor forms of government. Discussion commenced. Ms. Kitchens spoke in support of leaving the total number of Commissioners as is and spoke in support of the current City Manager and Mayor/Commissioner form of government so that only 1 person has 5 direct supervisors. Mr. Dolan spoke in support of the City Manager form of government. Mr. Norwood and Ms. Davis recommended exploring other options for the sake of discussion. Mr. Shuler suggested the idea of when the population reaches a certain point, would we want the Commission seats to grow. Ms. Kitchens recommended instead, to put in a provision in the Charter that it needs to be reviewed after a certain number of years. Chair Hill spoke on the need to gage the public after a certain

amount of time. Ms. Wise advised if and when the situation changes, this topic can be reviewed by a new Charter Review Committee. Ms. West spoke on the definitions of City Manager form of government vs. Commission form of government. The Committee discussed the strong mayor form of government, where the Mayor makes the administrative decisions. Ms. Kitchens advised in a strong mayor environment, the Mayor would need to be a full-time role.

Motion to continue as existing (with 5 commissioners) the current form of government City Manager by dolan. Seconded by Kitchens. Motion Passed unanimously.

Discussion commenced regarding the election cycle of the City Commission. Chair Hill advised three commissioners (including the Mayor) are elected during mid-term elections and two are elected during presidential years. Mr. Norwood advised the City had left the Mayor with the mid-term election to encourage voter turnout.

Motion to continue with election cycle as is by Ms. Davis. Seconded by Ms. Kitchens. Motion Passed unanimously.

Ms. West asked if Staff can clean up the language in Section 21 leaving the intent the same. The consensus agreed.

Discussion commenced regarding term limits. Chair Hill advised there are no term limits at this time. Mr. Bell spoke on the alternative to term limits, to have the option to require a temporary stay. Ms. Kitchens and Ms. Davis spoke in support of no term limits for the need of continuity. Mr. Dolan spoke in support of term limits for freshness on the Commission and recommended 8 years. Ms. Kitchens spoke regarding the situation that might arise if no one runs for office. Ms. Wise spoke on election democracy. Mr. Norwood advised the first term of a Commissioner is a learning curve and spoke in opposition to term limits as the citizens have the ability to limit terms by their votes. Chair Hill spoke in support of term limits but indicated the City is not ready for it at this time.

Motion by Ms Kitchens to keep the current no term limits. Second by Mr. Norwood Motion passed 8 - 2 with Mr. Dolan and Ms. Svetlik dissenting. (Ms. Rion not present for the vote).

Discussion commenced regarding whether to add geographical areas to the elected groups. Ms. Kitchens advised the County has districts, while Commissioners are voted at-large. She spoke regarding the County's history in testing voting by geographical district. She spoke in opposition to geographical regions. She recommended keeping the current "group" labels to discern who is running at which time. Ms. Parker Flanders spoke in support of geographic districts so not all Commissioners live in the same area and represent the entire community. Ms. Davis spoke of concern the entire City should have representation. Ms. Wise spoke of the potential to give neighborhoods without a voice a say. Chair Hill spoke regarding the need for the Commission to set aside funding for other areas other than CRA. Following discussion, Ms. Kitchens spoke regarding setting up districts but all vote at large. Discussion continued regarding single-member districts vs. at large districts. Mr. Dolan spoke regarding legislative maps.

Meeting recessed from 5:50 - 6:00 PM.

Motion to move the at voting at-large vs. single district (and other options) discussion to a subcommittee to do some fact-finding and report back by Ms. Davis. Seocnd by Ms. Wise

Motion passed 9 - 1 with the dissent of Ms. Kitchens (Ms. Rion not present for the vote)

Ms. Wise, Ms. Parker Flanders, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Shuler volunteered for this subcommittee.

Chair Hill summarized they should bring back information on districts and blended districts and bring back a report at the next full committee meeting. Mr. Norwood recommended as part of the discussion, the

subcommittee look at resident requirements as to whether the Commissioner would be required to live in the district you serve.

Discussion commenced regarding when the City Commissioners should take office. Chair Hill advised many places swear in their elected officials within 2 weeks of the election. The Clerk advised, at this time, the County Supervisor of Elections conducts the election, his group canvasses the ballots, certifies the election and submits a report of the election to the City Commission. The City Clerk provides the report to the City Commission at its meeting following this. Discussion commenced regarding whether to qualify for election if one should reside in the City. Ms. Kitchens spoke in support. Chair Hill asked if we have a residency requirement it must be set forth with a specific time and with specific standards.

Ms. West spoke regarding the need to clean up the election cross-references/language in Sec. 22, 23, and 24 and Ms. Flanders added Article IV.

Discussion commenced regarding the Commissioners' bond requirement, which at this time, is not paid for by City Commissioners themselves.

Mr. Hill advised most places that require a bond, the individuals pay for it. For those that have insurance policies, the policies cover it.

Motion for a Section 22 subcommittee which includes the time of elections by Mr. Dolan. Second by Ms. Wise. Motion passed unanimously. (Ms. Rion not present for the vote).

Volunteers for this subcommittee were Ms. Kitchens, Mr. Dolan, Ms. Davis, and Mr. Norwood.

C. Set Reoccurring Charter Review Committee Meeting Date

The Clerk outlined the pros and cons of utilizing the Commission Chambers and the Annex Conference room for the meetings. The consensus was to utilize the Annex conference room. Ms. Kitchens supported recording the meetings for the public to be present or to watch later.

The next meeting of the Charter Review Committee will be August 22 at 4:00 PM.

III. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Kitchens. Second by Mr. Norwood at 6:39 PM.

Reminder of Timelines
Timelines

STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 22, 2024
TO: City of Palatka Charter Review Committee
FROM: City Staff

APPLICATION REQUEST

Attached are the deadlines to keep in mind when discussing timelines for the group's review of the Charter.

BACKGROUND

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Staff Recommendation

ATTACHMENTS

1.	Dates
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Important Deadlines



April 14, 2026 – Agenda deadline for CRC to be ready to present to the City Commission

April 23, 2026 – Presentation to the City Commission

May 14, 2026 – 1st reading of ordinance

May 28, 2026 – 2nd reading of ordinance

August 3, 2026 – Submit amendment(s) to the Supervisor of Elections

November 3, 2026 - Election

Recommendations regarding Charter Article II - City Commission
Recommendations regarding Charter Articles I and II

STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 22, 2024
TO: City of Palatka Charter Review Committee
FROM: City Staff

APPLICATION REQUEST

Attached are Article II of the City's Charter is attached.

BACKGROUND

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Staff Recommendation

ATTACHMENTS

1.	Charter Article II
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ARTICLE II. - CITY COMMISSION

Sec. 21. - Commission-manager plan; city commission created; members; terms of office, election dates.

The form of government of the City of Palatka, provided for under this act, shall be known as the "commission-manager plan," and [there is] hereby created a city commission for said city, which shall consist of five (5) persons, who shall be elected at large, one of whom shall be mayor. Said commissioners and mayor shall hold office beginning on the first Monday in January next after their election as herein provided in the manner following: At the election held in the year 1947, there shall be elected a mayor for the term of two (2) years and one commissioner to fill an unexpired term, for the term of three (3) years and one commissioner for the term of two (2) years; at the election to be held in 1948, there shall be elected one commissioner for the term of three (3) years; at the election to be held in the year 1949, there shall be elected a mayor for the term of two (2) years and two (2) commissioners, each for a term of four (4) years and [at] the election to [be] held in 1950, there shall be elected one commissioner for the term of one year. Thereafter, there shall be an election every odd year, at which election there shall be elected a mayor for a term of two (2) years and two (2) commissioners, each for a term of four (4) years. Effective with the general election to be held in 1997, the mayor shall be elected for a term of four (4) years.

Effective after the regular election held in the year 2005, elections shall be held every even year, beginning in 2008. The next election for commissioner groups 1 and 3 shall be held in the year 2008, and the next election for mayor/commissioner and commissioner groups 2 and 4 shall be held in the year 2010. Terms of office for members of the city commission holding office as of January 12, 2006 shall be extended until their successors are elected and qualified for the orderly transition of terms. Thereafter, terms for mayor/commissioner and city commissioners shall be four (4) years.

(Laws of Fla., ch. 9875(1923), § 7; Laws of Fla., ch. 24768(1947), § 1; Ord. No. 96-1, § 1, 3-12-1996; Ord. No. 06-01, § 1, 1-12-2006)

Sec. 22. - Commissioners—Residency requirements; bond; who is judge of election and qualifications.

Members of the city commission shall be residents of the City of Palatka and shall have the qualifications of electors. The mayor and each of the commissioners shall furnish a surety bond in such sum as shall be prescribed by ordinance, but not less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), payable to the City of Palatka, said bond to be approved by the city attorney. The city commission shall be judge of the election and qualification of its own members.

(Laws of Fla., ch. 9875(1923), § 9; Laws of Fla., ch. 31108(1955), § 1; Laws of Fla., ch. 65-2045, § 1; Ord. No. 94-21, § 1, 9-12-1994)

Editor's note— This section also appears as amended by Ord. No. 76-18, which set the salaries of the mayor and commissioners; all references in this section to salaries have been deleted.

Sec. 23. - Same—Majority constitutes quorum; number for adjournment; compelling attendance of members; vote required for adoption of ordinances, resolutions, entrance on journal.

A majority of all members elected to the city commission shall constitute a quorum, but a less number may adjourn from time to time to compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as may be prescribed by ordinance. The affirmative vote of three (3) commissioners shall be necessary to adopt any ordinance or resolution, and the passage of all ordinances and resolutions shall be taken by "ayes" and "nays" and entered upon the journal.

(Laws of Fla., ch. 9875(1923), § 13)

Sec. 24. - Same—Newly elected, time designated for assuming office; regular meetings.

At 7:30 p.m., on the first Monday in January next after each annual municipal election, the city commission shall meet at the usual place for holding the meetings of the legislative body of the city, at which time the newly elected commissioners shall assume the duties of office. This meeting may be held at an alternate meeting place as prescribed by ordinance. If the first Monday in January falls on New Year's Day, this meeting shall be held on the second Monday in January. Thereafter the city commission shall meet at such time as shall be prescribed by ordinance or resolution, except that it shall meet regularly not more than once each week.

(Laws of Fla., ch. 9875(1923), § 11; Ord. No. 93-32, § 1, 12-9-1993)

Sec. 25. - Same—Filling vacancies on commission other than those resulting from recall.

Any vacancy in the city commission shall be filled by a special election held for that purpose except that vacancies occurring within four (4) months from the end of a term may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the city commission until the next regular election; provided, however, that vacancies resulting from recall elections shall be filled in the manner prescribed by the general laws of the State of Florida. On the effective date of this provision, a vacancy shall exist as to any sitting commissioner appointed to serve out the unexpired portion of a vacated commission seat.

(Laws of Fla., ch. 9875(1923), § 122; Ord. No. 90-7, § 1, 7-13-1990)

Sec. 26. - Mayor, power and authority.

The mayor shall preside at all meetings of the commission and perform such duties as shall be consistent with his office, and he shall have the same power and authority as other commissioners and a voice and a vote in the proceedings of the commission, but no vote [veto] power. He shall use the title of mayor in any

case in which the execution of legal instruments of writing or other necessity arising under the provisions of this act or the general laws of the state so require; but this shall not be construed as conferring upon him the administrative or judicial functions of a mayor under the general laws of the state.

(Laws of Fla., ch. 9875(1923), § 10)

Sec. 27. - Oath of office; required; filing.

Every officer of the city shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, take and subscribe to an oath or affirmation to be filed and kept in the office of the city clerk; which oath shall be in the form prescribed for state officers by the constitution of the state.

(Laws of Fla., ch. 9875(1923), § 115)

State Law reference— Oath of office, Florida Constitution, All, § 5(b).

Sec. 28. - Powers granted by this act and general state law vest in commission; exercise of same.

All powers granted by this act [Laws of Fla., ch. 9875(1923)] and by the general law applicable to said city, except as otherwise provided in this act, or by the constitution, are vested in the city commission, and the city commission shall by ordinance or resolution, as may be proper for the exercise of such powers, prescribe the manner in which such powers shall be exercised.

(Laws of Fla., ch. 9875(1923), § 18)

State Law reference— Municipal Home Rule Powers Act, F.S. § 166.011 et seq.

Secs. 29—35. - Reserved.

Report of fact-finding subcommittee on voting at-large vs. single district (and other options) - Ms. Wise, Ms. Parker Flanders, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Shuler
Report of fact-finding subcommittee on voting at-large vs. single district (and other options) - Ms. Wise, Ms. Parker Flanders, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Shuler

STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 22, 2024
TO: City of Palatka Charter Review Committee
FROM: City Staff

APPLICATION REQUEST

Attached please find the Minutes of the fact-finding subcommittee on voting at-large vs. single district (and other options) - Ms. Wise, Ms. Parker Flanders, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Shuler

BACKGROUND

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Staff Recommendation

ATTACHMENTS

1.	Fact-Finding Subcommittee Minutes
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Supervisor of Elections

Jeremy Davis: [00:00:00] Okay, today is Thursday, June 32 p. m. This is the research subcommittee for at large versus district based commissioners. We are here today, my name is Jeremy Davis. And sitting next to me is

Audrey Wise: Audrey Wise.

Jeremy Davis: And next to her, next to him,

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: Tiffany Parker.

Jeremy Davis: And next to her, Matt Schuler. Okay. And we are recording for minutes purposes in case needed.

Jeremy Davis: Who wants to kick us off?

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: I feel like you probably. I mean, you know what? We're here for us. I

Charles Overturf: would really ask the question. If I could do that, it would be just to assume something because

Audrey Wise: I would like to ask a question. My name is Audrey Wise. A question to you regarding current status of the way we vote [00:01:00] in this in the city of Palatka City.

Audrey Wise: Yeah, but cost effective in order to change it to a blended it. A single or the blended

Audrey Wise: single or even district. The cost that it would put on the taxpayers to change what we currently have to something different. Regardless of what it might be, what is that cost factor? Educating us.

Charles Overturf: All right, let me just, please understand, I'm just going to try to work through what you're asking to change. Let me go back to where you are. Everybody in the city gets to vote as long as you're in the city limits. There is no districts, there is no groups, there is no seats. Because everybody has a right to walk in here and to say, I want to run for the mayor's position, I [00:02:00] want to run for her council spot.

Charles Overturf: There is no, I have to live like there is in the county. In the county, you've got to live in the county commission district or the school board district. Everybody in the county votes, but to run, you're supposed to live in that district. Right now, you all, the city of Palatka does not have that requirement as long as I'm in the city limits.

Charles Overturf: Thank you very much. I can pick and choose who I want to run against, or in what area. And again, everybody in the city votes for it. So, you don't have, you see what I'm saying? You don't have both

Jeremy Davis: the commissioners and the voters are at large.

Charles Overturf: Exactly.

Charles Overturf: Every voter gets to vote, and everybody can pick who they want to run against and vote.

Charles Overturf: I mean, and run.

Audrey Wise: So what would cost if we want to change it to a district? The cost factor or

Jeremy Davis: Or is there any cost factor? Well, see, I'm

Charles Overturf: sitting here thinking because you all are already in the entity, it'll mean a little work for here because now then I've got to say, okay, [00:03:00] who in the city is going to draw these districts?

Charles Overturf: Are you going to expect us to do it, which we could, just like we do county commission districts and stuff like that. So we'd have to do some, some,

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: The districts are already there.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: I understand, I understand, but the districts have been, have already, the label,

Audrey Wise: the label is there.

Charles Overturf: They have, if somebody has already, and it's just never, But either been enforced or it's never been put into practice. Put into practice.

Matt Shuler: Are you referring to like group one, group two, those labels, is that what you're referring to?

Matt Shuler: No, they are

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: actual districts. Like the

Matt Shuler: South Historic District, the North Historic District. It

Jeremy Davis: might

Matt Shuler: expand

Jeremy Davis: beyond that too, I think is what she's saying. Yeah, it's like

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: District 1, District 2, District 3. Now they've never been used, but there are, there are, So, so yeah, if what you're saying

Charles Overturf: is, if it's there, but just never been put into practicality, then it would just be a matter of somebody getting us [00:04:00] the, the, the the, you know, the, the, well, that, and also we'd have to go a little bit more, you know, you'd have to get, okay, this street is this one, this, you know, stuff like that.

Charles Overturf: But once we got it, then

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: But it still would have to be, I'm sure it hasn't, the districts haven't been addressed in years. Well, yeah, it would have to be voted on. Yeah, but they would have to be, make sure that they're equal. Because, Tiffany, I

Charles Overturf: want to just tell you, one of the things that I've begged, The administration over the last several years, as it's changed a little bit, is the idea of you know, part of the city is out here and then part of it's county.

Charles Overturf: And then I go across the street, and here's another city, and here's another county. It's that kind of stuff, and I know, you know Rowland Hills

Jeremy Davis: is a prime example. Exactly. If I run across the road, it would be county and

Charles Overturf: city, or it

Jeremy Davis: depends on where the trash can is. Exactly.

Charles Overturf: Exactly. And it's that kind of thing.

Charles Overturf: that I look at here and say, Oh, I wish y'all clean it up a little bit. So that, you know, years ago, I can just [00:05:00] give you an example. The funeral home that I was with, you know, that my brother and I own, we were in the city, the trailer park right behind us. That's closer to downtown Palatka was in the county.

Charles Overturf: And I'm like, Well, great day. You know, this, this just, you know, this was way before I got here and it's just the idea. And then I have somebody say, well, wait a minute, how come he gets to vote in the city? I live right across the street and I don't. So I'm just saying that that would be the kind of thing, but there again, then you're talking about adding to somebody and they don't want to be in the city and you know, then there's city taxes.

Charles Overturf: Now you've raised their and stuff and I'm not getting any benefits from, I mean, you've got the whole kind of. You know, the ins and outs of stuff like that that make a difference or that put a challenge to it. Let's just put it that way. I'm not saying you can't. Because if she's right and you've already got the districts or the groups there, then it'd just be a matter of getting somebody to get us so that we know the boundaries and where is end to one and where [00:06:00] does two start and where is three.

Charles Overturf: You know, that kind of thing, like we do. When we do the, you know, let me tell you how they do the county. Usually what they did two years ago, three years ago, when we, they did after the census, they started in South Putnam. And so they said, all right, this is going to be district one. And what they do is they multiply or not multiply.

Charles Overturf: You add up the whole. The population of the county, and then you divide it by five. And so you try to get as equal number of people in each district as possible. And some years you can get within a couple of hundred and you, you feel like you've done a great job and other years it might be different or after you've done that two years from now, all of a sudden some subdivision comes in here.

Charles Overturf: Five districts. Yeah. In the county. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Sorry. So that's what happens is you start with one and then we move up toward

Dunn's Creek. And then whenever they think they hit the magic number, they say, all right, here's the end of one. Now let's go to two and then let's do three and then [00:07:00] four.

Charles Overturf: And the last one is five. And that's why that district starts in, in Hawthorne or at the line there, comes in the south side of Enlarkin, comes all the way in here to town, does a U turn and goes out to Barden. Because that's what's left, you know, so that's the way they usually go about doing it is, is, you know, often

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: do they do that

Charles Overturf: every 10 years, 10 years.

Charles Overturf: So we did it in 2020, 2021. So it'll be coming up in about six or seven years. And now, you know, all the talk of, Oh, the subdivisions coming in at East Palatka. Well, I could make it this and that. And it could easily change those lines considerably if we really get it. Some growth, you know, that kind of thing.

Charles Overturf: So, so if you've got to make it simple again, if you've already got your districts or your groups or whatever you're going to call it, and somebody gets us to it, then I'm sitting here thinking, I can't think of any major expenses. It'd just be a matter of, does the people want it? And when they vote to, to, you know, to do it, I think it has [00:08:00] to go to a referendum, of course, you know, if they pass it and then you, what you will do is like they did last night in Malacca.

Charles Overturf: They'd say, okay, you two are going to be the first commissioners that are going to be under the new system, and so we're going to give you two years, and then two years later, you two, and you, you phase it in so that you're not changing all five people at one time, or that everybody understands, okay, two years from now, we're going to run and it's, we got to live in this district to be able to run in that seat, you know, those kinds of things.

Charles Overturf: So there's a, there's a, you know entry period that everybody would understand, you know, going in. And it's usually about four years. Immediately. Right.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: So, Willaka currently has the same system that, that Palaka currently

Charles Overturf: has. Everybody's at large. They're, they're a little bit different. Everybody is at large.

Charles Overturf: Okay. But theirs is. All right. The you don't pick who you're running against. If you two are the incumbents and I walk in and say, I wanna be the city council of Wika, then I'm running against you, you two.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: Okay. I read about [00:09:00] that. It's not

Charles Overturf: an individual where if Mary Lawson Brown was still there, and I'd say, so-and-so's gonna run against Mary.

Charles Overturf: You see, that's the difference. In a Larkin same way.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: If they've got three

Charles Overturf: openings and four people are running, then three of you are going to win and one person is not. It's different than Palatka is. Crescent City usually has individual ones, you know, that kind of thing. So it depends on what you come up with, what your charter says or what you change to.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: Yeah,

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: my opinion is in this discussion. So a single member, of course they have to live in that district. But so it's a called a single member to live in the district, but anybody in that everybody can vote. So it's a hybrid,

Charles Overturf: a true single member is what we had here in this county years ago, way before I was

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: completely again.

Charles Overturf: And it was It was, and I'll just use the Tilton family in San Mateo.

Charles Overturf: If they had enough of that [00:10:00] vote, then they pretty well could, if they all voted for the same person, you can. And so they tried it for four, eight years or so. And then they went back to countywide, still live in the district. But let everybody so that it gets where the Williams family and Bostwick, or, you know, you, you've been around here.

Charles Overturf: So, you know, there's certain families that if you depend on the size of the district, all of a sudden they are real kingpins. That's

Jeremy Davis: that leads me kind of segues into this. What, what would be the benefits of the pros and cons versus single member and then, you know, the, the, the voters have to vote with their district versus.

Jeremy Davis: Maybe like what you guys have right now in the county is the voters are at large, but there are still districts for the commissioners, correct? They, they, they don't have to be. Yeah,

Charles Overturf: the, the five have to live in the area that's up that year. I mean, one of the five has to live in that area to run. Now, I hate to throw this out there because it's, but when the [00:11:00] legislature and, and judges.

Charles Overturf: Will not tell us what residency, the real requirements are. And so I have to let you walk in here like I do, but right now I've got a candidate that does not live in district one, but he's running because he's smart enough to look at the law and the law says, Charles, you only have to live in the district the day before you take office.

Charles Overturf: So, and unfortunately the legislature does that. I'll just use the example of our, our state house representative speaker. Renter. Yeah. His main house is in Ponte Vedra. He lost a race up there, but there was another race that in Flagler County and he knew some people down there and they told him, move down here.

Charles Overturf: Well, he did and he wanted, he was just, just completed or almost completed his term as speaker of the house. So everybody does it, unfortunately, and I'm not going to change it because you'll, you'll, you'll let me do it. I'll let you do it. I mean, okay. So I don't want to throw a monkey into the wrench, but I'm just saying, unfortunately.

Charles Overturf: Some people [00:12:00] can say I live in this district in the city. I've got another house. I'll move if I can run. You see what I'm saying? And, and I'll just bring it up. He's not here tonight, but Terrell was upset because there was a gentleman that was running, but he brought in paperwork when we qualified him that said he lived in the city on this address.

Charles Overturf: Well, then later. Somebody says, no, he lives on West River Road. Again, we're not enforcement. I don't do any of that. The state says, you let them take it to a judge and let the judge decide, does he live here or does he

not? And they, nobody did it. So that was the end of it. But I'm just saying, there's other, there's other problems that come up sometimes about that.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: Are we able to supersede the in that and say you, because Terrell said that he did it wrong on his, he didn't move in until six months before the election which was prior to him [00:13:00] qualifying for it. And he, he didn't feel like that was right. So are we able to say you have to live in the city? Before you're able to even

Charles Overturf: you have that right as you're when you're dealing with your charter put it in okay Okay, well like a last night added something that I didn't know was in there and let me tell you why it's a problem They said we want it to be six months and one day That they have to live in Willaca before they can run not that they can't we are talking about And I brought it up to the attorney.

Charles Overturf: I said Patrick just asking you Who's going to be the one to enforce this? Who is going to decide, are you home every night? Are you, because we're not enforcement and I don't think you all want to be. That's the negative about putting a time limit. Do you have that right? Yeah. And let me go back to Terrell.

Charles Overturf: When the former group was there, when Phil and, and Barnett and all them right before they left, they put it that you had to be there a year. [00:14:00] And I was like, guys, the new group's coming in. Why are you even doing this? But they were upset. They had lost. And so they put it in and it was a year. Well, then when Terrell and Rufus and Justin got in.

Charles Overturf: They said, you know, we want to move it and so they moved it to the six months deal Okay, so as best I know it hasn't changed since then at six months, you know But again, it's the problem of who's going to sit here and say are you staying here every night? Are you you know taking showers here? Yeah, I mean there is no enforcement unless you're going to say Charles, will you please look up and see when he registered to vote at his address, and if that's more than six months, then, you know, so there would be some things that could be done, but that doesn't mean, Jamie Watts, I'll just use him as an example, until he got to be mayor, he lived in St.

Charles Overturf: John's County, but he was a city councilman down there, and every time they brought it up and the mayor got mad at me because somebody was running against him that [00:15:00] he didn't believe lived there. She owned a house in Seminole County and I'm like, Gordon, if it's okay for Jamie to do it, it's okay for Pam to do it.

Charles Overturf: You got to be consistent, you know, but he never understood it. He wanted me to kick her out, but leave Jamie alone. Well, then when he got to be mayor, I will say he moved back and stayed there and there hadn't been anybody questioning it since, but it's the enforcement of what you put in there, it's who is going to be the one to say, and like I said, if you do it where, okay, when did she come in and register?

Charles Overturf: Okay, then that's more than the six months, so she's good. You know, that kind of thing, then that's okay. But if you're going to sit here and say, I want to see water bills or light bills or whatever. And that's what they did with Jamie. They subpoenaed or got his water bills and all, and it showed. He wasn't staying there.

Charles Overturf: There was no water being used. So please tell me how you're living there. And you're not, you see what I'm saying? And I'm trying to get him in trouble. I'm just saying that that was the situation we dealt with. So enforcement, when you put any kind of time [00:16:00] limit on it is please be specific about what it is.

Charles Overturf: And Patrick last night agreed and he said, yeah, that's something we need to look at to decide how is it going to be you know, and let's be honest. I tell people all the time, my office is the last one to know. Somebody got married, somebody moved, somebody died. I mean, we're the last ones, you know, they don't think about us.

Charles Overturf: They think about the clerk's office or they think about the tax collector or whatever, but you know, so is it going to be when you think about, Oh, I need to go registered, I want to vote. So you may have lived there already three or four months. You see what I'm saying? So it's, it's those kinds of things that we have to work through and you all as a group and a charter group need to think about it and just say, okay, what, what can we do that we can enforce?

Charles Overturf: It's not overly burdensome, but can be handled, you know, and cause it doesn't do any good to have it in there. And then, oh, I'm going to make her live here six months, but you, I think you've already been there. So, you see what, you got to be consistent about it, you [00:17:00] know, and fair.

Matt Shuler: So, just a side note for other committee members.

Matt Shuler: Perhaps we may want to, whenever we reconvene with everybody else, maybe we want to potentially think about making a suggestion for, you

know, At the time that the election occurs, maybe their state issued form of identification has a Palatka address to maintain a Palatka address in the office. Would that be a potential way to do that?

Matt Shuler: Well, it

Charles Overturf: would be, and they brought up last night, Patrick did, about driver's licenses. Technically you're supposed to, if you move, you're supposed to, I think 30 days is what, but most people don't do it. They don't, again, don't think about it because they're worried about their job and their new house. And, you know, so again, that would be a, but if something could be used, but I'm not sure it's the only qualifying

Matt Shuler: factor that we put into the charter

Charles Overturf: though.

Charles Overturf: Again, you gotta be careful. You don't have to own your home. I mean, look at all the renters, all the renters. I ever get to vote if I have to try to tell [00:18:00] people, wait a minute, It's a little bit. He rents, but he has the right to vote. You don't have to own property. You can have your driver's

Matt Shuler: license address match the place that you're renting.

Matt Shuler: Correct. So that's why I was thinking about that.

Charles Overturf: Just to show you what we do, when you come to vote and you bring in We are not allowed to ask you is that, but we'll say, do you have any changes to your your residency as far as the address is concerned, we put it back on you to let you tell, Oh yeah, by the way, I don't live there anymore.

Charles Overturf: I live at this address and then we're allowed to change it. It's not going to affect you voting, but we've, the state says you're not allowed to ask. Do you really live there? I mean, that's again, just some of that. Okay. Yeah, things that we have to deal with on that.

Audrey Wise: Yeah, it is.

Jeremy Davis: So I guess circling back the pros and cons to, I'm sorry, no, it's fine.

Jeremy Davis: The pros and cons to, you know, having at large versus, you know, district based voters and commissioners. [00:19:00] or the hybrid where you have at large voters. So can you kind of one thing that one

Charles Overturf: thing that I can think of that I think would be the advantage. You mentioned somebody mentioned the historical districts, North and South side.

Charles Overturf: Okay, so if that happens to be drawn out as one of them, then those people probably feel like, Oh, she lives in our district. She's running. We're gonna vote for her because now we're gonna have a favorable voice for our community. Exactly. Yes. So I can see that in a city because then you could have north side, south side, maybe west side, east side, you know, that kind of thing.

Charles Overturf: And it would probably be, okay, she's going to represent this group. So we know our, our grievances are going to be heard that the other part of that though, is she's one of five. So you've got to have help from the other four, or you're not going to get anything passed. You see what I'm saying? Yeah. So I could say that that would probably, would be an advantage, is if the locality of the district, they say, okay, I know [00:20:00] so and so, you know, and he really supports us, so we want to vote for him.

Charles Overturf: Yeah. So, but you still got to have help. So if it's citywide, then you've got to figure if she's running from one side and you're running from one, then I'm going to go to you and say, Hey, I've got this issue. How do you feel about it? Well, if I feel like you're going to support me on it, then all of a sudden I've got two or three votes, then I can get something done, but just her by herself, if the others of you don't agree, it's, you know, she's wasting her time.

Charles Overturf: I mean, you know, about that issue. So that that to me would be the one thing it could bring a community a little community or a district together If you've got one really have a popular person that you know, but they still got to get along with the other four

Jeremy Davis: Yeah,

Charles Overturf: or at least two of the other four to try to get the third vote You know to be able to get something moved or whatever or voted on

Jeremy Davis: and so what what have Have you had any, [00:21:00] I guess, pain points or contingencies to how Putnam County has it currently? I'm not sure if that's opening up a can of worms as far as your position, but

Charles Overturf: no. And one thing people sort of like the idea, because if you're running and you're running for county commission and I know you're going to be spending my taxes and stuff, even if you live in Crescent City and I live here, Hey, you know, what's your views on this, this and this.

Charles Overturf: So it makes the candidates have to reach out because. You can't just win Crescent City and lose the rest of the county and never be elected. You gotta have support all the way around. You know, you might really do well in black and not have to carry as much in West Putnam, you know, that kind of thing, but it does open it up because those issues where there's roads, taxes, impact fees, whatever issue you want to name, then I can say, sir, how do you, what's your feeling about this?

Charles Overturf: And then you can make a decision. Wait a minute, I like her ideas better, so I'm going to vote for [00:22:00] her, even though, yeah, they're in that district down there, but everybody gets a say so about it. It's sort of like her question about those of us that own businesses in the town but don't get a say so about it.

Charles Overturf: You know, there is some true legitimate, wait a minute, for 30 years I've been paying taxes and I've never gotten to vote one time. You know, and, you know, but again, unless it gets changed, you know, we're out and we understand that. But there are sometimes legitimate reasons for things that you say. Okay, I understand, you know, this guy down here in this end of the county is going to really push tax increases and stuff.

Charles Overturf: So do I want that or not? And then you let the people make the decision and then wait and see if, you know, if they get, you get elected or if somebody else does.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: Can that be put into the charter or does it have to?

Charles Overturf: Can what now?

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: Business owners being able to vote in the city. I

Charles Overturf: would, I would think that, I would think, but again, I'm not the lawyer, so you need.

Charles Overturf: Right, right. It's not

Jeremy Davis: against state law. It's [00:23:00] currently

Charles Overturf: on the table. Right. I think you could probably put it in the charter, but it has to be voted on. So the public would still have to do that at some point. Whether the attorney would say, don't put it in there now, that can be something that's brought up later.

Charles Overturf: Or they might say, no, let's put it in there and see, you know, that kind of thing. The lawyer needs to answer, the legal people need to answer that. So on that

Matt Shuler: note, are there any general logistics that you can think of as far as how to make that happen? Like if, if so. Would somebody who lives out of, let's say someone lives in St.

Matt Shuler: Augustine, but they own a a business in Palatka, so in that instance, if they go vote in St. Augustine, would the supervisor of elections up there share, like, would the owner have to come here to Palatka in order to vote on something? That's Palatka related. Yeah, you

Charles Overturf: can only vote in one location.

Charles Overturf: Yeah, so how would that even

Matt Shuler: work?

Charles Overturf: Well,

Matt Shuler: that's a good question.

Charles Overturf: You'd pick what's most important to you. Exactly. No, she's right. You would have to say, I want to vote in the [00:24:00] city, so I'm going to use my address at the city, I mean, or because I own the business, but you couldn't vote in both, and there's no way to cross it over either, because I can't just say, How did you vote on that one issue?

Charles Overturf: We'll call Black and let them know, you know, that kind of stuff. It's got to be, you know, one or the other for that part of it. Let me mention one other thing to you. Some of the reasons that probably your commissioners

would not probably be real happy with this, and I'm just going to use it for WALACA because I saw it over the years that I've run elections with them.

Charles Overturf: They had certain coalitions and you, you, you would have, Probably a hundred votes that I know you could count on, and I've got a hundred votes, and if you and I get along, then in a city like that, then if your hundred vote, my hundred vote, we win every election. That's how Canada does it. And so, and so, what I'm getting at is, it may be that the commissioners are not that, and that's why I'm [00:25:00] saying, you'd have to have three of the five to decide to put it on the ballot, and I'm not sure you could get three because they may be happy with keeping it the way it is.

Charles Overturf: You see what I'm saying? So, absolutely,

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: but it's definitely worth, I mean, from, from my point of view, it's definitely worth giving it a try. Yeah.

Audrey Wise: I feel as though the committee has to bring the will of the people to the council. And they have to prove the will of the people is not what they want to. We are investigating all aspects.

Audrey Wise: We want to put it on the table. So the citizens know that we have looked at every aspect of whatever that is, right, wrong, or indifferent, and we place it in their lap and let them make that decision. You're exactly right. I'm out and I'm not. And then I make my choice on voting time, how they treated my opinion or the will of the people.

Audrey Wise: So yeah, you

Charles Overturf: know, now you would have to get the local residents. [00:26:00] Because the people that own businesses would not get their say so until they got annexed in, so to speak. That kind of thing. So you would have to put that thing and say, If he owns a business and has owned it for all these years and been paying all these taxes, should he not have a say so?

Charles Overturf: That would be your PR move would be to get enough people that are already in the city to say, you know what, he should have a right. He should have a right. I mean, that kind of thing. And that would be the hard part because again, it's like, okay, I've gotten elected before and I had this group of people and they're going to vote for me.

Charles Overturf: And, and, and so it may be that they say, we're not going to take that chance. I'm not saying they would or wouldn't, but I'm just saying those are the, some of the, things that you think about, because it would be different. Now, I don't know. I don't know if somebody can tell me how many businesses are owned by people that live out of the city, you know, that kind of thing.

Charles Overturf: I don't have, nobody's really told me a number, but I know it's quite a few. I can name a couple. I

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: would venture to say it's 75 percent of us. And it may

Charles Overturf: be. And [00:27:00] again, so looking at the influx, I don't know how many hundreds or maybe a thousand people that. accounting, their families and stuff that might.

Charles Overturf: And so then all of a sudden, instead of 6, 000 voters, now we've got 8, 000, you know, again, sometimes if it's a change of something that, you know, unless they'd been, unless they had been taught, I mean, or given a reason to like, you would just say it exactly, you know, and if, if you get enough people that are willing to say, you know what, we need to add these people because they have, you know, their businesses have.

Jeremy Davis: So I know one of the questions that might get asked, and I think Terrell brought up and it was probably on another topic, but hypothetically if we did district based or single member how much would that limit your candidate pool?

Charles Overturf: That's a good question, because I see that sometimes in certain districts for County Commissioner School Board, I've got several people that want to run, and in [00:28:00] other districts it's like, does nobody want to run?

Charles Overturf: I mean, and so the incumbent loves it because if he's in a district that there's nobody that's really Challenging. Exactly, so then you stay for several years. So, there would be some of that in a city, especially you would have to And look at your pool and say, okay, is this viable that we could have people in every city district then would be good.

Charles Overturf: You know, I mean, nobody would know for sure to use actually,

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: I think that would depend on how the lines are drawn up.

Charles Overturf: Yeah,

Jeremy Davis: I agree.

Audrey Wise: Question for is the lines being drawn up? Would it be your office to do that? Is that an independent person because other states have independent right? Probably it would be

Charles Overturf: done by somebody else.

Charles Overturf: I mean, we would be glad to help, but it would be better for the city to have an entity that says. Charles, would you work with this group and help 'em with whatever they need? Mm-Hmm. , that kind of thing. But I think it would be better probably for my office [00:29:00] to say, eh, I'm gonna let somebody else be in charge and we'll just assist, essentially the

Matt Shuler: city's lines.

Matt Shuler: It's not the, not the supervisor. Right, right. And I just need to

Charles Overturf: know what you come up with so that when you. And if you expect me to do the election, then we make sure we got the lines right, so that if you're just outside, you're in this district, not in, you know, that kind of stuff. Because you don't

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: want to be accused of gerrymandering.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: Oh, yeah.

Jeremy Davis: So, is it unprecedented to adopt zones that are already existing? Like, I know the county sometimes will adopt, like, I say the county, but the sheriff's office may adopt you know, zones that already exist. It may make a little changes depending on how their shifts work and stuff, but. Is that unprecedented as far as, like, these districts just adopting similar zones?

Jeremy Davis: No, it

Charles Overturf: wouldn't be at all. And let me give you the example of a couple years ago, the county, when they drew the districts again. There was only two areas that changed. One of them was down near Satsuma, and they added a neighborhood, so to speak, to add some people to this [00:30:00] district, took them away from that one, and then the other was in Barden.

Charles Overturf: And used to, Barden Road split two different districts, and they were like, why are we, you know, making Barden be split? Why don't we bring them to, you know, and so they changed. So those were the only two areas. That, and then one little spot in Antelarc. And so, there wasn't much. It was mainly going with what was already there.

Charles Overturf: But, you know, again, that would be up to whoever the group is. And if you have a problem where you got 3, 000 people in this city district and only 1, 000 in the other one, then that's, somebody's going to take that to court and say, we're not being represented. We want it to be where you, you know, split it 2, 000 each or something, you know, stuff like that.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: So it seems like it would, you know, For the first time, it would be easier just to start with a blank slate. We wouldn't even really want to start with the districts that are already drawn up. You

Charles Overturf: probably are exactly right, because if I'm with you, then I'm sitting here looking at it, Okay, wait a minute, what district am I going to be in, or what group am I in?

Charles Overturf: You know, and that may cause negativism, [00:31:00] or it may be very positive. Oh, I want to be with your group. Right, right. You see what I'm saying? Yes. So, you know, it probably would, but if you got it passed, Then the way that the easier way might be to say, let us start with these districts and then see what kind of ins and outs we need to make or, you know, that so that the public does have a say so about it.

Charles Overturf: Because again, you don't want to just force it on them. You want them to feel like they've had a say so about it. And that's why, you know, When the county does theirs, they have, you know, open meetings and they let the public come and, and, you know, I'm not saying it ever changed anything, but they let them speak.

Charles Overturf: So it makes them feel like they had to say so, you know, that kind of thing.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: With the current system that we have, the single member, I mean, the, no, at large. Have you noticed in the past years that one section is, you know, Of the city is more represented than another set the section like you [00:32:00] know the downtown area versus say the Tierra Woods section.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: I mean, I understand that right this minute we have one of each and I'm just using that as an example and Tierra Woods is another example of being way the hell out there, but still in the city

Charles Overturf: and since you brought it up, what was interesting about that was you had another candidate that. and lived in the neighborhood and, and he told me he had been to a particular person and they said, no, I'll support you.

Charles Overturf: And then two weeks later, he comes up and announces that he's running too. And they're neighbors, you know, that kind of thing. So, you know, and he ended up, the second one ended up one over the first one. So there was some feelings there. As

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: rightfully fair. Right. Right. I understand that. But

Charles Overturf: my, my information was somebody came to him and told the second one to run because we needed, you know, , you know, and that was the way it was.

Charles Overturf: Mm-Hmm. . So so I can't really tell you, you know, I don't really know where Rufus lives. I don't know where Justin lives for sure. I know where will [00:33:00] lives and, and Mm-Hmm. , I know where Alire is Mm-Hmm. And stuff like that. You know, Robbie, of course is downtown or, you know, right.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: You know, that

Charles Overturf: kind of thing down the road for me.

Charles Overturf: I can't tell you for sure whether. You know, I was, it would, you know, just

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: thinking, you know, in the past, right?

Charles Overturf: Again, if you go to districts and enforce 'em, then of course you could do it where, okay, there's gotta be somebody from Ti Woods or in

that area. Area and there's gotta be somebody from Rolling Hills or in that, you know, that kind of thing.

Charles Overturf: That would be where you might get a little more representation. citywide, you know, as it is now, I guess you could have all five people run from your neighborhood, you know, I mean, cause there's nothing to stop that.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: Yeah. Well, cause we currently have to just, I mean Elizabeth van Rensburg is north side historic district running for against Willie.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: And then we've got Annie and Allegra. And I mean, Allegra's not in the historic district, but she's pretty darn close, and they're in the south historic district running for, [00:34:00] so potentially you could have Right.

Jeremy Davis: Over representation. Over

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: representation, right, of one area. And then you got Robbie on top of that, and, which I know the mayor can live, would live anywhere, but, you know, potentially you could have three people living in the historic district.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: Like I said,

Charles Overturf: I'm not sure about Justin or Rufus, I don't I

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: think Justin lives in the historic district. I might be wrong about that. I'm just not sure about

Charles Overturf: going and looking or something, I don't, I don't

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: remember. I don't

Charles Overturf: know, but Getting back to, and you mentioned somebody, you didn't mention Terrell.

Charles Overturf: When he came in the day to tell me he was wanting to run and he was using his address over here on Carroll Road and I just told him, I said, Terrell, I just think that it would be better if you can get an address in the city limits. As you're announcing and stuff, because if not, some people are

going to question and say, he doesn't live in the city, how can he run, not knowing the whole law of the way it was.

Charles Overturf: And sure enough, I think he, if I [00:35:00] remember right, he used his mother's address or something. He did not use an office address because it's got to be a residence. Yeah. It can't be a business. Interesting. So he did that, you know right from the start and then it sort of died down and they were saying, okay, I guess we can't say he lives out here on Carroll Road because he's, you know.

Charles Overturf: And again. You're taking the, the, the, you know, information you're given. So I don't know if you stay there every night or not. And I didn't know about him, but he did understand the advantage. You know, and a few years ago I had a gentleman, Ricky from. Green Co. That was running for sheriff. Mm-Hmm. and everybody knew, but he did use a local address so that got in, even though he told him I worked for Green Cove, the sheriff's office and this kind of stuff.

Charles Overturf: Yeah. So there's ways to get around it. Mm-Hmm. that maybe the public says, okay, he's trying, or he is gonna do that, or whatever. I'm just, I'm just using that as an example. It just I, yeah. The voters

Jeremy Davis: will ultimately decide how, how invested that person is and, and that was

Charles Overturf: what. Probably a hundred people that voted for [00:36:00] Mr Danielson, they must have agreed that he did live in the city, you know, that kind of thing.

Charles Overturf: So,

Audrey Wise: a question regarding your position in, for elections and our position as a charter committee trying to make the best for us, voting is concerned for the constituents. Is there anything you can say to us that would make, not your life, but the voting process much easier? And I'm just wondering if you could talk a little bit more about by way of the Charter Committee maybe looking at things and trying to mold it so it can be a more of a easy transition or more of an easy plan for as voting is concerned when it comes to this Charter Committee itself.

Audrey Wise: What could you say to us to say, you know, if you guys did A to Z, you have a wealth of knowledge, the only

Charles Overturf: thing that I'd caution you about is putting it in. I mean, the requirements in there because it's, [00:37:00] I'm going to look at you and say, sorry, but who's going to enforce this? Who's going to let me know that you lived here six months in a day or whatever.

Charles Overturf: So, and I'm not saying don't do it because a lot of the cities have stuff like that. It's just most of them will go on. When did he register? Okay. He registered nine months before. So he's. Must have been here the six months. So he's good. If it's something easy to determine, but if you're going to put pressure and say, is he staying here every night?

Charles Overturf: Let's look at his water bill. Let's, you know, and again, it depends on who it is. If I don't like you and don't want you to run, then I'm going to be

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: harder on you

Charles Overturf: then. Oh, I like her. And she's going to, you know, you see what I'm saying? So it gets to be where I don't want to get put in that situation of you just let me know what the, What the charter says and what the enforcement is and let us do it.

Charles Overturf: And then we can. So that would be my only negative about it. Just be careful about that part of it. I'm not telling you. Don't put something in there. I'm just saying. Be specific about it. So all of us know, as long as I do this and this, I [00:38:00] live in that house, I'm okay to run, you know, that kind of thing would be as far as the other part, if you end up going to the districts, you know, we just need to know, you know, where that where that one starts and this one ends and stuff like that, just again, so that we can do the, the, the Putting them in the right part so that if you live in this one, you vote in this one, if he lives right across the street, but he's in the other one, he votes in the, I mean, it's just letting us know, you know, so that again, we do it fairly for you.

Charles Overturf: Yeah, that kind of thing. That would be the only, I don't know, things that I would think of. So the largest

Jeremy Davis: hurdle, essentially, what I'm hearing is the enforcement of it. If you put it, if you put

Charles Overturf: that part of it in there, you know, and I know Terrell was saying last night, or the night at the forum the other night, that he was, you know, You know, he was thinking you all were going to put something in it.

Charles Overturf: And I was like, as long as you let it. And then last night I get down there and I'm like, okay, who's going to do this? You're going to let your town clerk do it?

Jeremy Davis: Yeah.

Charles Overturf: She doesn't have the knowledge, you know, you expect us to do it. All I can go on is when did she [00:39:00] register? And if you don't agree that, oh, she registered, but she's really not living there, you see what I'm saying?

Charles Overturf: Then it comes down to the, you know, the issue of, okay. So that would be my only really, you know, just. I'm not saying make it broad, but if you're going to put something, make it where everybody knows this is all I've got to do to, to show that I do live in, in the district so I can run, you know, that kind of thing.

Matt Shuler: That's exactly why I made the suggestion earlier about just having all your driver's license. When you register, show your driver's license so it's that, yeah, at least on paper, I'm a Palatka resident. Yeah,

Jeremy Davis: so maybe I brought that up to Terrell. Is there some sort of maybe vetting process? Prior like, like you're saying, if we did, if you had in the charter where you had to have proof of ID, like your address being in that zone

Matt Shuler: prior to being maybe not necessarily even happen to proof like with the ID to the supervisor for elections, but maybe [00:40:00] go to, go to town or a city clerk just to verify.

Matt Shuler: Yes, he's eligible to put his name on the ballot. So it's a registered. Well, and I was going to say, you

Charles Overturf: see, you're looking at two different things because a voter. It doesn't have to be here six months. They can move on election day and they can show me that they've moved here and they have an address.

Charles Overturf: They get to vote. Running is the second part. And that one is where you would have to have some kind of enforcement or some kind of way to do it. You know, if you put in there, the driver's license must show the address. Then again, okay, once the driver's license is issued, so are we going to go on that date or, or, you know, those, it's just things that need to be worked out if you so choose to, to do that.

Charles Overturf: It's not that it can't work, but voting is totally different because like I said, we have people that move on election day and they're allowed to vote as long as they're not voting somewhere else or haven't voted where they lived. You know, and again, in Florida, we are all electronically. So we know.

Charles Overturf: When somebody, and they can't vote if [00:41:00] they've moved out of, from out of state, they messed it up, you know, they can't.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: So,

Audrey Wise: anything else? I guess the other thing is that CFG might be available to come to the committee. That'll be the next thing, if they do, if

Jeremy Davis: they would. When do y'all meet, or? It's every other month, and then on a is it Wednesdays?

Jeremy Davis: Usually. It has been Wednesdays. I don't think we've picked a specific recurring date yet. Do we at least, we haven't had we've had two meetings so far, so we're still trying to get in the groove of it, but they may want, the rest of the, the board members may want to speak. Okay. To you, even. I mean, we can go back and present our findings but they also might want to, from the horse's mouth.

Jeremy Davis: We might have

Matt Shuler: additional questions that we didn't think of. Yeah, yeah,

Charles Overturf: yeah. If you can just let me know. I will caution you that August is coming pretty quick, so I might have to get through the election first, you know, depending on when you all meet. It would [00:42:00] be after August. Yeah, I'm sure of that. As long as it's not too close to November, because we've got some other stuff.

Charles Overturf: Something else is happening in November. How many are on the committee?

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: Eleven. Eleven. So there's

Charles Overturf: four of you, so there's still more than half that are not here. Yeah, if you think it's helpful. I think you've already had Jamie, right? Did he

come? Didn't I see in the paper that Mr. Watts came? Yeah, not to our meeting yet.

Charles Overturf: I haven't seen Jamie yet. I thought the article in the paper said he came down and cause they were already going through it and I thought the article in the paper said that he came and helped, I mean answered. Not with us. Maybe he did, maybe he did the council. Maybe the council, but not us. Okay, I thought that, yeah.

Charles Overturf: But, you know, that's up to you all. If you think it would be helpful, that's fine. I'll do whatever I can, but I don't want to impose on you. No, we'll of course not. No imposing. We'll talk

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: about it another time, so. Yeah, that's right. Okay, so we're thinking single member districts, [00:43:00] voters at large, right?

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: That's what we're kind of focusing on. So, let me, let me understand. So

Charles Overturf: you're saying, If you're running, you've got to be in the, live in the district that particular year that that election is for your position, but everybody in the city would still vote. I lean more to that for you than I do only the people, because then it can get to be just a popularity contest of who that person is.

Jeremy Davis: What would it look like or would it be more palpable to the current commissioners? And then you have the mayor's doing two that are at large like maybe the mayor commissioner at large and then a an at large commissioner and three that are district based. Yeah, I mean that would be different because that again for

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: me.

Jeremy Davis: So the council of the mayor the mayor and commissioner being at large a commissioner being at large because there's there's four commissioners and then the mayor commissioner correct and then you have three that are [00:44:00] district based.

Audrey Wise: Oh, I see.

Charles Overturf: And at one time, I think St. Johns County was like that. I'm not sure they still are for their county commissioners because certain people got to vote just for one and then everybody got to vote.

Charles Overturf: But I'm not sure. And I know our board at

Jeremy Davis: water management is like that. We have nine members, I think, four at large and five are district. They have to live in that area.

Charles Overturf: So they get the, there's probably five districts in the water management thing. So each district gets a hometown person, so to speak, and then there's four more that are, you know, yeah, yeah, that can be done.

Charles Overturf: It's just again, coming up with those things back. Three districts. I would want you to run that by your attorney and just make sure that there's no issues about that, that I'm not thinking about or that we're That we

Jeremy Davis: just need her advice on. I just think that might be more palpable than the sort of brute force option of everybody being, you know in the district that they live in.

Jeremy Davis: [00:45:00] But again, this is just research and not necessarily, you know,

Matt Shuler: opinions. And they were all under the same. I think it's a good opinion, though, that at large voters is probably the best option, no matter what. Yes. In that respect. Because you've got to think about voter turnout, too. If you do have one particular person that's going to be from one district, how many of you within that district is actually going to vote?

Matt Shuler: Yeah. As compared to another district, the neighboring district.

Charles Overturf: Well, and the other thing you've got is if you require him to live in the district, then you're back to the pool of how many people do we really have that lives in that district? Is that good? And you may be limiting it to just, oh, well, you know, he lives there and he's pretty good. I guess that's who we'll vote for.

Charles Overturf: Yeah, the voter might

Jeremy Davis: not have as much interest in that person from that district. Because that person doesn't represent them or whatever, you know, I mean, they, they might, it might just be casting a vote just to cancel it. And

Charles Overturf: you know, that's interesting you say that because I still have voters that, for county commission, and they, it's like, oh well, Bill's way down in South Putnam, [00:46:00] so he doesn't, I'm like, yes he does, he votes on your taxes, he votes on your roads, he, you know, so he does, even though he lives in South Putnam, he does have a say so about it, you know, but it's still hard to get people to understand that part of it, you know, oh well he's way down there, so he doesn't affect me, oh yeah they do.

Charles Overturf: But if

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: we were, if we split the city into three districts versus four districts, then your districts are larger, and so your potential, you know, Candidate pool would be larger also.

Matt Shuler: That was my thought.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: Mm hmm.

Matt Shuler: We're stepping up a notch too if you wanted to split it up into two districts in that

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: Now you're getting crazy.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: So wait a minute,

Charles Overturf: your part would be the three districts and then the two at large? Yeah, that's just kind of what,

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: yeah. Then you have a larger candidate pool in each district.

Charles Overturf: Because being in the city, when you've only got X amount of voters, then it might [00:47:00] be that, You were crimping that number considerably because he's like, man, we just don't have any good people in that particular area.

Charles Overturf: I mean, that's the

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: right.

Charles Overturf: Yep.

Audrey Wise: Well, I'm out of questions. But right now, anyway, this is a lot to me.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: I want to dip. What else did they ask you in Malacca? Did we ask all the questions?

Charles Overturf: Yeah, and they're, they're, I mean, they're so ready to put it to a vote, and I'd already told them months ago, I was like, okay, guys, I've got to know, because we got an election in August on the 20th, and about 10 days after that, I need to know, not just you're going to put it on the ballot, I want to know your wording, everything's been approved, because by the second week in September, I'm sending out votes to oversee people that for the presidential.

Charles Overturf: And if you want, so they all knew that that time limit it was getting. So last night it was more, we're going to listen to you, but we're going to vote on this committee and we're going to push it and [00:48:00] let's, let's push it to the council. So now they got to have two hearings you know, public hearings.

Charles Overturf: And I think they're going to push it and say, we're going to vote. And, and, you know, now the negative that I've talked to the attorney about, he just wants one issue. Oh, we just want to change the charter. And I'm like, I don't know how you're going to do that, Patrick. You've got enough opposition here with a couple of issues that I think people are going to vote it down.

Charles Overturf: And then where are you? You've worked three years, and they voted it down, and now you're starting all over again. Whereas if you split it up a couple of issues, and their big beef down there is, with the mayor leaving, and he's been a pretty quote, strong mayor, the way they, you know, okay, the next mayor's probably not going to be, so we're going to need either a city manager, Or at least a utilities director or something, because they've got some big grant that they think that the Bass Pro guy is going to, you know, and they're going to need that.

Charles Overturf: And so the public is sitting here saying, we're going to pay 100, 000 or more to a city manager, and now you're going to pay [00:49:00] 100, 000 more to the director. Okay, thank you. Okay, thanks. And they're

sitting here saying, we're a small town, how are we going to pay for that? You know, now Palatka, of course, is bigger, and you already have a city manager, and you've got the Who's

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: making money?

Charles Overturf: Don't

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: get me started. I only have our own public

Charles Overturf: works director. Well, that part bothers me. So that's, so, He had first told him no. And then one of the commissioners said, well, Mr. Oster said we could put more than one. And I'm like, Oh, thanks a lot. I'm not going to go against the attorney.

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: And

Charles Overturf: his comment was, well, we got to tie it to the charter somehow.

Charles Overturf: At the end of the meeting, he came up to me and we talked again. And he said, You know what, if I can come up with a way, do you think that I said, Patrick, I'm going to just tell you, if you can come up with a way that you give the people that are negative, they can vote against the city manager thing, but they can possibly vote for the charter part of it and make progress.

Charles Overturf: So he said he was going to go back and look at it. So I'm hoping [00:50:00] that maybe they'll come up with more than one thing and give the out. If not. There may be enough opposition down there that they throw it out and they say we're going to start all over again and then you've wasted three years. That's the problem with omnibus.

Charles Overturf: You know, all of them. So, again, you all have a right to put, I mean, Crescent City two years ago, I think, put five different issues on the ballot. And I think three or four of them passed. One of them didn't, so they made progress. They got some, and some of their stuff was just cleaning up certain areas. And you know, that kind of thing, as far as the wording and all, but you have a right to decide that you as a charter and the council, if they agreed to it, to do that Now, I guess I need to ask you, when were you looking at doing this?

Charles Overturf: Twenty six. Oh, that's a while out. Okay, so you got a bunch of time. Okay, good. Yeah, we are so early in this discussion. But I will say, ask WIACA. They thought they were early, they started in twenty one, and here we are twenty four, and they still don't have anything passed. So, I'm just going to tell you, it can [00:51:00] go by pretty quick.

Charles Overturf: Yeah. Okay. And this last. Bill, they've been meeting every week for three or four months. No, you know, that's not going to be us. I'm just giving you

Tiffany Parker-Flanders: an idea.

Jeremy Davis: Okay, well, I think I will go ahead and adjourn this at least. And it's 7 25. So thank you for your time, Mr. Overture.

Report of Section 22 fact-finding subcommittee (includes time of elections) - Ms. Kitchens, Mr. Dolan, Ms. Davis, and Mr. Norwood
Report of Section 22 fact-finding subcommittee (includes time of elections) - Ms. Kitchens, Mr. Dolan, Ms. Davis, and Mr. Norwood

STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 22, 2024
TO: City of Palatka Charter Review Committee
FROM: City Staff

APPLICATION REQUEST

Attached please find the Minutes of the Section 22 fact-finding subcommittee (includes time of elections) - Ms. Kitchens, Mr. Dolan, Ms. Davis, and Mr. Norwood

BACKGROUND

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Staff Recommendation

ATTACHMENTS

1.	Minutes - Section 22-SingleAtLarge SubCommittee 081324
2.	Ordinance 76-18

August 13, 2024

The Citizens Charter Review Board sub-committee meeting to review and consolidate fact-finding information on the following items:

1. Section 22
2. Single district versus At-Large City Commission Elections

Sub-committee Members

James Norwood - Present

Annie Davis - Present

Allegra Kitchens - Present

Tom Dolan - Absent

Reviewed meeting minutes video to clarify the sub-committee fact-finding scope.

Section 22:

Residency Requirement:

1. How do we confirm if candidates live in the service area?
 - a. Citizens can register to vote at an address different from where they live per Florida law.
 - b. The Florida law and statement from the Supervisor of Elections conflicts with the city charter.
 - c. The city generally allows volunteer annexation. The non-city residents pay a higher water rate but no taxes to the city.
2. Currently, you are required to be a resident of the city when you are sworn in. There is no ordinance requiring city commissioners to be residents of the city before running.
3. Some citizens who previously ran for city commission did not live in the city.
4. QUESTION -: What is the current ordinance regarding residency for city council members?
5. Options (not a complete listing) to prove residency:
 - a. Homestead exemption
 - b. Property ownership
 - c. Rental Contract
 - d. Driver's license
 - e. Vehicle Registration, etc.

Security Bond

1. A public official bond protects the public in instances in which you may have violated your duty through malfeasance or negligence. It provides a means to hold officials accountable. The bond is designed to safeguard the interests of taxpayers and consumers and is required in all states.
2. The city currently pays the bond (confirmed by the city manager), but this is not stated in the charter.

Judge each member of the commission

1. The city commission shall be the judge of the election and qualification of its members
 - a. The Supervisor of Election confirms the election
 - b. Qualifications are not defined in the charter nor any reference to a state statute.
 - c. QUESTION - What are the qualifications to be judged? What is the role of the City Canvassing Board regarding the city commission other verifying the election?
 - d. QUESTION - If not qualified, does this mean the commission can remove an elected commissioner with a minimum 3-2 vote? The current wording alludes to the commission having this authority.

Editor's Note:

1. What is Ord No 76-18 – sets the salaries of the mayor and commission.
2. Unable to pull this ordinance from the city's ordinances.

At-Large Elections:

Pros:

- Can be more impartial, rise above the limited perspective of a single district and concern themselves with the problems of the whole community
- Vote trading between councilmembers may be minimized
- The number of candidates available for election tends to be larger

Cons:

- Can weaken the representation of particular groups, such as people of color, especially if the group does not have a citywide base of operations or is an ethnic or racial group concentrated in a specific ward

Single District Elections:

Pros:

- provide voters with strong constituency representation because each voter has a single, easily identifiable district representative
- encourage constituency service by providing voters with an easily identifiable advocate
- maximize accountability because a single representative can be held responsible and can be re-elected or defeated in the next election
- ensure geographic representation

Cons:

- Sunshine Law: Commissioners cannot talk to each other, which may prohibit the effectiveness of single districts

- Because of their tendency to over-represent the majority party and under-represent other parties, they cannot produce proportional representation for political parties
- Districts must be redrawn regularly to maintain populations of relatively equal sizes
 - o Must be drawn per county commission district lines
 - o Unable to use congressional county commission districts because they are too large for the City of Palatka (Charles Overturf)
 - o If the city goes to single-member districts, then the city and the elections office would probably work together to draw the districts (Charles Overturf)
 - o The supervisor of elections and the county commission would have to redraw the county commission districts
 - o The city commission would have to approve the redrawn districts, and the residents would need to vote on it
- Districts are usually artificial geographic entities whose boundaries do not clearly identify communities and are not of particular relevance to citizens
- Many believe the relationship between the representative and the voters, as well as accountability, gets diluted under an at-large governance system
-

Follow-Ups:

City Attorney, please provide this information at the next meeting on August 22nd.

1. Confirm if a current ordinance speaks to the residential requirement to run for and serve as a city commissioner.
2. If not qualified, does this mean the commission can remove an elected commissioner with a minimum 3-2 vote? The current wording alludes to the commission having this authority.
3. What are the qualifications to be judged? What is the role of the City Canvassing Board regarding the city commission other verifying the election?

City Clerk, please provide this information and copies for all board members at the next meeting on August 22nd.

1. Provide a copy of Ordinance No. 76-18 to the full committee for the next meeting.

Meeting ended at 12:13pm

#76-18

An Ordinance

entitled

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, ADDING SECTION 2-15 TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES SETTING AND ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO THE MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA BY SETTING THE SALARY OF THE MAYOR AT \$400.00 PER MONTH AND THE SALARY OF THE REMAINING COMMISSIONERS AT \$300.00 PER MONTH, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, a portion of Section 9 of the Charter of the City of Palatka, Florida set and established the amount of compensation to be paid to the Commissioners and Mayor, and

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes in Chapter 166, known as "Municipal Home Rule Powers Act" and specifically Section 166.021(5) changes said Charter Section so that it became an Ordinance of this City and subject to modification or repeal as other ordinances;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA:

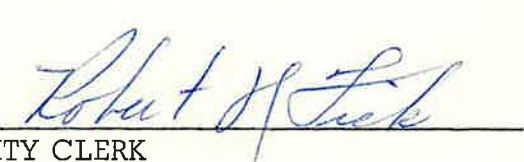
Section 1. That the Code of Ordinances of the City of Palatka, Florida be amended by adding Section 2-15 thereto so that the same shall read as follows:

Section 2-15. Compensation of Mayor and Commissioners. Each of the members of the City Commission, except the Mayor, shall receive a salary of THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00) per month. The Mayor shall receive a salary of FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$400.00) per month.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its final passage by the City Commission, and a duly certified copy thereof shall be forwarded to the Municipal Code Corporation for insertion in the Code of Ordinances of the City of Palatka, Florida.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of May, 1976.

I, Robert H. Fisk, City Clerk of the City of Palatka, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of that certain ordinance adopted by the City Commission of the City of Palatka on the 13th day of May, 1976.


CITY CLERK

Recommendations regarding Charter Article III - City Manager, not limited to but including discussions:

Sec. 36 - Discussion - Should majority be super-majority

Sec. 37 - Discussion - Should majority be super-majority

Sec. 38. - Discussion - How to designate who is acting city manager, current organization chart, acting city manager vs. interim city manager

Sec. 39. - Discussion - Powers and duties of the City Manager

Recommendations regarding Article III

STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 22, 2024

TO: City of Palatka Charter Review Committee

FROM: City Staff

APPLICATION REQUEST

Attached is Article III of the City's Charter

BACKGROUND

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Staff Recommendation

ATTACHMENTS

1.	Charter Article III
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ARTICLE III. - CITY MANAGER

Sec. 36. - Appointment; qualifications; compensation.

The city commission, by a majority vote of its total membership, shall appoint a city manager for an indefinite term and fix the manager's compensation. The city manager shall be appointed solely on the basis of executive and administrative qualifications. The city manager shall be the administrative head of each department of city government.

(Laws of Fla., ch. 9875(1923), § 32; Ord. No. 94-21, § 2, 9-12-1994)

Sec. 37. - Removal.

The city manager may be removed by a majority vote of the total membership of the city commission which shall set forth the reasons for termination.

(Laws of Fla., ch. 9875(1923), § 33; Laws of Fla., ch. 29380(1953), § 1; Ord. No. 94-21, § 3, 9-12-1994)

Sec. 38. - Acting city manager.

By letter filed with the city clerk, the city manager shall designate a city officer or employee to exercise the powers and perform the duties of city manager during the manager's temporary absence or disability. The city commission may revoke such designation at any time and appoint another officer of the city to serve until the city manager returns.

(Ord. No. 94-21, § 4, 9-12-1994)

Editor's note— Section 4 of Ord. No. 94-21, adopted Sept. 12, 1994, amended § 38 to read as herein set out. Formerly, § 38 pertained to compensation and bond requirement for the city manager and derived from of Laws of Fla., ch. 9875(1923), § 34, and Laws of Fla., ch. 29380(1953), § 1.

Sec. 39. - Powers and duties of the city manager.

The city manager shall be the chief administrative officer of the city, responsible to the commission for the administration of all city affairs placed in the manager's charge by or under this Charter or ordinance. The city manager shall:

- (1) Appoint, and when necessary, suspend or remove the police chief, fire chief, finance director, city clerk and city attorney with the concurrence of a majority of the city commission;
- (2)

Appoint, and when necessary, suspend or remove all other city employees, except as otherwise provided by law, this Charter or personnel rules adopted pursuant to this Charter or ordinance;

- (3) Direct and supervise the administration of all departments, offices and agencies of the city, except as otherwise provided by this Charter or by law;
- (4) Attend all city commission meetings. The city manager shall have the right to take part in discussion but shall not vote;
- (5) See that all laws, provisions of this Charter and acts of the city commission, subject to enforcement by the city manager or by officers subject to the manager's direction and supervision, are faithfully executed;
- (6) Prepare and submit the annual budget and capital program to the city commission;
- (7) Submit to the city commission and make available to the public a complete report on the finances and administrative activities of the city as of the end of each fiscal year;
- (8) Make such other reports as the city commission may require concerning the operations of city departments, offices and agencies subject to the city manager's direction and supervision;
- (9) Keep the city commission fully advised as to the financial condition and future needs of the city;
- (10) Make recommendations to the city commission concerning the affairs of the city;
- (11) Provide staff support services for the mayor and commission members;
- (12) Perform such other duties as are specified in this Charter or may be required by the city commission; and
- (13) To act as a purchasing agent for the city. In the capacity of purchasing agent, he shall sell all property that has become unfit for use by the city or that has been declared surplus by the city commission. All such purchases and sales shall be made in conformity to such regulations as the city commission may from time to time prescribe.

(Laws of Fla., ch. 9875(1923), § 119; Laws of Fla., ch. 29380(1953), § 1; Ord. No. 94-21, § 5, 9-12-1994)

Secs. 40—45. - Reserved.

Set Reoccurring Charter Review Committee Meeting Date
Set Reoccurring Charter Review Committee Meeting Date

STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 22, 2024
TO: City of Palatka Charter Review Committee
FROM: City Staff

APPLICATION REQUEST

The Clerk is asking the Board to consider setting a reoccurring meeting date that can be regularly publicized and so that members of the Committee do not have to fill out a doodle poll for every meeting. Alternatively, the Committee can set the next meeting date.

Some suggested dates would be:

1st or 4th Monday of the Month
2nd or 4th Wednesday of the Month
It could be on 2nd or 4th Tuesday
3rd Thursday of the Month (except November)

BACKGROUND

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Staff Recommendation

ATTACHMENTS

None

STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 22, 2024
TO: City of Palatka Charter Review Committee
FROM: City Staff

APPLICATION REQUEST

Attached please find Article IV of the City's Charter.

BACKGROUND

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Staff Recommendation

ATTACHMENTS

1.	Charter Article IV
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ARTICLE IV. - ELECTIONS

Sec. 46. - Date for regular municipal election designated.

Regular municipal elections shall be held every even year, beginning in 2008, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Any matter which, by the terms of this Charter, may be submitted to the electors of the city at any special election, may be submitted and voted upon at any regular municipal election.

(Laws of Fla., ch. 9875(1923), § 100; Ord. No. 83-14, § 1, 6-23-1983; Ord. No. 06-01, § 2, 1-12-2006)

Sec. 47. - Candidates for office of commissioner and mayor; manner of nomination and voting for, prescribed by ordinance.

The city commission shall by ordinance prescribe the manner in which candidates for the office of city commissioner and the office of mayor shall be nominated and voted for at the regular city elections provided for herein.

(Laws of Fla., ch. 9875(1923), § 106; Ord. No. 83-14, § 4, 6-23-1983)

Editor's note— Ord. No. 83-14, § 2, adopted June 23, 1983, repealed § 47 of the Charter. The repealed section, relative to the responsibility of the commission for arrangements, appointment of inspectors, etc., and the duty of the mayor when the commission fails to make appointments, derived from Laws of Fla., ch. 9875(1923), § 103. Section 4 of Ord. No. 83-14 renumbered § 49 as § 47.

Sec. 48. - Canvassing of returns; canvassing board; certification of returns; certificate of election to person elected.

The result of elections, both primary and general elections, shall be canvassed at a meeting to be held as soon as possible after the closing of the polls. The canvassing board shall consist of the supervisor of elections for Putnam County, Florida, the city clerk, and two (2) city commissioners who are unopposed in the election. The canvassing board shall certify the returns and the results as shown by such returns shall be declared by the city commission as the result of the election. The city clerk shall, not sooner than noon of the second day after the election, furnish a certificate of election to each person shown to have been elected.

(Laws of Fla., ch. 9875(1923), § 104; Laws of Fla., ch. 11671(1925), § 3; Ord. No. 83-14, § 3, 6-23-1983)

Secs. 49—51. - Reserved.

Editor's note— Section 49 was renumbered by Ord. No. 83-14, § 4, adopted June 23, 1983, as § 47. Section 50, relative to the conduct of elections as prescribed by ordinance and state election laws, and § 51, relative to elector's age and residence requirements and poll tax, were repealed by Ord. No. 83-14, § 5, adopted June 23, 1983. The repealed provisions derived from Laws of Fla., ch. 9875(1923), § 107.

Secs. 52—55. - Reserved.