



**Charter Review Committee**  
**Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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Having been duly advertised as required by law, the regular meeting of the Charter Review Committee of the City of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, was held on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at the City Commission Chambers, 214 Sams Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32168.

Charter Review Facilitator Susan Boyer called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Present:** Mark Billings, Steve Fusilier, Spencer Hathaway, Michael J. Ison, Farley Palmer, Khalid Resheidat, Daniel Rokjer, Palmer Wilson, Diana Puhl, and Sandra Smith.

**Excused Absence:** Judy Reiker

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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- 2.A Consider the adoption of the meeting minutes from the Charter Review Committee meeting held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

**Motion:**

Member Resheidat moved to adopt the meeting minutes from the Charter Review Committee meeting held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. Member Hathaway seconded the motion, and the motion passed with consensus with Member Smith abstaining.

Susan Boyer, Charter Review Facilitator, led the discussion regarding public participation.

Charter Review Committee reached a consensus to move public participation to the beginning of the meetings.

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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Deb Dugas, 200 North Pine Street, commented on the first Charter Review meeting, referring to it as an organizational meeting, and expressed concerns about voting during this initial meeting. She emphasized the need for more time to discuss proposed changes to the Charter in order to involve citizens. She also mentioned the 2020 review process and the potential for a special election.

Randy Herman 108 Esther Street, commented on the process for discussing each proposed Charter change for the future Charter Review committees.

Karen Francis, 216 Minorca Beach Way, spoke about conducting the Charter Review in 2025. She questioned the cost of a special election and emphasized the importance of being good stewards of the City's funds. She asked for clarification on the role of the City Clerk as a charter officer.

Patricia Arvidson, 1314 South Riverside Drive, raised concerns about the timing of the Charter Review.

Ms. Boyer led the discussion regarding the pay for city commission salaries.

Member Ison noted that the salary data provided was from 2021.

Ms. Boyer referenced the 2020 Charter Review and suggested providing a spreadsheet during the review process for better clarity.

*A discussion ensued regarding a spreadsheet for the revisions made to the Charter to include the reasoning for the changes.*

Member Rokjer read, commented, and questioned Section 7.03.

*A discussion ensued regarding the 2025 Charter review process.*

### **4. PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS TO DATE**

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3.A Consider the approval of the Proposed Charter Revisions.

Ms. Boyer led the discussion regarding Section 2.02 Composition and terms of office.

Member Rokjer provided a handout to the Charter Review Committee.

*A discussion ensued regarding Section 2.02 Composition and terms of office and the ballot language.*

Member Puhl commented on zone commissioners being elected by residents of their respective zones.

*A discussion followed regarding whether zone residents should have exclusive voting rights. The committee reached a consensus not to pursue the idea of zone-only voting.*

Member Rokjer commented on term limits.

The Charter Review Committee consensus was not to discuss term limits.

Member Wilson commented that the ballot should allow a vote on each individual change.

**Motion:**

Member Hathaway moved to approve Section 2.02, changing the Mayor's term from two (2) years to four (4) years. Member Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed with an 8-1 vote, with Member Rokjer voting no.

Member Hathaway commented on the effective date for Section 2.02, proposing it take effect during the 2026 election. He also initiated a discussion on the possibility of a special election.

Member Rokjer questioned voter turnout in a Special Election.

*A discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of holding a special election.*

The Charter Review Committee reached a consensus to ask staff to provide a "drop-dead" date for holding a special election in November.

**Motion:**

Member Hathaway moved that the Charter Review Committee revisions take effect in the 2026 election cycle. Member Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed by 9-1 vote, with Member Rokjer voting no.

Ms. Boyer led the discussion regarding Section 3.05 nomination and election; primary election unnecessary; tie vote.

Member Wilson sought clarification of the verbiage for Section 3.05.

Member Puhl commented on the wording in the section.

*A discussion ensued regarding the verbiage Section 3.05.*

The Charter Review committee tasked staff with conducting a survey on the majority vote requirements in Volusia County.

*A discussion ensued regarding the ballot language.*

## **5. CHARTER DISCUSSION**

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4.A Discussion: Special Election

**No action.**

4.B Article VI. - Sustainability

**No action.**

4.C Additional Charter Articles for targeted review and discussion

**No action.**

4.D Selection of articles by board members for review at the Charter Review meeting scheduled for May 6, 2025.

**No action.**

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

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As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.