



CITY COMMISSION ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION

TITLE: Ordinance 26-11 (Administration)

DATE: March 24, 2026

DESCRIPTION: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COOPER CITY, FLORIDA, SUBMITTING TO REFERENDUM AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF COOPER CITY AT ARTICLE V, ENTITLED “FINANCIAL PROCEDURES;” AND IN PARTICULAR AMENDING SECTION 5.15, ENTITLED “REQUIREMENTS FOR REFERENDUM AND EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS;” PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF MUNICIPAL BONDS OR THE BORROWING OF FUNDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF STATE LAW; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE, WHEN ADOPTED, SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF COOPER CITY, ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT AND IT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE AS PROVIDED BY LAW;; PROVIDING FOR THE ADVERTISING OF THE REFERENDUM ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BACKGROUND OF ITEM:

The Cooper City Charter Review Board met pursuant to Section 7.02 of the City Charter to review and recommend potential amendments to the City Charter.

During its review, the Board examined Section 5.15 of the Charter, which covers referendum requirements related to issuing municipal bonds, borrowing funds, and certain capital expenses. The Charter Review Board suggested updating this section to better match the City’s Charter with current Florida laws on municipal borrowing and bond issuance.

Currently, the Charter includes provisions that require referendum approval for certain borrowing activities and capital expenses. Florida law already specifies when voter approval is necessary for municipal debt obligations, including those backed by ad valorem taxes.

The proposed amendment eliminates duplicate or potentially conflicting Charter provisions and instead relies on the requirements set forth by Florida law, including the Florida Constitution, the Municipal Home Rule Powers Act, and other relevant statutes.

If approved by the City Commission, the proposed Charter amendment will be placed on the ballot for the November 3, 2026, general election for the consideration of qualified electors of Cooper City.

ANALYSIS:

The proposed Charter amendment updates the City's financial governance rules by aligning local Charter provisions with current state laws governing municipal borrowing and bond issuance.

Florida law already establishes comprehensive rules for municipal debt obligations, including when voter approval is required for bonds payable from ad valorem taxes. Maintaining additional or duplicate Charter requirements could cause confusion or create administrative challenges when the City seeks to finance capital improvements.

The amendment clarifies that the City can borrow funds or issue municipal bonds following Florida law while remaining within all constitutional and statutory limits governing municipal finance.

Adopting this amendment would:

- Ensure consistency between the City Charter and Florida law.
- Provide clarity regarding referendum requirements for municipal borrowing.
- Reduce potential administrative or legal conflicts between local and state provisions.
- Maintain transparency and voter oversight where required by law.

If approved by the electorate, the amendment will become part of the Cooper City Charter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution 26-11