



STAFF REPORT

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

TO: City Council Regular Session

MEETING DATE: January 6, 2026

FROM: L.J. Arnold, III, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Consideration of approval on first reading of Ordinance No. O-01-2026 which is attached and will allow City electors to vote on proposed Charter Amendments. The Ballot Title verbiage cannot exceed 15 words per section 101.161, Florida Statutes. *City Attorney Arnold*

BACKGROUND

City Council has directed the City Attorney to prepare this ordinance to place three (3) proposed Charter amendments before the voters at the next City election. The proposals are as follows:

1. Charter Section 2.03. Oath of Office

Each council member, before entering upon the discharge of the duties of office shall take and subscribe to the following oath before some judicial officer or notary public of the state, viz: "I do solemnly swear ... council member, upon which I am about to enter, so help me God".

Note: This should make it easier to swear in a Council Member if a Judge was not available.

2. Charter Section 3.012. City manager dwelling

The City Manager shall maintain a dwelling within the boundaries of the city's utility service area within six (6) months of being appointed by the council. Such location requirement shall not prohibit the city manager from owning homestead property elsewhere. However, the City Council may waive such residency requirements.

Note: This proposal would allow the City Council to hire a highly qualified candidate who lives outside our utility service area.

3. Charter Section 4.03. City Attorney

The council shall appoint an officer of the city who shall have the title of city attorney. The compensation ... federal district court. Such attorney shall be a resident or have an office within the city unless waived by the City Council. The city shall have the power to employ an additional attorney for a particular case or matter when it deems necessary.

Note: Obviously, this would afford the City Council more flexibility in hiring a highly qualified future city attorney or firm.

FISCAL IMPACT

There should be no fiscal impact to the City.

RECOMMENDATION

Motion to approve Ordinance No. O-01-2026 on first reading as to form only.