



Charter Review Committee 2024

Charter Review Committee Report

Members

- Luke Byrne
- Paul Cobbert
- Josh Danley
- Randy Dew
- Henrietta Francis
- Pam Lewis
- Chris Nelson
- Bob Page
- Van Royal
- Mitch Timberlake

Staff Support

- Steve Kennedy
- Jim Arnold
- Mike Null
- Erin West



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Six Ballot Initiatives Recommended

- Modify City Council – Compensation
- Modify City Council – Independent Audit
- Modify Powers – Duties and Powers – Section G
- Modify Powers – Duties and Powers – Section Q
- Modify General Administration – City Attorney
- Modify Charter Review – Mandatory



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Article II – City Council

- Proposed change:

Section 2.09 – Compensation

The salary of council members, together with the manner of payment shall be established at seven thousand two hundred dollars (\$7,200.00) ~~six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00)~~ per year payable monthly, effective October 1, ~~2014~~ 2025. The Mayor shall receive an additional one hundred twenty dollars (\$120.00) ~~one hundred dollars (\$100.00)~~ per month for their term as Mayor commencing October 1, 2025.



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Article II – City Council

- Proposed change:

Section 2.19 – Independent Audit

The council shall cause the management letter and balance sheet for fiscal year to be available at the Green Cove Springs Public Library and at City in accordance with the Florida Public Records requirements. ~~within fourteen (14) days following receipt of the report from the auditor.~~

Note: No vote of citizens is required for this change due to legislative change.



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Article III – Powers

- Proposed change:

Section 3.08 – Powers and Duties

G. Supervise and be responsible for the disbursement of all monies and have control over all expenditures to ensure that budget appropriations are not exceeded. Expenditures of over ~~twenty-five~~ fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) (~~\$25,000~~) shall be approved by the City Council. The City Manager may authorize expenditures of up to ~~twenty-five~~ fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) (~~\$25,000~~) provided the same are budgeted expenditures, but the City Council shall have the authority to set a lesser amount for the maximum authorized expenditure by the City Manager.



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Article III – Powers

- Proposed change:

Section 3.08 – Powers and Duties

Q. In the event of war, riot, civil commotions, operational disasters, public health and safety disasters or natural disasters, the city manager may authorize reasonable and necessary emergency expenditures and during such emergency the city manager shall be temporarily recognized as head of the city government and have the authority to issue a local state of emergency declaration. The city council shall thoroughly review all such emergency expenditures and approve any local state of emergency declarations within a reasonable time thereafter.



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Article IV – General Administration

- Proposed change:

Section 4.03 – City Attorney

The council shall appoint an officer of the city who shall have the title of city attorney. The compensation of the city attorney shall be fixed by the council. He shall act as legal adviser to and attorney for the council, the city manager, and all city departments, offices and agencies. He shall represent the city in all legal proceedings (unless the city is represented by an attorney where provided without charge to the city), and shall perform any other professional duties prescribed by this Charter, ordinance, or by action of the council. He shall be a lawyer admitted to practice before all courts of the State of Florida and the federal district court. ~~Such attorney shall be a resident or have an office within the city.~~ The city shall have the power to employ an additional attorney for a particular case or matter when it deems necessary.



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Article XI – Charter Review

- Proposed change:

Section 11.01 – Mandatory

At least once each ten (10) ~~five (5)~~ years the city council shall cause a review to be made of the entire city Charter. Such review shall be made by registered electors of the city.



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Preamble

- The Charter Review Committee suggests the City Council approve a preamble to the City Charter which is not law but will be set forth in our City Code Book at its next publication.

- Proposed Preamble:

We, the people of the City of Green Cove Springs, Florida, under the constitution and the State of Florida enact this charter for the purpose of protecting the safety and general welfare of the people and provide for the benefits of local self-government, while preserving our rich history and the unique quality of life for current and future generations.



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Suggestions for Future Charter Review Committees

As the City's population grows and exceeds 15,000 people, consider:

- An elected Mayor by the City's citizens.
- Expand the size of the City Council to more than five seats.
- Review Council Member salary.
- Establishing Council Boundary Districts or a combination of at-large and boundary.