



STAFF REPORT

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

TO: City Council Regular Session

MEETING DATE: December 9, 2025

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

SUBJECT: City Council consideration of directing the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to place three (3) proposed Charter amendments before the voters at the next City election. *City Attorney Arnold*

BACKGROUND

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. However, Orange Park has the same requirement for "some judicial officer" as we do currently.

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 direct the City Attorney to present an ordinance for Council consideration for the voters to consider Charter Amendments as set forth herein.