



**CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
AGENDA
MONDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1225 MAIN STREET, SEBASTIAN, FLORIDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. ROLL CALL**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. January 27, 2026 Minutes
- 5. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Review Article 2: City Council
- 6. STAFF MATTERS**

Modifications for additions require a unanimous vote of City Council
- 7. COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS**
- 8. ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2026 AGENDA**
- 9. ADJOURN**

NOTICE: NO STENOGRAPHIC RECORD BY A CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER WILL BE MADE OF THE FOREGOING MEETING. ANY PERSON WHO DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE COMMITTEE WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING OR HEARING, THEY WILL NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE HEARD. (F.S.286.0105)

NOTICE: IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) OF 1990, ANYONE WHO NEEDS A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR THIS MEETING SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY'S SEATING ADA COORDINATOR (772) 388-8222 – ADA@CITYOFSEBASTIAN.ORG AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THIS MEETING.

HEARING ASSISTANCE HEADPHONES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS FOR ALL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS.

**CITY OF SEBASTIAN
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026 - 6:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1225 MAIN STREET, SEBASTIAN, FLORIDA**

1. Call to Order – Interim City Attorney called the Charter Review Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

3. ROLL CALL

Present:

Chair Vicki Drumheller
Vice Chair Grace Reed
Jeanne Hill
Bill Fynn
Scott Liberator
Charles Stadelman
Richard Gillmor
Tim Borden
Sharon Herman
Susan Lorusso
Felicia Hollorman
Wanda Simmons
David Moore
Nicholas Scheskowsky
Tegpreet Singh

Also Present:

Brian Benton, City Manager
Jim Stokes, Interim City Attorney
Cathy Testa, Acting City Clerk
Bridget Eakins, Recording Secretary

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Moore and SECOND by Vice Chair Reed to approve the January 5, 2026 minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review Article 1: Creation and Powers

Chair Drumheller noted that the article primarily restates foundational municipal authority granted by state law and that the review would focus on clarity and relevance.

During discussion of Section 1.01, Mr. Gillmor questioned the lengthy sentence structure and lack of punctuation in the introductory paragraph. The Interim City Attorney explained that modern legal drafting favors shorter sentences and that the language reflects older drafting practices. He advised that certain cosmetic changes may be possible without voter approval if no substantive meaning is altered and agreed to research this issue further. Chair Drumheller noted that similar concerns were raised during the prior charter review and that even minor language changes often require a referendum.

In reviewing Section 1.02, Extraterritorial Powers, Ms. Lorusso asked whether the charter language implied city ownership of all seawalls. The Interim City Attorney clarified that the charter lists powers rather than ownership and that ownership depends on property location, easements, and title history. Mr. Stadelman raised questions regarding mineral and air rights. The Interim City Attorney explained that such rights cannot be asserted through the charter and are governed by state and federal law, noting that mineral rights under city property depend on how the property was acquired. He agreed to review the issue further.

The committee then discussed public utilities, noting antiquated references such as telegraph systems. The Interim City Attorney explained that the language broadly expresses municipal authority, regardless of current operations. Ms. Lorusso inquired whether the provision includes cellular towers, and the Interim City Attorney responded that state law significantly limits municipal authority in this area, particularly regarding 5G infrastructure. Mr. Gillmor commented on the city's past transfer of water utility services to the County and expressed concerns regarding water quality.

Regarding nuisance abatement, Ms. Lorusso asked whether recent state law changes affect enforcement authority. The Interim City Attorney confirmed that nuisance abatement and code enforcement authority remain in place and continue to be exercised through the special magistrate process.

No substantive comments were made on provisions related to public lands and waters, livestock, airports, leasing authority, intergovernmental contracts, conveyance to the State or federal government, or the golf course.

Discussion of eminent domain followed, with Ms. Hollorman asking whether the city has authority to acquire property outside city limits. The Interim City Attorney explained that such authority would apply only for lawful public purposes, such as utilities serving areas beyond City boundaries, and not for arbitrary acquisition.

The committee briefly reviewed remaining sections of Article I, including intergovernmental relations, boundaries, and existing businesses after annexation, with no comments offered.

6. STAFF MATTERS

No staff matters were raised.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS

Committee members identified several preliminary areas of interest for future discussion, including eligibility requirements for elected officials, with Vice Chair Reed and Mr. Borden noting the need to review qualifications, disqualifying offenses, and ethical standards; city council compensation, with Mr. Gillmor and Ms. Herman expressing concerns regarding outdated compensation levels, public perception, and the method by which compensation adjustments should be made; election cycles, including the timing and structure of elections; and the need to clarify, consolidate, or reconcile provisions within Article II that may be duplicative, contradictory, or unclear. The Interim City Attorney discussed alternative compensation structures used by other municipalities, such as formulas tied to population or cost-of-living adjustments, and cautioned against including fixed dollar amounts in the charter due to their tendency to become outdated.

Mr. Singh advised that he would be traveling internationally and may attend upcoming meetings remotely if possible.

8. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

The Interim City Attorney advised that Article II would likely require more extensive and detailed discussion than Article I, as it addresses core governance issues, including the structure and composition of the city council, the length of terms, election procedures, compensation, and eligibility requirements. He suggested that the committee be prepared for a longer meeting and potentially flexible pacing when reviewing this article.

9. Being no further business, Chair Drumheller adjourned the Charter Review Committee meeting at 6:35 p.m.

By: _____ Date: _____

Chair Drumheller

ORDINANCE NO. O-06-19

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SEBASTIAN, FLORIDA, AMENDING CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 2, REGARDING COUNCIL EXPENSES AND CITY TRAVEL POLICIES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest to modify the existing policies of the City concerning travel and City Council expenses due to impracticalities in accounting for the same under the current system and to further compliance with the City's charter form of government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEBASTIAN, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA, as follows:

Section 1. That section 2-34 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Sebastian, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2-34. Expenses of council members.

There shall be paid to each council member a three hundred (\$300.00) dollar per month expense allowance as lump sum reimbursement for incidental expenses, to include costs for travel within seventy-five miles of the City. A Council Member may file a written notice with City Clerk that the expense allowance is declined.

Section 2. That section 2-35 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Sebastian, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2-35. Travel authorization and reimbursement.

Council member shall obtain prior authorization for travel more than seventy-five miles outside the City of Sebastian at a regular city council meeting. Such authorization shall be by majority vote of the council members in attendance. Appointment by the council of a member to be the city's representative to a committee or agency shall be deemed to be authorization to attend meetings of said committee or agency.

Council members shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary travel expenses in accordance with policies and procedures adopted by resolution, including mileage costs for travel beyond seventy-five miles.

Section 3. CONFLICT. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4. SEVERABILITY. In the event a court of competent jurisdiction shall determine that any part of this Ordinance is invalid, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected and it shall be presumed that the City Council of the City of Sebastian did not intend to enact such invalid or unconstitutional provisions. It shall further be assumed that the City Council would have enacted the remainder of this Ordinance without said invalid or unconstitutional provision, thereby causing said remainder to remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately.

The foregoing Ordinance was moved for adoption by Councilmember Coy. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Neglia and, upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

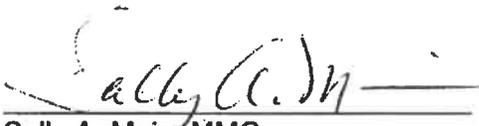
Mayor Brian Burkeen	<u>aye</u>
Councilmember Nathan McCollum	<u>absent</u>
Councilmember Andrea Coy	<u>aye</u>
Councilmember Sal Neglia	<u>aye</u>
Councilmember Al Paternoster	<u>aye</u>

The Mayor thereupon declared this Ordinance duly passed and adopted this 11th day of October, 2006.

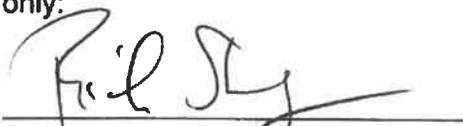
CITY OF SEBASTIAN, FLORIDA

By: 
Mayor Brian Burkeen

ATTEST:


Sally A. Maio, MMC
City Clerk

Approved as to form and legality for reliance by the City of Sebastian only:


Rich Stringer, City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. 2022- 08

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA, ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER WHICH WOULD REPEAL AND REPLACE THAT THE MAYOR RECEIVE A SALARY OF \$1,300.00 PER MONTH AND CITY COUNCIL RECEIVE A SALARY OF \$1,075.00 PER MONTH AND THEN RECEIVE AN ANNUAL INCREASE AT THE SAME RATE AS ALL NON-UNION CITY EMPLOYEES; THE CITY CHARTER BE REVIEWED AT LEAST EVERY EIGHT (8) YEARS BY A CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE; THE CITY CANVASSING BOARD BE COMPOSED OF THE CITY CLERK, CITY MANAGER, AND CITY ATTORNEY, AND WORK WITH THE SUPERVIROR OF ELECTIONS ON PERFORMING ELECTION DUTIES IMPOSED BY GENERAL LAW AND INCLUDE EDGEWOOD PARK IN SECTION 5.05 OF THE CITY CHARTER.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Vero Beach appointed a Charter Review Committee to review the Charter and present to the City Council changes they felt needed to be made; and

WHEREAS, the City Council reviewed the proposed recommendations made by the Charter Review Committee and recommended the following amendments to the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, an existing City Council can restrict future City Councils only by Charter amendment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA, THAT:

Addition of Properties to Section 5.05 of the City Charter

(26) Old City Nursery

(27) "Edgewood's Park" located at 18th Street and 18th Avenue, a/k/a lot 6, block 4, Edgewood's Second Addition?"

Vote "yes" for approval or "no" for rejection

Section 2.03 of the City Charter

Shall the Charter of the City of Vero Beach be amended to change the city councilmember compensation set in 2005 as follows:

- (a) **Shall Section 2.03 of the City Charter be repealed and replaced with the following: "Effective fiscal year 2023-2024, the Mayor shall receive a salary of \$1,300.00 per month and the other members of City Council shall receive a salary of \$1,075.00 per month, and they shall receive an annual increase at the same rate as all non-union city employees?"**

POSITION #	JOB#	LVL	HRS	POSITION DESCRIPTION	EMP #	EMPLOYEE NAME	HIRE DATE	HRLY	BI-WKLY	SAL
CITY COUNCIL										
010001010001	10100	1		COUNCIL MEMBER	2521	MOORE, LINDA L	11/21/2022	1,244.45	1,244.45	32
010001010002	10100	1		COUNCIL MEMBER	2516	VOS, AARON F	11/16/2024	1,244.45	1,244.45	32
010001010004	10100	1		COUNCIL MEMBER	2553	CARROLL JR, JOHN M	11/21/2022	1,244.45	1,244.45	32
010001010005	10100	1		VICE MAYOR	2743	DINGLE, TAYLOR J	11/22/2023	1,244.45	1,244.45	32
010001025002	10250	1		MAYOR	2537	COTUGNO, JOHN E	11/15/2021	1,504.91	1,504.91	32

Does this work?