



**AGENDA
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 8, 2020
3:00 PM
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
204 ASH STREET
FERNANDINA BEACH, FL 32034**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. ROLL CALL**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 4.1 The minutes from June 4, 2020, will be presented for approval. The minutes will be sent to the Board prior to the meeting.
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
 - 5.1 **REVIEW PROPOSED CHARTER LANGUAGE CHANGES TO DATE:** A review, discussion, and action on the proposed changes to the Charter as of June 4, 2020.
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
- 7. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 8. NEXT MEETING DATE**
- 9. ADJOURNMENT**

This will be conducted as a virtual meeting with restricted physical access. Written comments emailed to the Charter Review Committee (crc2020@fbfl.org) must be sent no later than 2 PM on June 4, 2020, and will be read aloud during the meeting. These comments shall have a maximum time allowance of 3 minutes or 400 words. Public comment may also be provided virtually through use of the Zoom Meeting link below, the phone number provided below, or in person at City Hall with strict restrictions to protect health and safety. Individuals wishing to provide live comments during the meeting must dial-in or connect via the Zoom Meeting link or phone number below no later than 3 PM on June 4, 2020, and will be called upon by their individual registered Zoom Meeting ID Account or by the last-4 digits of their respective phone number. When called upon, please provide your name and home address prior to issuance of public comment. Please limit comment to 3 minutes.

Zoom Meeting Link for Public Comment:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98576279306?pwd=b0srTi9UdDRlb25aU3hYdHRMTEUzZz09>

(Users must have a functional microphone): **985 7627 9306** with Password: **CRC 0608**

Or

Zoom Phone Dial-In for Public Comment: + **1 646 558 8656** Meeting ID: **985 7627 9306** Password: **177709**

If you must attend in person at City Hall (204 Ash Street), please arrive at City Hall no later than 4:50 PM to be counted and to complete a speaker form. You will be admitted into City Hall when it is your turn to make your public comments and must exit City Hall after your comments are made.

It is recommended that you wear a face mask when entering City Hall for your protection and the protection of others.

All members of the public are invited to be present and be heard. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in this program or activity should contact (904) 310-3115 or through the Florida Relay Services at 711 at least 24 hours in advance to request such accommodations. All interested parties may appear at said meeting and be heard as to the advisability of any action, which may be considered with respect to such matter. For information regarding this matter, please contact the City Attorney's Office (904) 310-3275.

NOTICE

Due to publication deadlines, the backup material for this item does not incorporate any comments, action, or other updates from the June 4, 2020 Charter Review Committee meeting (which as of this publication has not yet occurred).

Charter Review Committee 2020

Proposed Changes

Last updated May 28, 2020

Rationale for Some Language Changes

- USE OF “SHALL”: The Committee recommends removal of the word “shall” pursuant to current legal standards. As appropriate, it has been replaced with “will”, “must” or active language throughout the document.
- HIS/HERS: The Committee recommends removing all personal pronouns to be inclusive and conform to more modern style.

Section 1 – Creation

Current Language

- The City of Fernandina and the City of Fernandina Beach were combined into one municipality called the City of Fernandina in 1921 pursuant to the Laws of Florida, Chapter 8949 (1921). The name of the municipality was changed to the City of Fernandina Beach (1951) and has operated as a municipal corporation pursuant to Charter since that time.

Proposed Language

- The City of Fernandina was first established in 1825, then later abolished and reincorporated in 1921 by the Florida Legislature. The Town of Fernandina Beach was established in 1949 by the Florida Legislature. The City of Fernandina and the Town of Fernandina Beach were consolidated as the City of Fernandina Beach on January 1, 1952 after referendum approval by voters.

Rationale

- The current description of the creation of the City of Fernandina Beach in the Charter is inaccurate. This new language corrects inaccuracies.

Sections 2, 3, 4, 5 - Reserved

Current Language

- Sec. 2. – Reserved.
- Sec. 3. – Reserved.
- Sec. 4. – Reserved.
- Sec. 5. – Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 6 – Boundaries (1 of 1)

Current Language

- That the following shall be the territory the inhabitants of which are hereby established and organized into a municipal corporation, and over which such municipality shall exercise its jurisdiction and powers in accordance with state law and City ordinances, to wit:

Proposed Language

- That the following ~~shall be~~ is the territory the inhabitants of which are hereby established and organized into a municipal corporation, and over which such municipality ~~shall~~ exercises its jurisdiction and powers in accordance with state law and City ordinances, to wit:

Section 6 – Boundaries (2 of 3)

Current Language

Proposed Language

• No changes

(a) *Original boundaries.* Beginning at a point where the range line between Range Twenty-eight (28) East, and Range Twenty-nine (29) East intersects the southerly boundary of Egan's Creek; thence north, along the said range line, to a point on the low water mark of Cumberland Sound; thence easterly, along the said low water mark of Cumberland Sound, to a point on the low water mark of the Atlantic Ocean; thence southerly, along the said low water mark of the Atlantic Ocean, to a point on the southerly boundary of Section Ten (10), Township Two (2) North, Range Twenty-eight (28) East; thence south eighty-nine degrees fifty-five minutes west (S89°55'W), along the southerly boundary of said Section Ten (10), a distance of five hundred eighty-three (583.0) feet, more or less, to a point at the southwest corner of said Section Ten (10), thence north seven degrees twenty-four minutes east (N7°24'E), along the westerly line of said Section Ten (10), a distance of one thousand seven hundred twenty-eight and three-tenths (1728.3) feet to a point at the northwest corner of said Section Ten (10) and on the south line of Section Eight (8), Township Two (2) North, Range Twenty-eight (28) East, said point being south eighty-five degrees fifty-three minutes west (S85°53'W) a distance of two hundred fifty and fourteen hundredths (250.14) feet from the southeast corner of said Section Eight (8); thence south eighty-five degrees fifty-three minutes west (S85°53'W), along the south line of said Section Eight (8), a distance of one thousand seventy-nine and six-tenths (1079.6) feet to a point; thence south eight degrees eighteen minutes west (S8°18'W) a distance of three thousand one hundred sixty-nine and eighty-eight hundredths (3169.88) feet to a point on the south line of Section Eleven (11), Township Two (2) North, Range Twenty-eight (28) East; thence south eighty degrees twenty-four minutes west (S80°24'W), along the south line of said Section Eleven (11), a distance of five thousand two hundred thirty-eight (5238.0) feet, more or less, to a point at the southwest corner of said Section Eleven (11); thence in a northerly direction, along the west line of said Section Eleven (11) and the west line of Government Lots Four (4) and Three (3) in Section Six (6), Township Two (2) North, Range Twenty-eight (28) East, a distance of ten thousand seven hundred fifty (10,750.0) feet, more or less, to a point on the north line of said Section Six (6), said point being the southwest corner of Lot Sixty-six (66) of Ocean Breeze Farms Subdivision as recorded in Plat Book Two (2) at page nineteen (19) of the public records of said Nassau County, Florida; thence south eighty-eight degrees twenty-three minutes east (S88°23'E), along the north line of said Section Six (6), a distance of four hundred nineteen and six-tenths (419.6) feet to a point at the southwest corner of Lot Ninety-nine (99); thence north one degree thirty-seven minutes east (N1°37'E), along the west line of Lots Ninety-nine (99) and Sixty-five (65), a distance of five hundred eleven and five-tenths (511.5) feet to a point at the northwest corner of said Lot Sixty-five (65); thence south eighty-eight degrees twenty-three minutes east (S88°23'E), along the north line of Lots Sixty-five (65) and Fifty-two (52), a distance of one thousand three hundred twenty (1320.0) feet to a point at the northeast corner of said Lot Fifty-two (52); thence south one degree thirty-seven minutes west (S1°37'W), along the east line of Lots Fifty-two (52) and one hundred (100), a distance of five hundred eleven and five-tenths (511.5) feet to a point on the north line of said Section Six (6); thence south eighty-eight degrees twenty-three minutes east (S88°23'E), along the north line of Sections Six (6) and Seven (7), Township Two (2) North, Range Twenty-eight (28) East, a distance of three thousand ninety-nine and twenty-seven hundredths (3099.27) feet to a point in the center of the south line of Lot One hundred five (105) of Ocean Breeze Farms Subdivision as recorded in Plat Book "O" at page fifty-nine (59) of the public records of said Nassau County, Florida; thence north one degree fifty-four minutes east (N1°54'E), along the center line of Lot One hundred five (105) and Lot Six (6), a distance of three hundred forty-six and five-tenths (346.5) feet to a point in the center of said Lot Six (6); thence south eighty-eight degrees twenty-three minutes east (S88°23'E) a distance of three hundred three and twenty-five hundredths (303.25) feet to a point at the center of the west line of Lot Seven (7); thence north one degree thirty-seven minutes east (N1°37'E), along the west line of Lots Seven (7) and Eight (8), a distance of four hundred ninety-five (495.0) feet to a point at the northwest corner of said Lot Eight (8); thence south eighty-eight degrees twenty-three minutes east (S88°23'E), along the north line of Lots Eight (8), Nineteen (19), and Twenty-one (21), a distance of one thousand seven hundred ninety (1790.0) feet to a point at the northeast corner of said Lot Twenty-one (21); thence south three degrees eighteen minutes east (S3°18'E), along the east Lot Twenty-one (21), a distance of seven hundred forty-nine and eleven hundredths (749.11) feet to a point on the north line of said Section Eight (8); thence north eighty-five degrees fifty-three minutes east (N85°53'E) along the north line of said Section Eight (8), a distance of one thousand six hundred nine and six-tenths (1609.6) feet to a point at the northeast corner of said Section Eight (8); thence northerly, in a straight line through Sections Two (2) and One (1), Township Two (2) North, Range Twenty-eight (28) East, to a point at the northwest corner of Section Six (6), Township Two (2) North, Range Twenty-nine (29) East; thence northerly, along the range line between Ranges Twenty-eight (28) and Twenty-nine (29) East, Township Three (3) North, to a point at the northeast corner of Citrona Lot Twenty-eight (28), according to the official plat of the City of Fernandina Beach (formerly named Fernandina) as lithographed and issued by the Florida Railroad Company in 1857 and enlarged, revised, and reissued by the Florida Town Improvement Company in 1887 and 1901; thence north eighty-two degrees twenty-eight minutes west (N82°28'W), along the prolongation of the southerly right-of-way line of Lime Street (60'R/W), to the low water mark of Amelia River; thence northerly, along the low water mark of Amelia River, to a point at the mouth of Egan's Creek; thence easterly, along the southerly boundary of Egan's Creek to the point of beginning.

Section 6 – Boundaries (3 of 3)

Current Language

(b) *Additions.*

(1) Certain real property contiguous to the corporate limits of the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida, described as follows, is hereby annexed by the city and shall hereafter be a part of the corporate limits of the city:

That portion of Lots 12 and 13 lying westerly of the city limits of Fernandina Beach, Florida. Lot 14 and the easterly ¼ of Lot 15, Block 2, Sadler Estates, as recorded in Plat Book 2, page 62, of the public records of Nassau County, Florida.

All of that property as described below which lies west of the westerly city limits of Fernandina Beach, Florida.

From a point of beginning: Begin at the southeast corner of Section 29, aforementioned; and run south 89°35'15" west along the southerly line of said section a distance of 213.69 feet to the center of a 25.0 feet, more or less, drainage canal; run thence north 5°02'36" east along said center of canal, a distance of 305.30 feet; run thence north 5°54'03" east continuing along said center of canal, a distance of 300.01 feet; run continuing along said center of canal a distance of 300.01 feet; run thence north 7°03'04" east continuing along said center of canal, a distance of 200.15 feet; run thence north 1°56'15" west continuing along said center of canal, a distance of 228.35 feet; run thence north 9°30'39" west continuing along said center of canal, a distance of 280.01 feet to where said center of canal intersects with the southerly boundary of Block 2, Sadler Estates, according to plat recorded in the public records of said county in Plat Book 2, page 68; run thence south 78°14' east along said southerly boundary a distance of 807.49 feet to the southeast corner of Lot 6, Block 2, aforesaid; run thence north 11°46' east along the easterly boundary of Lot 6, aforesaid, a distance of 10.0 feet to the southwest corner of Lot 5, Block 2, aforesaid; run thence south 78°14' east continuing along the southerly boundary of Block 2, aforesaid, and the easterly extension thereof, a distance of 421.69 feet to where said southerly boundary intersects with the westerly right-of-way of First Avenue extension (a 60.0 foot right-of-way); run thence south 11°07' west along said right-of-way a distance of 971.08 feet to the beginning of a curve concave to the easterly, having a radius of 1,636.86 feet; run thence in a southerly direction along the arc of said curve and right-of-way a chord distance of 203.92 feet to the point of reverse curve (the bearing of the aforesaid chord being south 7°53'15" west); run thence in a southerly direction along the arc of a curve concave to the westerly, having a radius of 1,576.86 feet and continuing along said right-of-way a chord distance of 193.96 feet to the point of tangency (the bearing of the aforesaid chord being south 7°53'15" west); run thence south 11°27' west, continue along said right-of-way a distance of 5.70 feet to where said right-of-way intersects with the southerly line of Section 20, aforementioned; run thence north 89°18" west along said southerly line, a distance of 893.67 feet to the point of beginning.

(2) The following parcel of real property be annexed to the City of Fernandina Beach, pursuant to petition filed by the owner of said lands and approved by the City Commission of the City of Fernandina Beach, said real property and owner of same being as follows:

A portion of Section Eleven (11), Township Two (2) North, Range Twenty-eight (28) East, Nassau County, Florida. Said portion being more particularly described as follows:

For a point of reference commence at the northeast corner of Section Eleven (11), aforementioned, and run south eighty-five (85) degrees, fifty-five (55) minutes, thirty (30) seconds west along the south right-of-way line of Bill Melton Road (a sixty (60.0) foot right-of-way) a distance of three hundred thirty-one and sixty-one hundredths (331.61) feet to the point of beginning.

From the point of beginning thus described, continue south eighty-five (85) degrees, fifty-five (55) minutes, thirty (30) seconds west along said right-of-way a distance of four hundred ninety-one and nineteen hundredths (491.19) feet to the beginning of a curve concave to the southeasterly, having a radius of thirty (30.0) feet; run thence in a southerly direction departing said right-of-way and along the arc of said curve, a chord distance of forty-four and thirty-eight hundredths (44.38) feet to the point of tangency (the bearing of the aforementioned chord being south thirty-eight (38) degrees, thirteen (13) minutes west); run thence south nine (09) degrees, twenty-nine (29) minutes, thirty (30) seconds east a distance of one hundred thirty-five and fifty-two hundredths (135.52) feet to the beginning of a curve concave to the northwesterly, having a radius of one hundred five (105.0) feet; run thence in a southerly direction along the arc of said curve a chord distance of ninety-one and forty-seven hundredths (91.47) feet (the bearing of the aforementioned chord being south sixteen (16) degrees, nineteen (19) minutes, forty-three (43) seconds west); run thence north eighty-five (85) degrees, fifty-five (55) minutes, thirty (30) seconds east a distance of five hundred ninety and twenty-nine hundredths (590.29) feet; run thence north fifteen (15) degrees, fifteen (15) minutes, forty-one (41) seconds west a distance of two hundred fifty-eight and thirty-nine hundredths (258.39) feet to the point of beginning.

Said lands being owned by the Davis-Phoenix Company, Inc., a Florida corporation, less and except the easterly sixty (60.0) feet thereof, which is owned by the City of Fernandina Beach.

Proposed Language

(b) *Additions.*

Pursuant to Florida law, the City is permitted to annex additional properties in accordance with procedures established by state and local laws. The current boundary records are kept in the City Clerk's Office and are available for view upon request.

Rationale – Section 6 changes

- Instead of continuously updating the Charter as the City's boundaries change, or having an outdated boundary listed, the Committee recommends having the current boundaries kept up to date in the Clerk's Office. This mirrors similar language from several peer cities.

Section 7 – Powers of city generally.

Current Language

- (a) The City of Fernandina Beach shall have full power and authority to:
- (1) Acquire, take, hold, control and dispose of property, real, personal and mixed, both within and without its corporate limits, for the use, benefit, welfare and best interest of said municipality, by acquisition, condemnation or otherwise;
 - (2) To issue and sell bonds upon its property both within and without its corporate limits, or the earnings thereof, or both;
 - (3) To adopt and enforce local police, sanitary and other similar regulations not in conflict with the laws of the state;
 - (4) To do whatever is necessary and proper for the safety, health, convenience and general welfare of its inhabitants; and
 - (5) To exercise all other powers of local self-government.
- (b) The enumeration of particular powers by this Charter shall not be held or deemed to be exclusive, but, in addition to the powers enumerated herein, implied thereby or appropriate to the exercise thereof, the city shall have, and may exercise, all other powers which, under the constitution and laws of Florida, it would be competent for this section specifically to enumerate.

Proposed Language

- (a) The City of Fernandina Beach ~~shall have~~ has full power and authority to:
- (1) Acquire, take, hold, control and dispose of property, real, personal and mixed, both within and without its corporate limits, for the use, benefit, welfare and best interest of said municipality, by acquisition, condemnation or otherwise;
 - (2) To issue and sell bonds upon its property both within and without its corporate limits, or the earnings thereof, or both;
 - (3) To adopt and enforce local police, sanitary and other similar regulations not in conflict with the laws of the state;
 - (4) To do whatever is necessary and proper for the safety, health, convenience and general welfare of its inhabitants; ~~and~~
 - (5) To exercise all other powers of local self-government; and
- (b) The City of Fernandina Beach has the power to own and operate all utilities, both within its boundaries, and outside its boundaries, in order to serve the public health, safety and welfare.
- (b) The enumeration of particular powers by this Charter are not exclusive, but are some of the municipal home rule powers provided for by the Florida State Constitution and Laws of Florida, and there are other governmental, corporate and proprietary powers not enumerated in this Charter which may be exercised by the City to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions and render municipal services. (as set forth in Section 166.021, Fla. Stats.)

Rationale – Section 7 Changes

- Clean up legalese; reference home rule.
- Incorporate Sec. 45 here due to relevance.

Section 8 – Commissioner-manager plan (form) of government.

Current Language

- The form of government of the City of Fernandina Beach provided for under this Act shall be that known as the "Commission-Manager Plan," and the commission shall consist of five (5) citizens, who shall be elected at large in the manner hereinafter provided. The commission shall constitute the governing body with powers as hereinafter provided to pass ordinances, adopt regulations and appoint a chief administrative officer to be known as the "City Manager," and to exercise all other powers hereinafter provided.

Proposed Language

- The form of government of the City of Fernandina Beach provided for under this Act ~~shall be that~~ is known as the "Commission-Manager Plan," and the commission ~~shall consist~~ s of five (5) citizens, who ~~shall be~~ are elected at large in the manner ~~hereinafter~~ provided in this Charter. The commission ~~shall constitute~~ s the governing body with powers ~~as hereinafter provided~~ to pass ordinances, adopt regulations and appoint a chief administrative officer to be known as the "City Manager," and to exercise all other powers ~~hereinafter~~ provided in this Charter and under Florida law.

Rationale – Section 8 Changes

- Clean up legalese.

Section 9 - ~~Created; election by groups; number;~~ Election of Commissioners; term. (1 of 2)

Current Language

- The City Commission shall prescribe the conduct, method, dates and manner of holding elections by ordinance, in substantial compliance with the principles adopted for state elections. In matters on which the conduct of municipal elections can vary from the conduct of state elections, the City Commission may, by ordinance, adopt rules specific to municipal elections. All City elections shall be non-partisan.

There is hereby created a City Commission to consist of five (5) electors of the City of Fernandina Beach and elected at large.

(a) If an affirmative majority of the present City Commission so desires, the city shall, by ordinance, motion or otherwise, elect five (5) members for said commission in the following manner:

One (1) member shall run as a candidate from and be elected by the qualified electors of group one (1), the boundaries of which shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida, and when elected shall serve as city commissioner of and for group one (1) of said city.

One (1) member shall run as a candidate from, and be elected by the qualified electors of, group two (2), the boundaries of which shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida, and when elected shall serve as city commissioner of and for group two (2) of said city.

One (1) member shall run as a candidate from, and be elected by the qualified electors of, group three (3), the boundaries of which shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida, and when elected shall serve as city commissioner of and for group three (3) of said city.

One (1) member shall run as a candidate from, and be elected by the qualified electors of, group four (4), the boundaries of which shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida, and when elected shall serve as city commissioner of and for group four (4) of said city.

One (1) member shall run as a candidate from, and be elected by the qualified electors of, group five (5), the boundaries of which shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida, and when elected shall serve as city commissioner of and for group five (5) of said city.

Proposed Language

- (a) The City Commission ~~shall~~ prescribes the conduct, method, dates and manner of holding elections by ordinance. ~~in substantial compliance with the principles adopted for state elections.~~ In matters on which the conduct of municipal elections can vary from the conduct of state elections, the City Commission may, by ordinance, adopt rules specific to municipal elections. All City elections ~~shall be~~ are non-partisan.
- (b) City elections are nonpartisan and held every two (2) years in even numbered years and in conjunction with county, state ~~and~~ federal elections. The City Commission has the authority to call for special elections at any time not on the same dates as the City general elections for the purpose of special elections, ballot questions and referenda.
- (c) All members of the City Commission are elected at large by the qualified voters of the City of Fernandina Beach.
- (d) In the case of a tie vote, confirmed by the method of recount(s) required by state law and which affects the outcome of the election, there must be a runoff election to determine the winner.
- (e) Runoff Election. If any runoff election is necessitated, it shall be held in accordance with City ordinance.
- (f) In the event the number of candidates who qualify is the same or less than the vacancies to be filled, each unopposed candidate shall be deemed to have voted for himself/herself and no election shall be held. Any vacancy on the Commission for which no candidate qualifies shall be temporarily filled by appointment of a majority of the new Commission until the next regular election.

~~There is hereby created a City Commission to consist of five (5) electors of the City of Fernandina Beach and elected at large.~~

~~(a) If an affirmative majority of the present City Commission so desires, the city shall will, by ordinance, motion or otherwise, elect five (5) members for said commission in the following manner:-~~

~~One (1) member shall will run as a candidate from and be elected by the qualified electors of group one (1), the boundaries of which shall be are coterminous with the boundaries of the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida, and when elected shall serve as city commissioner of and for group one (1) of said city.-~~

~~One (1) member shall will run as a candidate from, and be elected by the qualified electors of, group two (2), the boundaries of which shall be are coterminous with the boundaries of the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida, and when elected shall serve as city commissioner of and for group two (2) of said city.-~~

~~One (1) member shall will run as a candidate from, and be elected by the qualified electors of, group three (3), the boundaries of which shall be are coterminous with the boundaries of the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida, and when elected shall serve as city commissioner of and for group three (3) of said city.-~~

~~One (1) member shall will run as a candidate from, and be elected by the qualified electors of, group four (4), the boundaries of which shall be are coterminous with the boundaries of the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida, and when elected shall serve as city commissioner of and for group four (4) of said city.-~~

~~One (1) member shall will run as a candidate from, and be elected by the qualified electors of, group five (5), the boundaries of which shall be are coterminous with the boundaries of the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida, and when elected shall serve as city commissioner of and for group five (5) of said city.-~~

Section 9 - Created; election by groups; number; term. (2 of 2)

Current Language

- (b) Members shall serve for a term of four (4) years or until their successors have been elected and take office. Elections for the groups referred to in paragraph (a) shall be held as follows:

Group 1 shall be elected in 2016.

Groups 2 and 3 shall be elected in 2017 and 2020.

Groups 4 and 5 shall be elected in 2015 and 2018.

Thereafter, all groups shall be elected every four (4) years for a term of four (4) years.

- (c) If there are several candidates in each group, then the candidate receiving a majority vote shall be held elected for that group, provided, however, that in the event the candidate shall not receive a majority vote, then and in that event the two (2) candidates receiving the largest or highest votes shall have their names placed on an election ballot (unless one (1) of the two (2) candidates to be elected shall withdraw from the race, then and in that event no run off or second election shall be called and the remaining candidate shall be declared elected) in a run off or second election and in said run off or second election the candidate receiving the largest or highest votes shall be held elected for that group; provided always, however, that this shall not apply to any candidate or candidates that receive a majority vote in the first or general election. Provided, however, that no group or groups of candidates shall qualify in more than one (1) group in any general election or run off or second election in any one year.
- (d) City elections shall be nonpartisan and shall be held every two (2) years in even numbered years and in conjunction with county, state and federal elections. The City Commission shall have the authority to call for special elections at any time not on the same dates as the City general elections for special elections, ballot questions and referenda.

Proposed Language

- (b) Members shall serve for a term of four (4) years or until their successors have been elected and take office. Elections for the groups referred to in paragraph (a) shall be held as follows:

~~Group 1 shall be~~ was elected in 2016.

~~Groups 2 and 3 shall be~~ was elected in 2017 and 2020.

~~Groups 4 and 5 shall be~~ was elected in 2015 and 2018.

~~Thereafter, all groups shall be~~ was elected every four (4) years for a term of four (4) years.

- (c) ~~If there are several candidates in each group, then the candidate receiving a majority vote shall be held elected for that group, provided, however, that in the event the a candidate shall not receive a majority vote, then and in that event the two (2) candidates receiving the largest or highest votes shall have their names placed on an election ballot (unless one (1) of the two (2) candidates to be elected shall withdraws from the race, then and in that event no run off or second election shall be called and the remaining candidate shall be declared elected) in a run off or second election and in said run off or second election the candidate receiving the largest or highest votes shall be held elected for that group; provided always, however, that this shall not apply to any candidate or candidates that receive a majority vote in the first or general election. Provided, however, that No group or groups of candidates shall qualify in more than one (1) group in any general election or run off or second election in any one year.~~
- (d) ~~City elections shall be nonpartisan and shall be held every two (2) years in even numbered years and in conjunction with county, state and federal elections. The City Commission shall have the authority to call for special elections at any time not on the same dates as the City general elections for special elections, ballot questions and referenda.~~

Section 10 – Powers generally; dealing with administrative service through Charter Officers required; penalties for violations deemed misdemeanor, penalty

Current Language

(a) The Mayor and Commissioners shall not, in any manner, dictate the appointment or removal of any city officers or employees whom the Charter Officer or any of his/her subordinates are empowered to appoint, evaluate and supervise.

(b) All powers of the City, except as otherwise provided by this Charter or by the constitution of this state, are hereby vested in the City Commission. Except as otherwise provided by this Charter or by the constitution of this state, the City Commission may by ordinance or resolution prescribe the manner in which any power of the city shall be exercised.

(c) The Mayor and Commissioners shall deal with administrative service through the respective Charter Officer. The Mayor and Commissioners shall not directly interfere with or direct the conduct of any employee in the discharge of prescribed duties. However, with the express permission of the respective Charter Officer, the Mayor and Commissioners may communicate directly with an employee.

(d) Any violation of the provisions of this section by any member of the City Commission shall, upon first offense be grounds for sanction by the Commission, and any second or subsequent offense or violation within a commissioner's term shall constitute a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof before any court of competent jurisdiction the violator shall be fined in an amount not exceeding two hundred dollars (\$200.00), or be imprisoned for a period not exceeding six (6) months, or both, at the discretion of the court, and shall be subject to removal from office.

(e) Investigations or inquiries shall be conducted pursuant to Section 136 of this charter.

Proposed Language

(a) The Mayor and Commissioners ~~shall~~ must not, in any manner, dictate the appointment or removal of any city officers or employees whom the Charter Officer or any of his/her said Officer's subordinates are empowered to appoint, evaluate and supervise. City Commissioners must each complete an annual performance evaluation for each Charter Officer.

~~(b) All powers of the City, except as otherwise provided by this Charter or by the constitution of this state, are hereby vested in the City Commission. Except as otherwise provided by this Charter or by the constitution of this state, the City Commission may by ordinance or resolution prescribe the manner in which any power of the city shall be exercised.~~

(c) The Mayor and Commissioners ~~shall~~ deal with administrative service through the respective Charter Officer. The Mayor and Commissioners ~~shall~~ must not directly interfere with or direct the conduct of any employee in the discharge of prescribed duties. However, with the express permission of the respective Charter Officer, the Mayor and Commissioners may communicate directly with an employee.

(d) Any violation of the provisions of this section by any member of the City Commission ~~shall~~ is, upon first offense, be grounds for ~~sanction~~ recognition and discussion by the Commission of the violation, any second or subsequent offense or ~~violation~~ within a Commissioner's term is grounds for sanction by the City Commission, and a third offense within the same Commissioner's term is grounds for forfeiture of commission seat by the offending Commissioner. Prior to forfeiture of a commission seat, any Commissioner accused of violating this Section is entitled to a public hearing conducted in accordance with the City's rules of procedure for quasi-judicial hearings as adopted by ordinance. shall constitute a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof before any court of competent jurisdiction, the violator shall may be fined in an amount not exceeding two hundred dollars (\$200.00), or be imprisoned for a period not exceeding six (6) months, or both, at the discretion of the court, and shall be subject to removal from office.

(e) Investigations or inquiries ~~shall be~~ are conducted pursuant to Section 136 of this charter.

Rationale – Section 10 Changes

- Clean up legalese.

Section 10A - Referendum required for sale of city-owned recreational facilities and conservation

land. Current Language

(1) A referendum election shall be required prior to the sale, lease for a period of more than 40 years, or other transfer of City owned swimming pools, golf course or courses, any and all recreational facilities, or lands which are designated for recreational use in the City's comprehensive plan or any portion thereof, and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances pertaining thereto, whether presently built or hereafter built. The City Commission shall pass an ordinance by a majority vote to place the matter on the ballot for the voters to decide. The decision of the voters shall be binding. If approved by the voters, the City Commission shall have the authority to issue a deed for the property, or to issue such other documents as may be necessary to complete the transaction.

(2) "Recreational facilities" as used in this section is hereby defined as any real property, including improvements thereon, owned by the City of Fernandina Beach and used or intended for use by the general public primarily for parks, playgrounds, amusements, resorts, pleasure, nature preserves; botanic, zoological or marine conservatories; sporting events, pleasure boating, swimming, fishing or any other recreational activity. Such recreational facilities shall be designated by a resolution of the City Commission and which resolution shall be updated from time to time.

Proposed Language

(1) A referendum election is required prior to the sale or long-term lease for a period of more than 40 years of "recreational facilities" such as golf courses, swimming pools, and parks or "conservation lands", including City-owned lands burdened by a conservation easement. "Recreational facilities" and "conservation lands" are defined in the City's Comprehensive Plan and generally mean lands or places with a Recreation or Conservation designation on the City's Future Land Use Map of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

(2) For a referendum election under this Section 10A, the City Commission must first adopt an ordinance by unanimous vote of the Commission to put a sale or long-term lease of recreational facilities or conservation lands on a ballot for the voters, and the referendum must then pass by 70% of the voters in that referendum election.

~~(1) A referendum election shall be is required prior to the sale, lease for a period of more than 40 years, or other transfer of City owned swimming pools, golf course or courses, any and all recreational facilities, or lands which are designated for recreational use in the City's comprehensive plan or any portion thereof, and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances pertaining thereto, whether presently built or hereafter built. The City Commission shall must pass an ordinance by a majority vote to place the matter on the ballot for the voters to decide. The decision of the voters shall be is binding. If approved by the voters, the City Commission shall have has the authority to issue a deed for the property, or to issue such other documents as may be necessary to complete the transaction.~~

~~(2) "Recreational facilities" as used in this section is hereby defined as any real property, including improvements thereon, owned by the City of Fernandina Beach and used or intended for use by the general public primarily for parks, playgrounds, amusements, resorts, pleasure, nature preserves; botanic, zoological or marine conservatories; sporting events, pleasure boating, swimming, fishing or any other recreational activity. Such recreational facilities shall must be designated by a resolution of the City Commission and which resolution shall be is updated from time to time.~~

Rationale – Section 10A Changes

- Clean up legalese.
- Add restriction for sale of conservation lands, referendum requirement

Section 10B - General power to borrow money and issue bonds.

Current Language

- The City of Fernandina Beach shall have the power to borrow money, contract loans, and issue bonds, notes and other obligations or evidences of indebtedness in accordance with Florida law.

DELETE

- ~~The City of Fernandina Beach shall have the power to borrow money, contract loans, and issue bonds, notes and other obligations or evidences of indebtedness in accordance with Florida law.~~

Rationale – Section 10B Changes

- Redundant and covered by state law.

Section 11 - Qualifications of members; holding of more than one office not permitted; interest in profits of city contracts, ~~etc.,~~ prohibited; filling vacancies.

Current Language

- Members of the commission shall be residents of the city and have the qualifications of electors therein. Officers and employees of the city may not hold more than one office in the city government of the City of Fernandina Beach, and shall not be interested in the profits or emoluments of any contract work or service for the municipality, and any such contract in which any member is, or may become, interested shall be declared void by the commission.

Proposed Language

- (a) The commission is the judge of the election and qualification of its own members, subject to review by the courts. Members of the City Commission shall must be residents of the City and have the qualifications of electors therein. Officers and employees of the City may not hold more than one office in the City government of the City of Fernandina Beach, and shall must not be interested in the profits or emoluments of any contract work or service for the municipality, and any such contract in which any member is, or may become, interested shall must be declared void by the City Commission. City Commissioners are "public officers" under Ch. 112, Florida Statutes (Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees) and must abide by all of the ethical standards set forth in these statutes.
- (b) Any member of the City Commission ceasing to possess the foregoing qualifications or who has been convicted of a felony must forfeit their seat prior to the next meeting of the City Commission. In addition, any member of the City Commission who misses three (3) regular meetings in a calendar year must forfeit their seat prior to the next meeting of the City Commission.
- (c) Any vacancy in the City Commission must be filled until the next regular municipal election by vote of the remaining members of the City Commission; provided, that if such vacancy is not filled within thirty (30) days after it has occurred, appointment to fill the existing vacancy shall be made by the Governor. Vacancies resulting from a recall election shall be filled as required by state law.

Rationale – Section 11

- Clean up legalese
- Moves Section 14 to Section 11
- Moves Section 15 to Section 11

Section 12 - Salary of members

Current Language

- The Mayor and City Commissioners shall receive a salary in the amount as established by appropriate city ordinance.

Proposed Language

- The Mayor and City Commissioners ~~shall~~ receive a salary ~~in the amount~~ as established by appropriate City ordinance.

Rationale – Section 12

- Clean up legalese

Section 13 - Limitation on successive terms in office.

Current Language

- The city commissioners shall be limited to two (2) successive terms in office. No person shall be qualified for election or appointment to a vacancy upon the city commission of the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida, unless at least three (3) years have elapsed since such person last held such office, if at that time such person completed two (2) successive and full terms.

Proposed Language

- The City Commissioners ~~shall be~~ are limited to two (2) successive terms in office. No person ~~shall be~~ is qualified for election or appointment to a vacancy upon the City Commission of the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida, unless at least three (3) years have elapsed since such person last held such office, if at that time such person completed two (2) successive and full terms.

Rationale – Section 13

- Clean up legalese

Section 14 - Judge of election and qualifications of members.

Current Language

- The commission shall be the judge of the election and qualification of its own members, subject to review by the courts. Any member of the commission who shall be convicted of [a] crime while in office shall thereby forfeit his office.

Proposed Language

- ~~Sec. 14. – Judge of election and qualifications of members.~~
- ~~The commission shall be the judge of the election and qualification of its own members, subject to review by the courts. Any member of the Commission who shall be convicted of [a] crime while in office shall thereby forfeit his office.~~
- Sec. 14 – Reserved.

Rationale – Section 14

- Moved to Section 11

Section 15 - Vacancies, how filled.

Current Language

- Any vacancy in the city commission shall be filled until the next regular municipal election by vote of the remaining members of the commission; provided, that if such vacancy is not filled within thirty (30) days after it shall have occurred, appointment to fill the existing vacancy shall be made by the governor. Vacancies resulting from a recall election shall be filled as required by state law.

DELETE and Reserve Sec. 15.

- ~~Any vacancy in the City Commission shall be filled until the next regular municipal election by vote of the remaining members of the City Commission; provided, that if such vacancy is not filled within thirty (30) days after it shall have has occurred, appointment to fill the existing vacancy shall be made by the Governor. Vacancies resulting from a recall election shall be filled as required by state law.~~

Rationale – Section 15

- Move to Section 11

Section 16 - Mayor—When selected; procedure; term

Current Language

(a) In case the members of the Commission are unable to agree on the selection of Mayor, at the time fixed in the Code of Ordinances for the Commission's annual organization meeting, then the Mayor shall be chosen by lot, conducted by the city attorney, who shall certify the result of such lot upon the journal of the commission.

(b) The mayor shall serve a term of two (2) years to coincide with the municipal general election beginning in 2018, unless sooner removed from office by the City Commission as provided below in subsection (c).

(c) The City Commission may, by majority vote and for any reason, remove the Mayor from office and appoint another incumbent commissioner to serve as Mayor for the remainder of the two (2) year term. The person removed from the office of Mayor shall continue to serve as commissioner until the end of their current term as commissioner unless otherwise prohibited from serving as commissioner by state law.

Proposed Language

~~(a) In case the members of the Commission are unable to agree on the selection of Mayor, at the time fixed in the Code of Ordinances for the Commission's annual organization meeting, then the Mayor shall be chosen by lot, conducted by the City attorney, who shall certify the result of such lot upon the journal of the Commission.~~

(a) The Mayor of the City will be elected by the voters by placement on the ballot as authorized in subsection (b) below and by receiving the highest number of votes for Mayor with such election to be held in conjunction with the regular election held for the purpose of electing City Commissioners.

(b) Candidates for the mayoral election must consist of incumbent Commissioners who are not subject to reelection to the City Commission at that same election. Any eligible candidate wishing to be considered for the position of Mayor must request in writing, no later than the City Commission's deadline for qualifying for running for City Commission in the City general election, to be placed on the ballot.

(c) The mayoral candidate on the ballot with the second highest number of votes in the mayoral election must be appointed to the Vice-Mayor position.

(d) On the occasion that only one incumbent City Commissioner should choose to be on the mayoral ballot, there is no need for the mayoral election, and the one mayoral candidate must be appointed to the position of Mayor at the City Commission's annual organizational meeting. The City Commission may choose any City Commissioner not appointed as the Mayor to be the Vice-Mayor, including newly-elected Commissioners. If no incumbent City Commissioner chooses to be on the mayoral ballot, the City Commission must vote to appoint one of the Commissioners to serve as Mayor and one Commissioner to serve as Vice-Mayor, and newly-elected Commissioners may be considered if no incumbent Commissioner chooses to be on the mayoral ballot.

~~(e) The Mayor and Vice Mayor shall each serve a term of two (2) years to coincide with the municipal general election beginning in 2018, unless sooner removed from office by the City Commission as provided below in subsection (c).~~

~~(c) The City Commission may, by majority vote and for any reason including but not limited to Florida Sunshine Law violations, remove the Mayor from office and appoint another incumbent Commissioner to serve as Mayor for the remainder of the two (2)-year term. The person removed from the office of Mayor shall continue to serve as Commissioner until the end of their current term as Commissioner unless otherwise prohibited from serving as Commissioner by state law.~~

~~(f) On the occasion that all eligible candidates but one should withdraw from the straw ballot, election, there shall be no straw ballot election and the one remaining candidate shall be considered the primary candidate for the position of Mayor at the organizational meeting.~~

~~(g) (f) The appointees shall will serve as Mayor and Vice Mayor until the organizational meeting following the next regular general election held by the City~~

Rationale – Section 16

- Clean up legalese
- Clarifies how mayor is selected

Section 17 - Same—Functions and powers of the mayor.

Current Language

- The powers and duties of the Mayor shall be as set forth in this Charter and such other duties as may be conferred upon the Mayor by official action of the City Commission. The Mayor shall have a voice and a vote in the proceedings of the commission but no veto power. The Mayor shall not exercise any administrative power, unless specifically set forth in this Charter. The Mayor shall preside at all meetings of the commission and perform such other duties consistent with the office, and may use the title of Mayor in the execution of legal instruments or when required by the general or special laws of the state. The Mayor shall be recognized as the official head of the city by the courts for the purpose of serving civil processes and for all ceremonial purposes.

Proposed Language

Sec. 17. - ~~Same~~—Functions and powers of the Mayor.

The powers and duties of the Mayor ~~shall be as~~ are set forth in this Charter. ~~and below: and such other duties as may be conferred upon the Mayor by official action of the City Commission.~~

- (a) The Mayor ~~shall have~~ has a voice and a vote in the proceedings of the Commission but no veto power;
- (b) The Mayor ~~shall~~ does not exercise any administrative power, unless specifically set forth in this Charter;
- (c) The Mayor ~~shall~~ presides at all meetings of the Commission and performs such other duties consistent with the office, including but not limited to ensuring that every Commissioner completes an annual performance evaluation for each Charter Officer. ~~and The Mayor may use the title of Mayor in the execution of legal instruments or when required by the general or special laws of the state; and~~
- (d) The Mayor ~~shall be recognized as~~ is the official head of the City ~~by the courts for the purpose of serving civil processes and for all ceremonial purposes.~~

Rationale – Section 17

- Clean up legalese

Sections 18, 19 – Reserved.

Current Language

- Sec. 18. – Reserved.
- Sec. 19. – Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 20 - Same—Vacating seat of member for unexcused absence of specified duration.

Current Language

- Absence from four consecutive regular meetings of the commission shall operate to vacate the seat of a member, unless such absence is excused by the commission by resolution setting forth the fact of such excuse duly entered upon the journal.

DELETE AND RESERVE

- Sec. 20 - Reserved.
- ~~Same—Vacating seat of member for unexcused absence of specified duration.—~~
- ~~Absence from four consecutive regular meetings of the Commission, shall operate to vacate the seat of a member unless such absence is excused by the commission by resolution setting forth the fact of such excuse duly entered upon the journal.—~~

Rationale – Section 20

- Clean up legalese
- Moved to Section 11

Section 21 - Adoption and enactment of municipal ordinances and resolutions; quorum for city commission.

Current Language

(1) The adoption of ordinances and resolutions must be in compliance with Section 166.041, Florida Statutes, or such other section in Florida Statutes pertaining to the adoption of municipal ordinances or resolutions, as the same may be amended from time to time.

(2) A majority of the members of the city commission shall constitute a quorum. An affirmative vote of at least three city commissioners shall be necessary to enact any ordinance or resolution; except that two-thirds of the city commission is required to enact an emergency ordinance. An affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum present is necessary to adopt any resolution. On final passage, the vote of each member of the city commission voting shall be entered on the official record of the meeting. All ordinances or resolutions passed by the city commission shall become effective ten (10) days after passage or as otherwise provided therein.

(3) Every ordinance or resolution shall, upon its final passage, be recorded in a book kept for that purpose and shall be signed by the presiding officer and the clerk of the city commission.

Proposed Language

(1) The adoption of ordinances and resolutions must be in compliance with Section 166.041, Florida Statutes, or such other section in Florida Statutes pertaining to the adoption of municipal ordinances or resolutions, as the same may be amended from time to time.

(2) A majority of the members of the City Commission shall constitute a quorum. ~~An affirmative vote of at least three City Commissioners shall be necessary to enact any ordinance or resolution; except that two-thirds of the City Commission is required to enact an emergency ordinance.~~ An affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum present is necessary to adopt any resolution or ordinance. In case of a serious medical condition, as provided by Florida law, a Commissioner may be permitted to vote in real time by communication media technology instead of being physically present. On final passage, the vote of each member of the City Commission voting shall must be entered on the official record of the meeting. All ordinances or resolutions passed by the City Commission shall become effective ten (10) days after passage or as otherwise provided therein.

(3) Every ordinance or resolution shall, upon its final passage, be recorded in a book kept for that purpose and ~~shall must~~ be signed by the presiding officer and the City Clerk of the city commission.

Rationale – Section 21

- Clean up legalese

Section 22, 23, 24 – Reserved.

Current Language

- Sec. 22. – Reserved.
- Sec. 23. – Reserved.
- Sec. 24. – Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 25 - Appointment; tenure of office; qualifications; manager pro tem.

Current Language

- The city commission shall appoint a city manager who shall be the administrative head of the municipal government under the direction and supervision of the city commission, and shall hold office at the pleasure of the city commission. The city manager shall be chosen solely on the basis of executive and administrative qualifications without regard to political belief, and need not be a resident of the city or state at the time of appointment; however, not later than 30 days after executing the Oath of Office, the city manager shall become a resident of the city. The city commission may establish an appropriate contract for the city manager, which shall contain the employment conditions, compensation, benefits and such other terms as may be appropriate. The city manager may also be deemed to be a regular employee of the city, and the employment conditions, compensation, benefits and other terms may be set by the city commission through ordinance, resolution or policy. During the absence or disability of the city manager, the city commission shall designate some properly qualified person to temporarily execute the function of the city manager.

Proposed Language

- The City Commission ~~shall~~ must appoint a City Manager who ~~shall~~ be is the administrative head of the municipal government under the direction and supervision of the City Commission and ~~shall~~ holds office at the pleasure of the City Commission. The City Manager ~~shall~~ must be chosen solely on the basis of executive and administrative qualifications without regard to political belief, and need not be a resident of the City or state at the time of appointment; however, not later than ~~30~~ 90 days after executing the Oath of Office, the City Manager ~~shall~~ must become a resident of the City. The City Manager must have prior experience managing at least one government organization with at least 250 employees and several departments, be a member in good standing of a professional organization such as the International City/County Management Association, and the Commission must consider more than one (1) qualified candidate for City Manager. The City Commission ~~may~~ will establish an appropriate contract for the City Manager, which ~~shall~~ contains the employment conditions, compensation, benefits and such other terms as may be appropriate. The City Manager may also be deemed to be a regular employee of the City, and the employment conditions, compensation, benefits and other terms may be set by the City Commission through ordinance, resolution or policy. ~~During the absence or disability of the City Manager, the City Commission shall designate some properly qualified person to temporarily execute the function of the City Manager. He/she must designate a City Manager Pro Tem subject to the approval of the City Commission. The City Manager Pro Tem will serve as City Manager in the absence or disability of the City Manager.~~

Rationale – Section 25

- Clean up legalese

Section 26, 27, 28 – Reserved.

Current Language

- Sec. 26. – Reserved.
- Sec. 27. – Reserved.
- Sec. 28. – Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 29 - Powers and duties enumerated.

Current Language

The city manager shall be responsible to the city commission for the proper administration of all affairs of the city, and to that end his powers are and they shall be:

- (a) To see that the laws and ordinances are enforced.
- (b) Except as hereinafter specifically provided, to appoint and remove all subordinate officers and employees of the city; all appointments to be made upon merit and fitness alone.
- (c) To exercise control and direct supervision over all departments and divisions of the municipal government under this Charter, or which may hereafter be created by the city commission, including public utilities owned by said city.
- (d) To see that all terms and conditions imposed in favor of the city or its inhabitants in any public utility franchise are faithfully kept and performed; and upon knowledge of any violation thereof, to call the same to the attention of the city attorney, whose duty it is hereby made to take such legal steps as may be necessary to enforce the same.
- (e) To attend all meetings of the city commission, and of its committees, with right to take part in the discussions, but without having a vote.
- (f) To recommend to the commission for adoption such measures as he may deem necessary or expedient in the interests of the city.
- (g) To keep the city commission fully advised as to the financial condition and needs of the city and to submit for its consideration an annual budget.
- (h) To perform such other duties as may be prescribed under this Charter or as may be required of him by ordinance or resolution of the city commission.
- (i) He shall be purchasing agent for the city, by whom all purchases of supplies shall be made and he shall approve all vouchers for the payment of same. In the capacity of purchasing agent he shall also conduct all sales of personal property which the commission may authorize to be sold as having become unnecessary or unfit for the city's use. All purchases and sales shall conform to such regulations as the city commission may from time to time prescribe.

Proposed Language

The City Manager ~~shall be~~ is responsible to the City Commission for the proper administration of all affairs of the City, and to that end he has the following powers ~~are and they shall be:~~

- (a) To see that the laws and ordinances are enforced.
 - (b) Except as hereinafter specifically provided, to appoint and remove all subordinate officers and employees of the City; all appointments to be made upon merit and fitness alone.
 - (c) To exercise control and direct supervision over all departments and divisions of the municipal government under this Charter, or which may hereafter be created by the City Commission. ~~including public utilities owned by said City.~~
 - (d) To see that all terms and conditions imposed in favor of the City or its inhabitants in any ~~public utility franchise~~ contract are faithfully kept and performed; and upon knowledge of any violation thereof, to call the same to the ~~attention~~ of the City attorney, whose duty it is hereby made to take such legal steps as may be necessary to enforce the same.
 - (e) To attend all meetings of the City Commission, and of its committees, with right to take part in the discussions, but without having a vote.
 - (f) To recommend to the Commission for adoption such measures as ~~he may deem~~ he may deem necessary or expedient in the interests of the City.
 - (g) To keep the City Commission fully advised as to the financial condition and needs of the City and to submit for its consideration an annual budget and five-year capital improvement plan.
 - ~~(h) To perform such other duties as may be prescribed under this Charter or as may be required of him by ordinance or resolution of the City Commission.~~
 - ~~(i) He shall be purchasing agent for the City, by whom all purchases of supplies shall be made and he shall approve all vouchers for the payment of same. In the capacity of purchasing agent he shall also conduct all sales of personal property which the Commission may authorize to be sold as having become unnecessary or unfit for the City's use. All purchases and sales shall conform to such regulations as the City Commission may from time to time prescribe.~~
- He/she is responsible for the procurement, sale of surplus, management, payment, and contract compliance for all supplies, services, and construction contracts, including any Federal, State, or other grant funded activity, at the direction of the City Commission and in accordance with all applicable City, State, or Federal laws and regulations.
- (j) (i) To periodically designate a City Manager pro tem to be approved by the City Commission to serve in case of absence or disability of the City Manager.

Rationale – Section 29

- Clean up legalese

Section 30 – Reserved.

Current Language

- Sec. 30. – Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 31 - City Attorney appointment and duties.

Current Language

a) *Appointment; tenure of office; qualifications; and attorney pro tem.* The City Commission shall appoint a city attorney, who shall act as the legal advisor to and attorney and counselor for the municipality and all of its officers in matters relating to their official duties. The City Attorney shall serve under the direction and supervision of the City Commission and shall hold office at the pleasure of the City Commission. The City Attorney shall be chosen on the basis of legal and administrative qualifications. The City Commission shall establish an appropriate contract for the City Attorney, which shall contain the employment conditions, compensation, benefits and such other terms as may be appropriate. During the absence or disability of the City Attorney, the City Commission shall designate a properly qualified person to temporarily execute the functions of the office.

b) *Powers and duties enumerated.* The City Attorney shall be responsible to the City Commission for the proper administration of all affairs of the City assigned to the office of the City Attorney and to that end, the City Attorney's duties and powers shall be the following:

- 1) Prepare all contracts, bonds and other instruments in writing in which the municipality is concerned, and shall endorse on each the City Attorney's approval;
- 2) The City Attorney shall be authorized to take such action required to avoid default judgment against the City in any litigation and shall obtain authorization by resolution to prosecute and defend all causes of action, lawsuits and claims in which the City is a party. The City Attorney shall review with the City Commission at the next regular meeting when any action to avoid default has been taken by the City Attorney;
- 3) The City Attorney shall provide opinions of law relating to the activities of the City, the City Commission, the City Manager and City Clerk, upon request; and the direct employees of the City Attorney in the office of the City Attorney shall report to the City Attorney. The City Attorney shall have the authority to hire, direct, promote and terminate the employees in the City Attorney's Office, notwithstanding Section 29(b) herein.

Proposed Language

a) Appointment; tenure of office; qualifications; and attorney pro tem. The City Commission ~~shall~~must appoint a City attorney, who ~~shall~~acts as the legal advisor to and attorney and counselor for the municipality and all of its officers in matters relating to their official duties. The City Attorney ~~shall~~serves under the direction and supervision of the City Commission and ~~shall~~holds office at the pleasure of the City Commission. The City Attorney ~~shall~~must be chosen on the basis of legal and administrative qualifications. The City Commission ~~shall~~must establish an appropriate contract for the City Attorney, which ~~shall~~contains the employment conditions, compensation, benefits and such other terms as may be appropriate. During the absence or disability of the City Attorney, the City Commission ~~shall~~must designate a properly qualified person to temporarily execute the functions of the office.

b) Powers and duties enumerated. The City Attorney ~~shall be~~is responsible to the City Commission for the proper administration of all affairs of the City assigned to the office of the City Attorney and to that end, the City Attorney's duties and powers ~~shall be~~are the following:

- 1) Prepare all contracts, bonds and other instruments in writing in which the municipality is concerned, and ~~shall endorse~~is on each the City Attorney's approval;
- 2) The City Attorney ~~shall be~~is authorized to take such action required to avoid default judgment against the City in any litigation and ~~shall~~must obtain authorization by resolution to prosecute and defend all ~~causes~~of action, lawsuits and claims in which the City is a party. The City Attorney ~~shall~~must review with the City Commission at the next regular meeting when ~~any~~an action to avoid default has been taken by the City Attorney;
- 3) The City Attorney ~~shall~~provides opinions of law relating to the activities of the City, the City Commission, the City Manager and City Clerk, upon request; and the direct employees of the City Attorney in the office of the City Attorney ~~shall~~report to the City Attorney. The City Attorney ~~shall have~~has the authority to hire, direct, promote and terminate the employees in the City Attorney's Office, notwithstanding Section 29(b) herein.

Rationale – Section 31

- Clean up legalese

Section 32 - Additional duties.

Current Language

- In addition to the duties specifically imposed under the preceding section, he [the city attorney] shall perform such other professional duties as may be required of him by ordinance or resolution of the city commission or as are prescribed for city attorneys under the general law of the state which are not inconsistent with this Charter and with any ordinance or resolution which may be passed by the city commission.

Proposed Language

- **Sec. 32. - ~~Additional duties, Attorney pro tem.~~**
- ~~In addition to the duties specifically imposed under the preceding section, he [the City attorney] shall perform such other professional duties as may be required of him by ordinance or resolution of the City Commission or as are prescribed for City attorneys under the general law of the state which are not inconsistent with this Charter and with any ordinance or resolution which may be passed by the City Commission.~~ For the purpose of serving during the absence or disability of the City Attorney, a City Attorney pro tem must be periodically proposed for approval by the City Commission.

Rationale – Section 32

- Clean up legalese

Section 33 - Qualifications

Current Language

- The city attorney shall be a lawyer admitted to and having authority to practice in all courts of the state.

Proposed Language

- The City Attorney ~~shall~~ must be a lawyer admitted to and having authority to practice in all courts of the state, including circuit and district appellate courts of Florida. The City Attorney must also be admitted to practice in the federal Middle District of Florida court and the 11th Circuit Appeals court or be admitted within six months of taking the Oath of Office. It is preferred that the City Attorney be board certified in City, County and Local Government Law by the Florida Bar Association.

Rationale – Section 33

- Clean up legalese
- More clearly define requirements for City Attorney

Section 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 – Reserved.

Current Language

- Sec. 34. – Reserved.
- Sec. 35. – Reserved.
- Sec. 36. – Reserved.
- Sec. 37. – Reserved.
- Sec. 38. – Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 39, 40 – Reserved.

Current Language

- Sec. 39. – Reserved.
- Sec. 40. – Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 41 - Police ~~force~~ Department— Composition; authority of chief.

Current Language

- The police force of the City of Fernandina [Beach] shall consist of a chief of police and as many subordinate officers, policemen and employees as the city commission shall by resolution determine. The chief of police shall have exclusive control of the stationing and transfer of all patrolmen and other officers and employees constituting the police force, subject to the approval of the city manager and under such rules and regulations as the city commission may prescribe or as may be prescribed by the ordinances of the city

Proposed Language

- The police ~~force~~ department of the City of Fernandina [Beach] ~~shall consist of~~ a chief of police and as many subordinate officers, ~~policemen/policewomen~~ and employees as the City Commission ~~shall by resolution determine~~ determines by ordinance. The chief of police ~~shall have~~ has exclusive control of the stationing and transfer of all ~~patrolmen and other officers and employees constituting the police force department,~~ subject to the approval of the City Manager and under such rules and regulations as the City Commission may prescribe or as may be prescribed by the ordinances of the City. In case of riot, conflagration or like emergency, the City Manager may appoint additional police personnel for temporary service. A referendum election is required prior to the City dissolving the police department of the City or contracting out law enforcement services to another agency.

Rationale – Section 41

- Clean up legalese

Section 42, 43 – Reserved.

Current Language

- Sec. 42. – Reserved.
- Sec. 43. – Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 44 - Fire ~~force~~ Department; composition; authority of chief.

Current Language

- The fire force of the city shall consist of a chief, who shall be fire warden, and as many subordinate officers, firefighter/rescue personnel and employees as the city commission shall, by ordinance, determine. The fire chief shall have exclusive control of the stationing and transfer of all firefighter/rescue personnel and other officers and employees of the fire force subject to such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the city manager or by ordinance of the city; he shall have exclusive management and control of such officers and employees as may be employed in the administration of the affairs of his force. In case of riot, conflagration or like emergency, the city manager may appoint additional firefighter/rescue personnel for temporary service.

Proposed Language

- The fire ~~force~~ department of the City ~~shall~~ consists of a chief, ~~who shall be fire warden,~~ and as many subordinate officers, firefighter/rescue personnel and employees as the City Commission, ~~shall,~~ by ordinance, determines. The fire chief ~~shall have~~ has exclusive control of the stationing and transfer of all firefighter/rescue personnel and other officers and employees of the fire ~~force~~ department subject to such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the City Manager or by ordinance of the City; ~~he shall have~~ the fire chief has exclusive management and control of such officers and employees as may be employed in the administration of the affairs of ~~his~~ the force. In case of riot, conflagration or like emergency, the City Manager may appoint additional firefighter/rescue personnel for temporary service. A referendum election is required prior to the City dissolving the fire department of the City or contracting out fire/rescue services to another agency.

Rationale – Section 44

- Clean up legalese

Section 45 - ~~Public utilities.~~ Reserved.

Current Language

- The City of Fernandina Beach shall have the power to own and operate all utilities, both within its boundaries, and outside its boundaries, in order to serve the public health, safety and welfare. The City shall have the power to do all things necessary for the operation of the utilities, and the protection of the public health and safety and welfare.

DELETE and Reserve Sec. 45.

- ~~The City of Fernandina Beach shall have has the power to own and operate all utilities, both within its boundaries, and outside its boundaries, in order to serve the public health, safety and welfare. The City shall have the power to do all things necessary for the operation of the utilities, and the protection of the public health and safety and welfare.~~

Rationale – Section 45

- Clean up legalese

Section 46 - Appointment; tenure of office; qualifications; and clerk pro tem.

Current Language

- The City Commission shall appoint a City Clerk, who shall serve under the direction and supervision of the City Commission and shall hold office at the pleasure of the City Commission. The City Clerk shall be chosen on the basis of administrative qualifications. The City Commission shall establish an appropriate contract for the City Clerk, which shall contain the employment conditions, compensation, benefits and such other terms as may be appropriate. During the absence or disability of the City Clerk, the City Commission shall designate a properly qualified person to temporarily execute the functions of the office.

Proposed Language

- **Sec. 46. - Appointment; ~~tenure of office;~~ qualifications; and clerk pro tem.**
- The City Commission ~~shall~~ must appoint a City Clerk, who ~~shall serve~~ must under the direction and supervision of the City Commission and ~~shall~~ holds office at the pleasure of the City Commission. The City Clerk ~~shall~~ must be chosen on the basis of administrative qualifications. The City Clerk must be a member in good standing of a professional organization such as the Florida Association of City Clerks. The City Commission ~~shall~~ must establish an appropriate contract for the City Clerk, which ~~shall~~ contains the employment conditions, compensation, benefits and such other terms as may be appropriate. ~~During the absence or disability of the City Clerk, the City Commission shall designate a properly qualified person to temporarily execute the functions of the office.~~

Rationale – Section 46

- Move to Sec. 7 because that is where municipal powers are stated.

Section 47 - Powers and duties enumerated.

Current Language

The City Clerk shall be responsible to the City Commission for proper administration of all affairs of the City assigned to the office of the City Clerk and to that end, the City Clerk's duties and powers shall be the following:

- a) Attend all meetings of the City Commission and keep a journal of its proceedings, the correctness of which proceedings as entered in such journal shall be certified to after each meeting by the signature of the City Clerk and by the signature of the presiding officer of the City Commission. Additionally, a journal shall be maintained of the proceedings of all boards and committees required by the City Commission;
- b) The City Clerk shall be the custodian of the seal of the City;
- c) Conduct municipal elections exercising authority not reserved to county constitutional officers; however all such authority and responsibility to conduct municipal elections, either special or general municipal elections, may be contracted out to the Nassau County Supervisor of Elections, as determined by the City Commission from time to time;
- d) Countersign all checks and review outgoing checks to determine compliance with the City's established Purchasing Policy and Procedures;
- e) Serve as legal custodian of all city records including but not limited to, all contracts, deeds, abstracts, title insurance policies and other official documents, and perform such other duties as may be required by ordinance or resolution of the City Commission, as well as such as may be required by City Clerks by the general law of the state, applicable to municipalities and not inconsistent with this charter or with any ordinance or resolution passed by the City Commission;
- f) Authenticate all ordinances, resolutions and transcripts of legislative functions;
- g) Publish all public notices required by the City Commission or by law;
- h) Prepare all awards, proclamations, certificates and other formal Documentation by the City Commission;
- i) Notify the City Commission of all vacancies on boards or committees established by the City Commission;
- j) File all liens, satisfactions and releases as authorized by the City Manager;
- k) Serve as notary public on behalf of the City and attest all City documents as required;
- l) The direct employees of the City Clerk in the office of the City Clerk shall report to the City Clerk. The City Clerk shall have the authority to hire, direct, promote and terminate the employees in the City Clerk's office, notwithstanding Section 29(b) herein; and
- m) Any other duties as required by the City Commission.

Proposed Language

Sec. 47. – City Clerk powers and duties enumerated.

The City Clerk ~~shall be~~ is responsible to the City Commission for proper administration of all affairs of the City assigned to the office of the City Clerk and to that end, the City Clerk's duties and powers ~~shall be~~ are the following:

- a) Attend all meetings of the City Commission and keep a journal of its proceedings, the correctness of which proceedings as entered in such journal ~~shall~~ must be certified to after each meeting by the signature of the City Clerk and by the signature of the presiding officer of the City Commission. Additionally, a journal ~~shall~~ must be maintained of the proceedings of all boards and committees required by the City Commission;
- b) The City Clerk ~~shall be~~ is the custodian of the seal of the City;
- c) Conduct municipal elections exercising authority not reserved to county constitutional officers; however all such authority and responsibility to conduct municipal elections, either special or general municipal elections, may be contracted out to the Nassau County Supervisor of Elections, as determined by the City Commission from time to time;
- d) Countersign all checks and review outgoing checks to determine compliance with the City's established Purchasing Policy and Procedures;
- e) Serve as legal custodian of all City records including but not limited to, all contracts, deeds, abstracts, title insurance policies and other official documents. ~~and perform such other duties as may be required by ordinance or resolution of the City Commission, as well as such as may be required by City Clerks by the general law of the state, applicable to municipalities and not inconsistent with this charter or with any ordinance or resolution passed by the City Commission;~~
- f) Authenticate all ordinances, resolutions and transcripts of legislative functions;
- g) Publish all public notices required by the City Commission or by law;
- h) Prepare all awards, proclamations, certificates and other formal Documentation by the City Commission;
- i) Notify the City Commission of all vacancies on boards or committees established by the City Commission;
- j) File all liens, satisfactions and releases as authorized by the Mayor or City Manager;
- k) Serve as notary public on behalf of the City and attest all City documents as required;
- l) The direct employees of the City Clerk in the office of the City Clerk ~~shall~~ report to the City Clerk. The City Clerk ~~shall have~~ has the authority to hire, direct, promote and terminate the employees in the City Clerk's office, notwithstanding Section 29(b) herein; and
- m) ~~Any other duties as required by the City Commission. Maintains City records of annexations and the official City boundaries, as they may be amended from time to time.~~
- (n) For the purpose of serving during the absence or disability of the City Clerk, a City Clerk pro tem must ~~be periodically renewed by the approval of the City Commission.~~

Rationale – Section 47

- Clean up legalese

Section 48-57 – Reserved.

Current Language

- Sec. 48. – Reserved.
- Sec. 49. – Reserved.
- Sec. 50. – Reserved.
- Sec. 51. – Reserved.
- Sec. 52. – Reserved.
- Sec. 53. – Reserved.
- Sec. 54. – Reserved.
- Sec. 55. – Reserved.
- Sec. 56. – Reserved.
- Sec. 57. – Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 58 - Department of finance established.

Current Language

- There shall be a department of Finance, which shall be headed by a City Comptroller, who shall be under the supervision of the City Manager. The City Comptroller shall be the custodian of all monies of the City and shall keep, preserve, invest and deposit all funds of whatever kind in a legally authorized manner in accordance with the guidelines of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, as established by the State of Florida and any established policies and procedures of the City.

Proposed Language

- There ~~shall be~~ is established a department of Finance, which ~~shall be~~ is headed by a City Comptroller, ~~who shall be~~ is under the supervision of the City Manager. The City Comptroller ~~shall be~~ is the custodian of all monies of the City and ~~shall~~ keeps, ~~preserves~~ preserves, ~~invests~~ invests and ~~deposits~~ deposits all funds of whatever kind in a legally authorized manner in accordance with the guidelines of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, as established by the State of Florida and any established policies and procedures of the City.

Rationale – Section 58

- Clean up legalese

Section 59 - Bond.

Current Language.

- The city comptroller shall give a bond in the amount established by ordinance of the city commission from time to time.

Proposed Language

- The city comptroller ~~shall~~ may give a bond in the amount established by ordinance of the city commission from time to time

Rationale – Section 59

- Clean up legalese

Section 60 - Collection of interest on investments or deposits.

Current Language

- All moneys due as interest upon investments or deposits shall be collected by the city comptroller and placed to the credit of the city, and any and all bonds and securities taken for investments and deposits shall be held by the city comptroller for safe keeping for the benefit of the city.

Proposed Language

- All moneys due as interest upon investments or deposits ~~shall be~~ are collected by the city comptroller and placed to the credit of the city, and any and all bonds and securities taken for investments and deposits ~~shall be~~ are held by the city comptroller for safe keeping for the benefit of the city.

Rationale – Section 60

- Clean up legalese

Section 61 - Collection of taxes, license fees and all moneys belonging to city.

Current Language

- The City Comptroller shall assure that all monies belonging to the City are properly recorded, reconciled and accounted for, including but not limited to taxes, licenses, revenue sharing, grants, special assessments, fines and income from all other sources in accordance with the guidelines of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, as established by the laws of the State of Florida.

Proposed Language

- The City Comptroller ~~shall~~ assures that all monies belonging to the City are properly recorded, reconciled and accounted for, including but not limited to taxes, licenses, revenue sharing, grants, special assessments, fines and income from all other sources in accordance with the guidelines of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, as established by the laws of the State of Florida.

Rationale – Section 61

- Clean up legalese

Section 62 - Payment of moneys; procedure.

Current Language

- The City Comptroller shall issue checks to be paid from city funds only in accordance with established procedures, which procedures shall be reviewed and approved by the City Manager and City Commission. The checks of the City may carry electronic signatures. In a declared emergency, the persons authorized to sign on behalf of the City shall be established by resolution.

Proposed Language

- The City Comptroller ~~shall~~ issues checks to be paid from city funds only in accordance with established procedures, which procedures ~~shall~~ must be reviewed and approved by the City Manager and City Commission. The checks of the City may carry electronic signatures. In a declared emergency, the persons authorized to sign on behalf of the City ~~shall~~ must be established by resolution.

Rationale – Section 62

- Clean up legalese

Section 63 - Reserved.

Current Language

- Sec. 63. - Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 64 - Financial report; submission to commission monthly.

Current Language

- At a regular city commission meeting, the city comptroller shall submit to the city commission through the city manager, a detailed report of the financial status of the City funds. The city comptroller, or designee, shall also attend the meeting to provide the necessary interpretation of the submitted financial data or to respond to the financial questions generated by the commission.

Proposed Language

- At a regular city commission meeting, the city comptroller ~~shall~~ will submit to the city commission through the city manager, a detailed report of the financial status of the City funds. The city comptroller, or designee, ~~shall~~ will also attend the meeting to provide the necessary interpretation of the submitted financial data or to respond to the financial questions generated by the commission.

Rationale – Section 64

- Clean up legalese

Section 65, 66, 67, 68 – Reserved.

Current Language

- Sec. 65. – Reserved.
- Sec. 66. – Reserved.
- Sec. 67. – Reserved.
- Sec. 68. – Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 69 - How constituted.

Current Language

- The city commission may at any time appoint a fact-finding or advisory board or boards, composed of men and women who are residents of the City of Fernandina Beach qualified to act in an advisory capacity to the city commission or the city manager, with respect to the conduct and management of any property or institutions or the exercises of any public functions of the city. The members of any such board shall serve without compensation for the time fixed in their appointment or at the pleasure of the commission, and their duties shall be to consult and advise with such municipal officers and make written recommendations, which shall become part of the records of the city.

Proposed Language

- The city commission may at any time appoint a fact-finding or advisory board or boards, composed of ~~men and women~~ who are residents of the City of Fernandina Beach qualified to act in an advisory capacity to the city commission or the city manager, with respect to the conduct and management of any property or institutions or the exercises of any public functions of the city. The members of any such board ~~shall~~ serve without compensation for the time fixed in their appointment or at the pleasure of the commission, and their duties ~~shall be~~ are to consult and advise with such municipal officers and make written recommendations, which ~~shall~~ become part of the records of the city.

Rationale – Section 69

- Clean up legalese

Section 70 - Reserved.

Current Language

- Sec. 70. - Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 71 - Annual estimate of expenditures and revenues for forthcoming year; submission to city commission by city manager.

Current Language

- The City Manager shall set forth an estimate of the expenditures and revenues of the city for the upcoming fiscal year. The estimate of expenditures and revenues shall be submitted in compliance with the procedures set forth in the laws of Florida. The estimates and budget so given and constituting the recommendation of the City Manager as to the amounts necessary to be appropriated for the ensuing fiscal year shall be supported with information giving the reasons therefore in such detail as may be necessary to afford the City Commission a comprehensive understanding of the needs and requirements of the various departments and divisions of the city government for the ensuing fiscal year.

Proposed Language

- The City Manager ~~shall~~ sets forth an estimate of the expenditures and revenues of the city for the upcoming fiscal year. The estimate of expenditures and revenues must ~~shall~~ be submitted in compliance with the procedures set forth in the laws of Florida. The estimates, ~~and budget~~ and 5-year capital improvement plan so given and constituting the recommendation of the City Manager as to the amounts necessary to be appropriated for the ensuing fiscal year ~~shall~~ must be supported with information giving the reasons therefore in such detail as may be necessary to afford the City Commission a comprehensive understanding of the needs and requirements of the various departments and divisions of the city government for the ensuing fiscal year.

Rationale – Section 71

- Clean up legalese

Section 72 - Annual budget and appropriation.

Current Language

- The city commission shall abide by the laws of the State of Florida in the preparation, submission and publication of its annual budget and appropriation by ordinance or resolution.

Proposed Language

- The city commission ~~shall~~ abides by the laws of the State of Florida in the preparation, submission and publication of its annual budget and appropriation by ordinance or resolution.

Rationale – Section 72

- Clean up legalese

Section 73 - Reserved.

Current Language

- Sec. 73. - Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 74 - Transfer of funds.

Current Language

- Upon request of the city manager, the city commission may authorize a budget amendment or budget transfer by resolution. The city manager shall be authorized to transfer funds within the same department or division thereof in such maximum amounts as established by ordinance or resolution from time to time.

Proposed Language

- Upon request of the city manager, the city commission may authorize a budget amendment or budget transfer by resolution. The city manager ~~shall be~~ is authorized to transfer funds within the same department or division ~~thereof~~ in such maximum amounts as established by ordinance or resolution from time to time.

Rationale – Section 74

- Clean up legalese

Section 75 - Limitation on appropriations.

Current Language

- At the close of each fiscal year the unencumbered balance of each appropriation shall revert to the respective fund from which it was appropriated and shall be subject to future appropriation. Any accruing revenue of the city, not appropriated and hereinbefore provided, and any balance at any time remaining after the purpose of the appropriation shall have been satisfied or abandoned may from time to time be appropriated by the city commission to such use as will not conflict with any uses for which specifically such revenues accrued. No money shall be drawn from the treasury of the city, nor shall any obligation for the expenditure of the money be incurred, except pursuant to the appropriation made by the city commission.

Proposed Language

- At the close of each fiscal year the unencumbered balance of each appropriation ~~shall~~reverts to the respective fund from which it was appropriated and ~~shall be~~is subject to future appropriation. Any accruing revenue of the city, not appropriated and ~~hereinbefore provided,~~ and any balance at any time remaining after the purpose of the appropriation ~~shall have~~has been satisfied or abandoned may from time to time be appropriated by the city commission to such use as will not conflict with any uses for which specifically such revenues accrued. No money ~~shall~~may be drawn from the treasury of the city, nor ~~shall~~ any obligation for the expenditure of the money be incurred, except pursuant to the appropriation made by the city commission.

Rationale – Section 75

- Clean up legalese

Section 76, 77 - Reserved.

Current Language

- Sec. 76. - Reserved.
- Sec. 77. - Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No change

Section 78 - Ad valorem taxes.

Current Language

- (1) Pursuant to Article VII, Sec. 9 of the State Constitution and the laws of the State of Florida, this municipality is hereby authorized, to levy ad valorem taxes on real and tangible personal property within the municipality.
- (2) The assessment and collection of municipal ad valorem taxes shall be performed by appropriate officers and in such manner as is prescribed by general law.
- (3) Pursuant to and in compliance with the laws of the State of Florida, the municipality may impose, by taxation and licenses or by user charges or fees authorized by ordinance, amounts of money which are necessary for the conduct of municipal government and may enforce their receipt and collection in the manner prescribed by law.

Proposed Language

- (1) Pursuant to Article VII, Sec. 9 of the State Constitution and the laws of the State of Florida, this municipality is hereby authorized, to levy ad valorem taxes on real and tangible personal property within the municipality.
- (2) The assessment and collection of municipal ad valorem taxes ~~shall~~ will be performed by appropriate officers and in such manner as is prescribed by general law.
- (3) Pursuant to and in compliance with the laws of the State of Florida, the municipality may impose, by taxation and licenses or by user charges or fees authorized by ordinance, amounts of money which are necessary for the conduct of municipal government and may enforce their receipt and collection in the manner prescribed by law.

Rationale – Section 78

- Clean up legalese

Section 79 - Regulatory fees.

Current Language

- Pursuant to the laws of the State of Florida, this municipality may levy reasonable business, professional, and occupational regulatory fees commensurate with the cost of the regulatory activity, including consumer protection, on such classes of businesses, professions, and occupations, the regulation of which has not been preempted by the state or a county pursuant to a county charter.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 80 - Reserved.

Current Language

- Sec. 80. – Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 81 - Certification of funds for contracts, obligations, etc.

Current Language

- No contract, agreement, or other obligation involving the expenditure of money shall be entered into, nor shall any ordinance, resolution or order for the expenditure of money be passed by the city commission or be authorized by any officer of the city, unless the comptroller first certifies to the city commission or to the proper officer, as the case may be, that the money required for such contract, agreement, obligation or expenditure is in the treasury to the credit of the fund from which it is to be drawn, and not appropriated for any other purpose. The sum so certified shall hereafter be considered appropriated until the city is discharged from the contract, agreement or obligation.

Proposed Language

- No contract, agreement, or other obligation involving the expenditure of money ~~shall~~ may be entered into, nor ~~shall~~ any ordinance, resolution or order for the expenditure of money be passed by the city commission or be authorized by any officer of the city, unless the comptroller first certifies to the city commission or to the proper officer, as the case may be, that the money required for such contract, agreement, obligation or expenditure is in the treasury to the credit of the fund from which it is to be drawn, and not appropriated for any other purpose. The sum so certified ~~shall hereafter~~ will be considered appropriated until the city is discharged from the contract, agreement or obligation.

Rationale – Section 81

- Clean up legalese

Section 82—107 - Reserved.

Current Language

- Secs. 82—107. - Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 107A. - Community redevelopment areas.

Current Language

- The City of Fernandina Beach is prohibited from creating any more than two non-contiguous, community redevelopment areas (CRA), pursuant to F.S. ch. 163, part III. The City of Fernandina Beach is prohibited from creating any such CRA wherein the assessed value for ad valorem tax purposes of the real property contained within such CRA would exceed two percent (2%) of the total assessed value of all real property in the city at the time of creation of such CRA.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Sections 108—119 - Reserved.

Current Language

- Secs. 108—119. - Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 120 - Salaries and compensation.

Current Language

- The city commission shall fix, by ordinance, the salary or compensation of the city attorney, the department heads, the city manager and the city commission. The city manager shall fix the number and compensation of all other officers and employees. The salaries or compensation so fixed shall be uniform for like services in each grade of the city service, as the same shall be graded or classified by the city manager, and approved by the city commission. All such salaries and rates of pay, with dates of employment and discharge, shall be immediately reported to the city clerk. All fees and moneys received or collected by officers and employees shall be immediately paid over to the city controller on the date of their receipt.

Proposed Language

- The city commission ~~shall fix~~shall fix, by ordinance, the salary or compensation of the city attorney, the department heads, the city manager, city clerk, and the city commission. The city manager ~~shall fix~~shall fix the number and compensation of all other officers and employees. The salaries or compensation ~~so fixed shall must~~ be uniform for like services in each grade of the city service, as the same ~~shall~~ will be graded or classified by the city manager, and approved by the city commission. All ~~such~~ salaries and rates of pay, with dates of employment and discharge, ~~shall must~~ be immediately reported to the city clerk. All fees and moneys received or collected by officers and employees ~~shall~~ must be immediately paid over to the city controller on the date of their receipt.

Rationale – Section 120

- Clean up legalese

Section 121 - Oath of office.

Current Language

- Every officer of the city shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, take and subscribe to an oath or affirmation to be filed and kept in the office of the city clerk, which oath shall be in the form prescribed for state officers by the Constitution of the State.

Proposed Language

- Every officer of the city ~~shall~~ must, before entering upon the duties of his office, take and subscribe to an oath or affirmation to be filed and kept in the office of the city clerk, which oath ~~shall be~~ is in the form prescribed for state officers by the Constitution of the State.

Rationale – Section 121

- Clean up legalese

Section 122 - Official bonds.

Current Language

- The city commission or city manager, in fixing the salary of any officer, clerk or employee shall determine whether or not such officer, clerk or employee shall give bond, and the amount thereof, which bond shall be procured from a regularly accredited surety company authorized to do business under the laws of Florida, the premiums on such bonds to be paid by the city. All such bonds shall be filed in the office of the city clerk.

Proposed Language

- The city commission or city manager, in fixing the salary of any officer, clerk or employee ~~shall~~ determines whether or not such officer, clerk or employee ~~shall~~ may give bond, and the amount thereof, which bond ~~shall~~ must be procured from a regularly accredited surety company authorized to do business under the laws of Florida, the premiums on such bonds to be paid by the city. All such bonds ~~shall~~ must be filed in the office of the city clerk.

Rationale – Section 121

- Clean up legalese

Sections 123, 123A, 124 – Reserved.

Current Language

- Sec. 123. – Reserved.
- Sec. 123A. – Reserved.
- Sec. 124. – Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 125 - Election arrangements; declaration of election results; appointment of inspectors.

Current Language

- The city commission shall make all necessary arrangements for holding all municipal elections, and shall declare the result thereof. Inspectors, poll workers and clerks of election shall be appointed by the city commission except that if the commission shall fail to appoint them at least seven (7) days before the date of any election, the mayor may appoint them. In case of emergency, the mayor has the authority to appoint inspectors, poll workers and clerks of election.

Proposed Language

- The city commission ~~shall~~ makes all necessary arrangements for holding all municipal elections, and ~~shall~~ declares the result thereof. Inspectors, poll workers and clerks of election ~~shall be~~ are appointed by the city commission except that if the commission ~~shall~~ fails to appoint them at least seven (7) days before the date of any election, the mayor may appoint them. In case of emergency, the mayor has the authority to appoint inspectors, poll workers and clerks of election.

Rationale – Section 125

- Clean up legalese

Sections 125A. - 135 - Reserved.

Current Language

- Secs. 125A—135. - Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 136 - Administrative investigations.

Current Language

- The city commission shall authorize investigations by resolution. The city commission shall have the power at any time to cause the affairs of any department or the conduct of any officer or employee to be investigated; and for such purpose shall have power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers, and other evidence; and for that purpose may issue subpoenas or attachments which shall be signed by the mayor or the city manager and shall be served by any officer authorized by law to serve such process. The authority making such investigation shall have power to cause the testimony to be given under oath, such oath to be administered by some officer having authority under the law of the state to administer oaths; and shall also have power to punish as for contempt any person refusing to testify to any fact within his knowledge, or produce any book or papers under his control relating to the matter under investigation. Nothing in this section should be construed to limit the charter officers' ability to inquire into matters under their respective areas of responsibility.

Proposed Language

- The City Commission ~~shall~~ must by majority vote authorize investigations by resolution. The City Commission, Charter Officers and members of City Commission appointed boards, ~~shall~~ have the power at any time to cause the affairs of any department or the conduct of any officer or employee to be investigated; and for such purpose ~~shall have~~ has the power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers, and other evidence; and for that purpose may issue subpoenas or attachments which ~~shall~~ must be signed by the Mayor or the City Manager and ~~shall~~ must be served by any officer authorized by law to serve such process. The authority making such investigation ~~shall have~~ has the power to cause the testimony to be given under oath, such oath to be administered by some officer having authority under the law of the state to administer oaths; and ~~shall also have~~ has power to punish as for contempt any person refusing to testify to any fact within his knowledge, or produce any book or papers under his control relating to the matter under investigation. Nothing in this section should be construed to limit the charter officers' ability to inquire into matters under their respective areas of responsibility.

Rationale – Section 136

- Clean up legalese

Section 137 - Dedication of streets.

Current Language

- No street or alley hereinafter dedicated to public use by the owner of any land within the city shall be deemed a public street or alley, under the care or control of the city, unless the dedication be accepted and confirmed by ordinance passed for such purpose.

Proposed Language

- No street or alley hereinafter dedicated to public use by the owner of any land within the city ~~shall~~ will be deemed a public street or alley, under the care or control of the city, unless the dedication be accepted and confirmed by ordinance passed for such purpose.

Rationale – Section 137

- Clean up legalese

Sections 138-140- Reserved.

Current Language

- Secs. 138—140. - Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 141 - General laws of state to apply.

Current Language

- All general laws of the state applicable to municipal corporations, now or which may hereafter be enacted, and which are not in conflict with the provisions of this Charter or with the ordinances and resolutions hereafter enacted by the city commission, shall be applicable to this city; provided, however, that nothing contained in this Charter shall be construed as limiting the power of the city commission to enact any ordinance or resolution not in conflict with the constitution of the state or with the express provisions of this Charter.

Proposed Language

- All general laws of the state applicable to municipal corporations, now or which may hereafter be enacted, and which are not in conflict with the provisions of this Charter or with the ordinances and resolutions hereafter enacted by the city commission, ~~shall be~~ are applicable to this city; provided, however, that nothing contained in this Charter ~~shall be~~ is construed as limiting the power of the city commission to enact any ordinance or resolution not in conflict with the constitution of the state or with the express provisions of this Charter.

Rationale – Section 141

- Clean up legalese

Section 142 - Reserved

Current Language

- Sec. 142. – Reserved.

Proposed Language

- No changes

Section 143 - Savings clause.

Current Language

- If any section or part of a section of this Charter proves to be invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force, or effect of any other section or part of a section of this Charter, unless it clearly appears that such other section or part of a section is wholly or necessarily dependent for its operation upon the section or part of a section so held to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Proposed Language

- If any section or part of a section of this Charter proves to be invalid or unconstitutional, the same ~~shall not be held to~~ does not invalidate or impair the validity, force, or effect of any other section or part of a section of this Charter, unless it clearly appears that such other section or part of a section is wholly or necessarily dependent for its operation upon the section or part of a section so held to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 144 - When this Charter becomes effective

Current Language

- The foregoing sections of this Charter shall take effect upon their ratification by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the said City of Fernandina Beach voting at a special election to be held in the City of Fernandina Beach

Proposed Language