

PROPOSED
ORDINANCE NO. 36-22

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE
TO BE ENTITLED:

AN ORDINANCE PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER FOR THE CITY OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE PREAMBLE; AMENDING ARTICLE I – GENERAL POWERS OF THE CITY; AMENDING ARTICLE I CREATING SECTION 1.04-COMPUTATION OF TIME; AMENDING SECTION 4.01 POWERS AND DUTIES- MAYOR; AMENDING SECTION 4.02 POWERS AND DUTIES – CITY COUNCIL; AMENDING SECTION 4.03 – CITY COUNCIL PROCEDURES; AMENDING SECTION 4.04 – PROHIBITIONS; AMENDING SECTION 8.01 – CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION; AMENDING SECTION 8.02- CHARTER AMENDMENTS; REMOVAL OF TRANSITIONAL LANGUAGE LOCATED IN ARTICLES III, VI AND X; PROVIDING FOR A REFERENDUM THEREON; REPEALING CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Pensacola has determined that certain amendments to the City Charter are in order to clarify and update the Charter; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 166.031 Florida Statutes, the City Council is required to submit the Charter Amendments to the electors of the City for approval or rejection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The City Council calls for the holding of a referendum of the electors of the City of Pensacola on November 8, 2022, to consider and vote for or against the approval of proposed amendments to the City Charter.

SECTION 2. The Supervisor of Elections of Escambia County is hereby appointed as the clerk of a municipal election to be held on November 8, 2022.

SECTION 3. The City of Pensacola shall reimburse the Supervisor of Elections for any costs incurred by that office directly related to the preparation for, conducting of, and certifying the results of the referendum on the proposed City Charter revision.

SECTION 4. The language to appear on the ballot of the referendum on the proposed City Charter revisions shall be:

QUESTION

THE CITY OF PENSACOLA – REFERENDUM QUESTION NO. 1

Shall the Charter be amended to delete, add or revise provisions including the preamble; scope of municipal powers; duties of Mayor and Council Members; removing Council staff; notice of special meetings; computation of time; procedures for adopting Charter amendments and for appointing members to Charter Review Commission; and deleting transitional language from original charter.

_____ **Yes – For Approval**

_____ **No – Against Approval**

SECTION 5. The appropriate officials of the City shall cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation of the City the notices of the Referendum required by the existing City Charter and applicable Florida Law.

SECTION 6. In the event the foregoing proposal is approved by a majority of the electors voting on the proposal, the following provision of the Charter for the City of Pensacola shall be added to Articles I, III, VI and X of the existing Charter, to wit:

PREAMBLE

We the people of the City of Pensacola, under the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, in order to secure the benefits of local self-government and to provide for an honest, effective, and accountable Mayor-Council government, do hereby adopt this charter and confer upon the City the following powers, subject to the following restrictions, and prescribed by the following procedures and governmental structure. By this action, we secure the benefits of home rule and affirm the values of representative democracy, professional management, strong political leadership, citizen participation, and regional cooperation, through promoting equal opportunity and equity based on the broad cultural diversity of the City and inclusiveness that focuses on justice, equality, equity and environmental stewardship.

ARTICLE I – GENERAL POWERS OF THE CITY

Section 1.01. General Powers and Corporate Existence.

The City of Pensacola (“City”), located in Escambia County, Florida, shall have all governmental, corporate, and proprietary powers to enable it to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions and render municipal services, and may exercise any power for municipal purposes except when expressly prohibited by law or this charter.

Section 1.04. Computation of Time.

In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by this charter, the day of the act, event, or default from which the designated period of time begins to run shall not be included. The last day of the period so computed shall be included unless it is a Saturday, Sunday or City observed holiday, in which event the period shall run until the end of the next day which is neither a Saturday, Sunday, or City observed holiday. When the period of time prescribed or allowed is less than 7 days, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and City observed holidays shall be excluded in the computation.

ARTICLE IV- MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Section 4.01. Mayor

(a) *Powers and Duties.* The Mayor shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the City, shall exercise the executive powers of the City, and shall be responsible for the administration of all City affairs pursuant to this Charter. The Mayor, who shall serve in a full-time capacity, and shall exemplify good citizenship and exhibit a cooperative spirit, shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) ~~To exercise the executive powers of the City and~~ To supervise all departments, including, but not limited to, the power to appoint, discipline, and remove all officers and employees, unless otherwise provided in this Charter.

(11) To attend, or designate a representative to attend, all meetings of the City Council with authority to participate in discussions, but without the power to vote.

(16) To cooperate with and in no way obstruct an inquiry into the conduct or dealings of any municipal office, department, agency or officer as permitted under 4.02(a)(3).

Section 4.02. City Council.

(a) *Powers and Duties.* City Council Members shall exemplify good citizenship and exhibit a cooperative spirit. All powers of the City shall be vested in the City Council, except as otherwise provided by law or this Charter, including but not limited to ~~The City Council shall have~~ the following powers and duties:

(6) The City Council shall establish an Office of the City Council and shall have as its staff the following who shall be responsible to the City Council through the President of the Council: (a) Budget Analyst. The City Council is authorized to employ a Budget Analyst or an individual with similar qualifications, pursuant to the City's position classification code, to assist the budgetary matters of the City Council. The City Council, by ordinance, shall define the qualifications, pay and responsibilities of said employee in accordance with the City's position classification code. The employee shall be subject to termination by a majority vote of the City Council; (b) Legal Aide. The City Council may appoint one assistant city attorney, whose salary shall be in accordance with those established for other assistant city attorneys. Said assistant city attorney shall (1) serve only in an advisory capacity to the City Council, and shall perform only such duties of a technical nature, including drafting of ordinances, legal research and providing advisory opinions, as requested by the City Council through its President, (2) perform such other duties required of him by the city attorney with the concurrence of the President of the City Council, (3) be subject to termination by a majority vote of the City Council; and (4) be responsible to the City Council through the President of the Council. Said assistant city attorney shall not file suit or bring or defend any action in court on behalf of the City Council, Mayor, the several departments, officers, and boards of the City government except with written authorization of the City Attorney. No action or opinion of said assistant city attorney shall be construed to be the official legal position of the City, and such official legal positions and actions shall be solely within the scope and powers and duties of the City Attorney; (c) Council Executive. The City Council is authorized to hire a Council Executive. The City Council shall define the qualifications, pay and responsibilities of said employee in accordance with the City's position classification code. The employee shall be subject to termination by a majority vote of the City Council; (d) Executive Assistant. The City Council is authorized to hire an Executive Assistant. The City Council shall define the qualifications, pay and responsibilities of said employee in accordance with the City's position classification code. The employee shall be subject to termination by a majority vote of the City Council; and (e) Other Staff. The City Council may create and fill other staff positions for the purpose of assisting it in the performance of its legislative function. Such positions shall be subject to termination by a majority vote of the City Council.

Section 4.03. City Council Procedures.

- (a) *Meetings.* The City Council shall meet ~~regularly~~ at least once every month at such times and places as the City Council may prescribe. Special meetings may be held on the call of the City Council president or the Mayor or at the request of three (3) of the City Council Members to the City Clerk and, whenever practicable, upon no less than ~~twelve (12)~~ seventy-two (72) hours' notice to each Council Member and the public, or such shorter time as the City Council president, Mayor, or three (3) City Council Members deems necessary in the event of an emergency.

Section 4.04. Prohibitions

(b) *Interference with Administration.* Except for the purpose of inquiries, notifications and investigations made in good faith, the City Council or Council Members shall deal with the City officers and employees, who are subject to the direction and supervision of the Mayor, solely through the Mayor. Neither the City Council nor Council Members shall give orders to any such officer or employee, either publicly or privately. It is the express intent of this Charter that ~~recommendations~~ orders for improvement of municipal governmental operations ~~by individual Council Members~~ be made solely to ~~and through by~~ by the Mayor

ARTICLE VII – CHARTER REVIEW AND CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Section 8.01. Charter Review Commission

(a) *Charter Review Commission Established.* During the month of January ~~2022~~ 2031 and every ten (10) years thereafter, there shall be established a Charter Review Commission (“CRC”); provided, however, that the City Council shall have the power to establish a CRC more often in the event it so chooses.

(b) *Composition.* Every ten (10) years, the Mayor and City Council shall appoint nine members to the CRC. The Mayor shall appoint two (2) members and each Council Member shall appoint one member residing in their Council District. The CRC shall be composed of nine members, with at least one (1) member from each of the seven (7) Council districts of the City and no more than two (2) members coming from any one Council District. No members of the CRC shall be elected officials. Each member of the CRC shall be a City resident and elector. Vacancies shall be filled within 30 days in the same manner as the original appointments.

(c) *Procedures.* The CRC shall meet prior to the third week in January ~~2022~~ 2031, and every ten (10) years thereafter, for the purposes of organization. The CRC shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair from among its membership. Further meetings of the CRC shall be held upon the call of the Chair or any three members of the CRC. All meetings shall be open to the public. A majority of the members of the CRC shall constitute a quorum.

Section 8.02. Charter Amendments.

(b) *Initiation by Petition.* The electors of the City may propose amendments to this Charter by petition. Each petition proposing amendments to this Charter shall be commenced in the same manner as an ordinance proposed by initiative in Article VII of this Charter. Initiative petitions must be signed by City electors equal to at least ten percent (10%) of the total number of registered electors in the City, as shown by the compilation by the Supervisor of Elections for the most recent general election of the City Council. The City Council shall place the proposed amendment contained in the ordinance or petition to a vote of the electors at the next general election held within the City or at a special election called for such purpose.

ARTICLE III-ELECTED CITY POSITIONS

Section 3.01. Form of Government.

~~With the exception of the initial transition period pursuant to Section 10.07 below,~~ The City shall have a Mayor-Council form of government. There shall be a City Council, which shall be the governing body of the City with all legislative powers of the City vested therein, consisting of seven (7) Council Members, one (1) to be elected from each of the seven (7) election districts of the City. There shall also be a Mayor who is elected at large and who shall not be a member of the City Council.

Section 3.02. Election and Terms.

The nonpartisan primary and general election of the Council Members and the Mayor shall be held in the manner provided in Article VI of this Charter and the terms of office for Mayor and Council Members shall be four (4) years and will commence on the fourth Tuesday in November after his or her election at 12 o'clock noon.

The base year for elections for Council Members for districts 2, 4, and 6, and the Mayor shall be 2010, and shall be for a four-year term. The base year for elections for Council Members for districts 1, 3, 5, and 7 shall be 2012 and shall be for a four-year term. These base year dates are established only for the purpose of scheduling elections and staggering terms, and do not impact the term limit requirements of Section 3.03. ~~Council Members for districts 1, 3, 5, and 7 elected in 2010 shall serve a two-year term. Terms served by the Mayor or a Council Member immediately preceding the base year dates shall not be counted in applying Section 3.03.~~

Section 3.03. Limitations of Terms for Mayor and Council Members; Effective Date.

- (a) *Mayor.* No person shall be elected to serve as Mayor for more than three consecutive terms. ~~on and after the general election in November 2010.~~

- (b) *City Council Members.* No person shall be elected to serve as a Council Member for ~~districts 1, 3, 5, and 7~~ for more than three consecutive terms. ~~on and after the general election in November 2012. No person shall be elected to serve as a Council Member for districts 2, 4, and 6 for more than three consecutive terms on and after the general election in November 2010.~~

ARTICLE VI – ELECTIONS

Section 6.07. Commencement of terms of office.

~~(c) Commencement of Terms for Year 2010 Elections. The terms for the Council Members and Mayor elected in the 2010 general election shall commence at noon on the second Monday of January 2011 as provided for in the former City Charter, or on such earlier date as the office becomes vacant after the 2010 general election. This provision shall be effective solely for the purposes of transition from the former City Charter to Section 3.02 of this Charter.~~

ARTICLE X - SCHEDULE

Section 10.06 (d) Commencement of Terms for Year 2010 Elections.

~~(d) Section 10.06. Existing Rights, Obligations, Duties and Relationships(Commencement of Terms for Year 2010 Elections. The terms for the Council Members and Mayor elected in the 2010 general election shall commence at noon on the second Monday of January 2011 as provided for in the former City Charter, or on such earlier date as the office becomes vacant after the 2010 general election. This provision shall be effective solely for the purposes of transition from the former City Charter to Section 3.02 of this Charter.~~

~~Section 10.07. Transition.~~

~~The City Council shall adopt such ordinances and resolutions as are required to effect the transition from a nine (9) member City Council with two (2) at large elected seats to a seven (7) member City Council with no at large elected seats upon the expiration of their current respective terms. Ordinances adopted within sixty (60) days of the first Council meeting under this Charter for the purpose of facilitating the transition may be passed as emergency ordinances following the procedures prescribed by law.~~

SECTION 7. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 8. This ordinance shall take effect on immediately upon adoption.

Adopted: _____

Approved: _____
President of City Council

Attest:

City Clerk