

**CITY OF MOUNT DORA**  
**CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**CHARTER REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL**

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The Charter Review Committee held meetings on February 11, February 25 and March 11, 2015 to discuss the City's Charter and make recommendations for City Council's consideration. The Committee members include Joe Runnels, Melissa DeMarco, Monica Andersen, Bob Thielhelm, Carla Pepperman, Mark Slaby, and Gerald Benedict. Melissa DeMarco was selected as chair of the Committee. All meetings were open to the public. At its first meeting, the Committee was briefed on Sunshine and Public Records Laws. The Committee decided to review the Charter in sections. On February 25, 2015, the Committee reviewed Part I and Part II of the Charter. On March 11, 2015, the Committee reviewed the remainder of the Charter.

The Committee began its process by inviting each of its members to identify those provisions of the Charter he or she believed merited further discussion and amendment. After identifying those provisions, the members of the Committee discussed and debated each identified provision amongst themselves with the input of the City Planning and Zoning Director, and the City Attorney. In discussing text changes, the Committee considered model charters and well as charters from other Florida jurisdictions. As the Committee's deliberations concludes, the following proposed amendments to the City Charter have received majority votes to be forwarded on to the City Council. Each proposed amendment below includes all proposed text changes with legislative underscoring, a brief summary of the intent of the amendment and proposed ballot language for the City Council's consideration. The Committee also would like to encourage the members of the City Council to review the minutes of the Charter Review Committee's meetings as its members offered several questions and comments that, while not addressed in these proposed amendments, may merit consideration by the City in the future. One such item discussed without any proposed amendment at this time is whether to draft a charter provision limiting Councilmembers compensation only to salary without any additional benefits, such as health or retirement plans. In closing, the members of the Committee appreciate the opportunity given to them to serve their community and the City Council's consideration of the proposed Charter amendments contained herein.

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**City Charter Amendment 1: INCLUDE THE REQUIREMENT OF PERMANENT RESIDENCY TO CRITERIA FOR HOLDING COUNCIL OFFICE.**

*Shall Section 5 of the Mount Dora Charter be amended to include permanent residency in the criteria for holding council office, as is required in other provisions of the Charter?*

YES FOR APPROVAL

NO FOR REJECTION

**Section 5. Qualifications.**

Any elector and permanent resident of the City of Mount Dora shall be eligible to hold council office, including the office of mayor. However, any elector seeking or holding council office as a district representative must be an elector and permanent resident of the particular district which the elector represents or seeks to represent. The city council shall be the sole judge of the qualifications set forth in this section as applied to any of its members or prospective members.

**City Charter Amendment 2: HOUSEKEEPING CHANGE – SECTION 9.**

*Shall Section 9 of the Mount Dora Charter be amended to correct an error by changing the word “purpose” to “purchase?”*

YES FOR APPROVAL

NO FOR REJECTION

**Section 9. Duties**

The city council shall, by resolution, annually adopt, no later than the adoption of the budget procedures and limitations for the ~~purpose~~ purchase of tangible personal property and services, and for the rental of tangible personal property, including ceilings on amounts which may be expended without express city council approval.

**City Charter Amendment 3: REDUCE FREQUENCY OF CITY COUNCIL’S REVIEW OF CODIFICATION AND REMOVE REPORTING REQUIREMENT OF REVIEW COMMITTEE.**

*Shall Section 9 of the Mount Dora Charter be amended to remove the requirement that City Council annually cause the codification of ordinances and eliminate the yearly reporting requirement of the ad hoc reviewing committee?*

YES FOR APPROVAL

NO FOR REJECTION

**Section 9. Duties.**

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The city council shall create and maintain a codification of ordinances. The codification shall contain those ordinances designated by the city council in its sole and absolute discretion. The

city council shall ~~annually~~ cause the codification established hereunder to be reviewed, by ad hoc committee and the city attorney. The city shall also ~~annually~~ update the codification established hereunder. ~~The report of the reviewing committee shall be presented to the city council no later than the first regularly scheduled council meeting in August.~~

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**City Charter Amendment 4: EXPAND THE TERM OF COUNCILMEMBERS FROM TWO (2) TO THREE (3) YEARS.**

*Shall Section 12 of the Mount Dora Charter be amended to expand the term of councilmembers and the mayor from two (2) to three (3) years?*

YES FOR APPROVAL

NO FOR REJECTION

**Section 12. Terms.**

The term of each city council office, including the office of mayor, shall be ~~two (2)~~ three (3) years. However, all office holders shall continue in office until the office holder's successor is appointed or sworn to office, unless the office holder's office is declared vacant pursuant to this charter. All elected council members, including the mayor, shall assume office and be sworn at the second regularly scheduled meeting of the November their election.

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**City Charter Amendment 5: REDUCE THE NUMBER OF COUNCILMEMBERS FROM SEVEN TO FIVE AND REMOVE AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE POSITIONS.**

*Shall Sections 4, 6 and 12 of the Mount Dora Charter be amended to reduce the number of councilmembers from seven (7) to five (5) and remove the two (2) at-large representative positions?*

YES FOR APPROVAL

NO FOR REJECTION

**Section 4. City Council.**

The city council shall consist of ~~seven (7)~~ five (5) members, including the mayor. The mayor shall be considered a member of the city council for all purposes. Members of the city council may not cast votes in abstentia.

**Section 6. Composition; districts.**

The ~~seven (7)~~ five (5) member city council shall be comprised of four (4) district representatives; ~~two (2) at-large representatives,~~ and one (1) mayor, who shall be elected at-large. The city council shall, by ordinance, establish the district boundaries as required by law.

**Section 12. Terms.**

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The mayor, and the district representatives of districts 1 and 4 shall be elected in the same year; ~~and the at-large odd representative shall be elected in odd-numbered years.~~ The district representatives of districts 2 and 3 ~~and the at-large even representative shall be elected in even-numbered years~~ shall be elected in the same year.

**City Charter Amendment 6. ESTABLISHING GUIDELINE FOR BREAKING A TIE BETWEEN TWO CANDIDATES FOR ELECTED OFFICE.**

*Shall Section 14 of the Mount Dora City Charter be amended to establish a guideline in the event of a tie between two candidates for an elected office?*

YES FOR APPROVAL

NO FOR REJECTION

**Section 14. Voting.**

An elected office shall be filled by the candidate for the elected office receiving the majority of the vote. Should any candidate fail to receive the majority of the vote during the general election, a runoff election shall be held between the two (2) candidates for the elected office receiving the highest number of votes. This runoff election shall be held in a manner established by ordinance consistent with the laws of the State of Florida. In the event of a tie between the two candidates for the elected office, the winning candidate shall be decided in accordance with State law.