City of Boynton Beach
Agenda Item Request Form

Meeting Date: 11/ 4/2025

Proposed Ordinance No. 25-041- First Reading, An Ordinance of the City of Boynton Beach, Florida, Submitting to Referendum Amendments to the City Charter; Amending Sections 8, 20, 23, 24, 40, 50, 52, 54, and 55 to Modernize Language by Replacing Masculine-Only Pronouns and to Update Notice and Publication Requirements to Comply with Current Florida Statutes and Digital-Age Communication Practices; Providing for a Notice of an Advertisement of the Referendum Election to be Published in Accordance with the State of Florida Election Code; Providing that this Ordinance, When Adopted, Shall be Submitted to the Qualified Electors of the City of Boynton Beach, Florida, on the March 2026 General Municipal Election Ballot and Shall Become Effective as Provided by Law; Providing for Conflicts, Severability, and an Effective Date.

Requested Action: Staff recommends approval of Proposed Ordinance No. 25-041, at first reading.

Explanation of Request:

The Charter Review Committee (the "Committee") was established by Resolution No. R25-195 of the City Commission of the City of Boynton Beach, Florida. This resolution authorized the formation of a five-member advisory committee to review and propose amendments to the City Charter. Members were appointed individually by the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Commissioners, representing a cross-section of professional experience and civic engagement.

The Committee was charged with:

1. Reviewing the existing City Charter;
2. Considering proposed amendments prepared by the City Attorney's Office; and
3. Recommending any additional modifications necessary to improve the Charter's clarity, function, and responsiveness to the public interest.

The Committee met regularly from August through October 2025 and received staff assistance from the City Attorney's Office and City Clerk's Office. All meetings were publicly noticed and conducted in accordance with the Florida Sunshine Law.

Based on its review, the Committee recommends adoption of the following proposed charter amendment:

Global Revisions and Technical Fixes

Throughout the Charter, redundant, outdated, or inconsistent language was corrected. Citations to state statutes were updated, and formatting was standardized. The Committee noted that these fixes do not substantively alter governance but improve readability and legal precision.

This broad ordinance updates multiple sections of the Charter—including Sections 8, 20, 23, 24, 40, 50, 52, 54, and 55—to modernize terminology, improve accessibility, and align notice procedures with current state law.

The amendment:

- Replaces gender-specific language (e.g., "he/his") with neutral terms throughout the Charter;
- Updates notice and publication requirements to comply with modern communication practices, allowing notices to be published electronically on the City's website as permitted by Florida Statutes;
- Clarifies the process for special meetings, elections, citizen initiatives, and referendums to align with current state election procedures; and
- Makes minor grammatical and formatting corrections to ensure consistency and readability.

Effect: This modernization package does not change the substance of City governance but aligns the Charter with contemporary standards of inclusivity, transparency, and statutory compliance, reducing ambiguity and improving public understanding.

How will this affect city programs or services? None

Budgeted Item: Yes

Account Line Item and Description: None

Fiscal Impact: None

Attachments:
Ord 25-041 Charter_Fixes_Throughout__002_ (1).docx
Agenda Item 3921-2025 Business Impact Statement - Charter Section 20.docx
Agenda Items 3917-3921 Charter Amendment Ordinances - Nov 4 Agenda.pptx