City of Boynton Beach
Agenda Item Request Form

Meeting Date: 11/18/2025

Proposed Ordinance No. 25-037- Second Reading, An Ordinance of the City of Boynton Beach, Florida, Submitting to Referendum an Amendment to the City Charter; Adding a Preamble to the City Charter to Establish the Foundational Purposes and Principles Of City Governance; 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. 25-037, at second 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:

Preamble Creation

The proposed Charter Preamble establishes the foundational purposes and guiding principles of the City of Boynton Beach's government. It provides an introductory statement expressing the City's core values and the intent behind its Charter provisions.

Specifically, the preamble:

- Affirms the City's commitment to protecting the general health, safety, and welfare of its residents;
- Expresses the principles of honest, efficient, and responsive governance as central to municipal operations; and
- Formally recognizes that the Charter is adopted pursuant to the Florida Constitution and state law, grounding the City's home rule authority in the broader framework of state government.

While the preamble does not create new powers or legal obligations, it serves an important symbolic and interpretive role—articulating the civic philosophy that underlies all sections of the Charter. It provides context for understanding the City's governmental structure, helps guide interpretation of the Charter in future legal or policy settings, and mirrors best practices in other Florida municipalities, including preambles to affirm their community values and purpose.

In short, the preamble frames the City Charter as a document dedicated to good governance, community wellbeing, and accountability to the people of Boynton Beach.

How will this affect city programs or services? None.

Budgeted Item: Yes

Account Line Item and Description: None.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Attachments:
Ord 25-037 Charter_Preamble (1).docx
Agenda Item 3917-2025 Business Impact Statement - Charter Preamble.docx
Agenda Items 3917-3921 Charter Amendment Ordinances - Nov 4 Agenda.pptx