

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE  
CITY OF WILDWOOD, FLORIDA

March 3, 2025 6:00 PM  
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM 124

(meeting taped)

**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Fountaine called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

**2. Proper Noticing**

City staff confirmed there was proper noticing for the meeting.

**3. Roll Call**

Attendee Name	Title	Status
David Fountaine	Chairperson	Present
Derrel Strickland	Vice Chairperson	Present
Andre Nacaxe	Voting Member	Present
Robin Caruthers	Voting Member	Absent
Keith Pearlman	Voting Member	Present
Joe Elliott	Ex-officio Member	Absent
Jenalys Otero	Non-Voting Member	Present
Emily Ruiz	Non-Voting Member	Present
Cassandra Smith	Assistant City Manager/CFO	Present
Madison Guinn	Executive Assistant	Present
Joshua Bills	City Attorney	Present

**4. Determination of a Quorum**

Chairperson Fountaine confirmed that a quorum was present.

**5. Comments from the General Public**

There were no members of the public present for the meeting.

**6. Presentations**

There were no presentations.

**7. Action Items**

**A. Minutes for approval: January 6, 2025 Charter Review Committee Meeting**

Chairperson Fountaine asked the Committee to review the minutes from the previous meeting held on January 6, 2025.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Passed</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Strickland

<b>SECONDER:</b>	Nacaxe
<b>AYES:</b>	Pearlman, Nacaxe, Strickland, Fountaine

**8. Discussion Items**

**A. Review of Article III of the City Charter**

The committee discussed the current at-large election system, in which five commissioners are elected by all city voters. Concerns about equitable representation due to the city's population growth prompted consideration of a district-based model. A proposed alternative featuring four single-member districts and one at-large elected mayor was examined. Historical context was provided regarding a similar proposal from 2015, which was ultimately rejected by voters. Committee members expressed interest in revisiting the model in light of current growth trends. The potential need for redistricting based on census data was discussed. The committee acknowledged the importance of adjusting district boundaries to reflect population changes while also recognizing the administrative and financial impacts of frequent redistricting. Additionally, the committee considered implementing residency requirements for commission candidates to ensure a minimum period of local residency. City Attorney Joshua Bills agreed to research the legal implications of establishing such requirements.

The current system of electing the mayor at-large was reviewed. A past proposal to have the commission select the mayor was referenced but noted to have been rejected by voters. The consensus among members was to retain direct public election of the mayor.

Related to this, the committee discussed potential residency requirements for the mayor and commissioners. City Attorney Bills will investigate whether legal constraints exist in implementing such provisions.

With some areas of the city experiencing rapid population growth, the need for periodic redistricting was emphasized. Tying boundary adjustments to the decennial U.S. Census was proposed. The committee agreed to seek input from the Supervisor of Elections regarding the feasibility, frequency, and costs of redistricting.

The committee reviewed current procedures for calling special meetings. Some members questioned whether the Charter should include a specified notice period. It was noted that state law already provides for public notice requirements. As no issues have arisen to date, the committee concluded that no Charter amendments are necessary in this area.

**B. Begin Review of Article IV of the City Charter**

The Committee did not begin their review of Article IV of the City Charter before the meeting concluded.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7 PM.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Passed
<b>MOVER:</b>	Strickland
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Nacaxe
<b>AYES:</b>	Pearlman, Nacaxe, Strickland, Fountaine

SEAL

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE  
CITY OF WILDWOOD, FLORIDA

Date: 6.14.2025

Chairperson: 