

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, CREATING A SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR MEMBERSHIP; PROVIDING FOR TERMS OF OFFICE; PROVIDING FOR DUTIES; PROVIDING FOR RULES OF PROCEDURE; PROVIDING FOR REPORTING RESPONSIBILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the City Charter authorizes the Board of Commissioners to appoint various boards and committees; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners is seeking a balanced approach in City planning and actions so as to achieve social, environmental, and financial vitality for the future of the City of Tarpon Springs; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners recognizes the economic benefits of sustainability measures to operational efficiency (ie. energy efficiency), the tourism economy (ie. cleaner coastlines & waterways), and overall community economic health (property value and business vitality); and wishes to encourage the growth of green jobs within the City of Tarpon Springs, as well as the adoption of sustainable practices by existing businesses~~appeal~~; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to promote the use of ~~practical~~ methods, systems and materials that are harmonious with land, water, energy natural resources and natural cycles; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency, conserve water, reduce waste, and ~~wherever practical~~ utilize environmentally responsible products and technologies; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to reduce the impacts of a changing climate, including sea-level rise, extreme rainfall, extreme heat events, droughts, flooding and storms, which threaten current community priorities, human wellbeing, property, infrastructure, and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to reduce rising sea levels, intense rainfall and other climatic stressors that will compromise crucial drainage infrastructure and drinking water supplies (through saltwater intrusion into rivers and the aquifer); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to lead by example as a green municipality and encourage sustainability as an integral part of the future development of the city; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to work cooperatively with leaders in the nonprofit and academic communities, the private sector, the Federal government, the State of Florida, regional entities, Pinellas County and local governments throughout Pinellas County and Central Florida in matters relating to sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to empower every resident of the city, regardless of social demographics or economic means, by informing city residents of practical and attainable ways to live sustainably; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to create a Sustainability Advisory Committee to assist in the development and implementation of a city-wide sustainability action plan; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to create a Sustainability Advisory Committee to advise and make recommendations to the City Commission that advance the intent of this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. Created. There is hereby created a Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Section 2. Number of members: composition. The Board of Commissioners shall initially appoint five (5) regular members and two (2) alternate members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Section 3. Appointment and terms of members.

- a) The Board of Commissioners shall designate one regular member and one alternate member to serve a one year term, two regular members and one alternate member to serve a two year term, and two regular members to serve a three year term. Committee members shall serve without compensation.
- b) Following the initial appointment of members of the Committee, the Board of Commissioners shall annually appoint persons to fill the positions of members whose terms have expired. Members of the Committee so appointed shall serve three year terms.
- c) Members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee serve at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners and may be removed from the Committee by the Board of Commissioners for any reason.
- d) If the position of a member becomes vacant for any reason, the Board of Commissioners shall appoint another person to serve the unexpired term of vacated position.
- e) No member shall serve more than a total of 6 years.

Section 4. Qualifications of members.

- a) Whenever possible the Board of Commissioners shall appoint members who have demonstrated expertise, training, education, interest, or experience in fields related to sustainability and the practical application thereof, such as: physical, biological, or health sciences, engineering, environmental law, environmental education, corporate responsibility, environmental science, energy management, environmental health and safety, sustainability communications, green building, land use planning, water conservation, resiliency planning, or other related fields.
- b) Members should not only have an interest in environmental stewardship and the future of the City, but should also be: open to alternate points of view, analytical and balanced thinkers, collaborative problem solvers, excellent communicators and flexible advisors at the direction of the Board of Commissioners and their assigned City staff.
- c) Members must meet the eligibility requirements of Section 8 of the City Charter, including being a resident of the City.
- d) City employees, elected City officials, members of other City Advisory Boards or Committees and appointed City officers may not serve as members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee, as provided by the City Charter.

Section 5. Duties of the Sustainability Advisory Committee. The Sustainability Advisory Committee shall serve at the direction of the Board of Commissioners to review and make recommendations to same regarding City sustainability and resiliency. The Board of Commissioners may regularly review and provide input and direction to the advisory committee to ensure the Board's priorities are being considered. Subject areas may include:

- a) Increasing energy efficiency, conserving water, reducing waste, protecting sensitive natural areas, reducing GHG emissions, utilizing environmentally responsible practices, products and technologies, potential for new green businesses and jobs.
- b) ~~Review and provide input on a~~ Participate in the development of a -city-wide sustainability action plan as prepared by and implemented by the City Manager and staff
- c) ~~Identify and prioritize structures and areas in the City most at risk from flooding and other aspects of climate change.~~
- d) ~~Present to BOC methods for protecting such structures and areas.~~
- c) Review and provide input on information for sustainable practices to be distributed to the public and businesses ~~by the City Manager and staff~~
- d) Compile and update City sustainability activities to date so as to maintain a current status of City progress in this area.

e) The Board of Commissioners, the City Manager, and/or the Committee may place items on the Committee agenda for discussion. Resulting actions and their implementation shall be approved in advance by the Board of Commissioners.

~~e)f) Perform such other duties and assignments as requested by the Board of Commissioners, a single commissioner, or a sustainability committee member, or city staff~~ or the City Manager.

Section 6. Duties of the City Manager and assigned staff. It is the desire of the Board of Commissioners that the Sustainability Advisory Committee be empowered and enabled to provide meaningful and practical advice and recommendations regarding sustainability matters.

- a) The City Manager or his/her designate is directed to provide such information, guidance, and assistance to the Sustainability Advisory Committee as is necessary for the Committee to accomplish its duties in accordance with Board of Commissioners direction.
- b) The City Manager or his/her designate shall act as liaison between the Board of Commissioners and the Committee.

Section 7. Election of officers; meetings.

- a) The Sustainability Advisory Committee shall annually, in January of each year, elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson.
- b) The Committee shall meet at a frequency of one time per month, or additionally as needed to accomplish the Committee's duties ~~additional meetings if approved by~~ ~~at the direction of~~ the Board of Commissioners. The days, times and places for such meetings will be as requested by the City Manager or his or her designate, as may be necessary to accomplish the Committee's duties.
- c) Any changes to established meeting days, times and locations must be pre-approved by the City Manager with proper public notice.
- d) Alternate members of the Committee, by order of seniority of appointment, shall sit in place of absent regular members of the Committee at meetings of the Committee.
- e) Alternate members of the Committee, unless sitting in place of an absent member, shall not vote on any matter, but may speak on any matter before the Committee.
- f) A quorum for the conduct of business shall be not less than three regular and alternate members of the Committee.
- g) A majority of the voting members of the Committee present at a meeting shall be necessary to make any determination required by the Committee.

h) Meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public and minutes shall be kept. A public record of the Committee's minutes and resolutions shall be maintained and made available for inspection by the public.

Section 8. Robert's Rules of Order. Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised, shall be used for procedural rules in the absence of the adoption of alternative procedures.

Section 9. Reports. The Committee shall, not less often than once a year, make a written report to the Board of Commissioners. The written report shall detail the accomplishments of the ~~Board of Commissioners as compared to recommendations made by the Sustainability Committee in the preceding year and the Committee's future projects and goals.~~ City's Sustainability initiatives and any other information requested by the Board of Commissioners. The report shall also include future recommended sustainability projects and goals. This report shall be submitted by March 31 of each year.

Section 10. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption.