

**NMB CHARTER REVIEW
QUERIES/ REQUESTS/ COMMENTS FOR CHANGES
SUBMITTED BY BOARD MEMBER NORMAN W. EDWARDS JUNE 2008**

**ARTICLE III ELECTIONS
SEC. 9 GENERAL ELECTION**

Proposed: Changing runoff election from one week to _____ following the General Election.

Purpose: Runoff election cannot be setup within one week from the General Election. Ballots need to be prepared; the form noticed to the community and candidates; and it requires more than one week.

Proposed: changing the date of the General Election to November coinciding with the Presidential or Florida Governor races (continuing to stagger) so that City elections are held every two (2) years.

Purpose: A goal of promoting greater voter turnout and participation.

Caveat: Various parts of charter must be changed to harmonize with the above change.

**ARTICLE IV POWERS
SEC. 21 ENUMERATED POWERS**

Proposed: An amendment to create, maintain, and limit Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) authority. To require any CRA to be a separate entity and agency from the City.

The CRA may keep within its designated borders whatever incremental tax increase is occasioned, if any, limited to up to a thirty (30) year period of its existence.

The CRA may borrow money or authorize bonds to assist its purpose of community redevelopment, including, investment in real estate.

To require that all CRA borrowing and debt of said CRA be entirely its own and that of the designated area and not be guaranteed; warranted; or backed by other funds; bonds; debt; mortgages; loans; grants; budgeted or unbudgeted amounts; or other forms of financial aid from the City. No funds shall be provided to the CRA from the City General Fund; Interest and Sinking Fund; or the Trust Fund. All contracts; bonds; and mortgages by the CRA shall clearly state on their face that the City is not responsible in the event of a default by the CRA.

Purpose: To encourage a given area to modernize through present redevelopment investment to be paid through the an incremental tax increase, if any, (from increased property value and thus increased property taxes) for a thirty (30) year period to be devoted to that CRA. It also seeks to limit investment by the City, as a whole, into speculative real estate given the history of volatility of the real estate market throughout Florida and the vulnerability of the City for CRA incurred debt.

ARTICLE V CITY COUNCIL

SEC. 26 COMPENSATION

Proposed: An amendment increasing the compensation of council members set in 1961 at \$200.00 to \$2000.00 ? per month in 2008.

Proposed: An amendment increasing the expense funds of \$1,200.00 annually payable only to the mayor to \$ _____ payable annually to all council members.

Purpose: To reflect an adjustment for inflation and the increased time needed for council members to study various proposals; regulations; and the increased complexity of the city.

Proposed: An amendment that members of the council who are eliminated by term limits shall receive \$ _____ per year as a pension.

Purpose: This provision seeks to attract better qualified office holders and to compensate them accordingly.

Proposed: An amendment adding that members of the City Council are authorized by vote of five (5) members of the Council to provide for themselves a health insurance policy or plan. Said insurance policy or plan shall be of equal cost and of the same type as those same policies or plans provided to the Classified Service employees as defined by Section 76 of this Charter.

Proposed: An amendment terminating any paid policy or plan of health insurance to a Council Member when a Council Member reaches age 65 and is eligible for Medicare, or whenever a Council Member is eligible for his or her employer's or his or her spouse's employer's health insurance policy or plan.

**ARTICLE V CITY COUNCIL
SEC. 28 PERSONNEL UNDER THE CITY MANAGER**

Proposed: An amendment adding that the City Council shall confirm heads of City Departments selected by the City Manager including the Chief of Police; Water Department; Planning and Zoning; Director of Finance; Personnel Director; Recreation Director; Public Utilities Director; _____; _____; _____.

Purpose: To have an active confirmation process of major personnel decision of the City Manager. This promotes the uninterrupted continuity of vital services provided by City departments.

Proposed: The City Council shall approve by a majority of five (5) members the creation of any new City Department.

**ARTICLE V CITY COUNCIL
NEW SECTION**

Proposed: The City Council shall review contracts of the City Manager, City Clerk, and City Attorney in June of each year.

Purpose: Elections are in May (Sec 9) Review to take place in June. Budget is in July (Sec 55, Sec 58).

Caveat: This proposal should be adjusted should the date of the elections be changed by the Charter Review.

ARTICLE VI
Sec. 32 TENURE

Proposal: Amendment that the City Managers contract shall not be for a period in excess of one year.

ARTICLE XIII DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL
SECTION 75

Proposed: Deleting---- Provided, however, a city manager and a department head who has served the City of NMB as such for a period of five (5) or more years at the time of any reappointment hereunder shall be reappointed for a term of two (2) years during the time he may be removed only for cause, notwithstanding the provisions of Section 32 of this Charter (cites omitted).

Purpose: The City Manager and any department head should be controlled by Section 32 requiring removal by majority vote of the City Council at any time. Too much control is otherwise vested in one person's hands without any ability for oversight.

ARTICLE XII DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL
NEW SECTION

Proposed: No person shall draw two (2) or more pensions from the city of NMB. No person shall draw a pension while continuing to work for the city of NMB.

Purpose: Cost savings through elimination of "double dip" pensions.

ARTICLE XX TRANSITION
SEC. 115 RESERVED (DELETED)
RE: TERM LIMITS OF COUNCIL

Proposed: Terms of Council members shall be limited to 10 ? (insert) years.

Purpose: This is to promote better accountability of elected officials; lessen chances for corruption; and is balanced with the need for experienced officials.