



September 11, 2018

***Madeira Beach Officials Host Charter Amendment Question & Answer Forum***

MADEIRA BEACH, FL – Officials from the City of Madeira Beach will host a public Question and Answer Forum at 6 p.m., Monday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> at Madeira Beach City Hall. The subject will be the proposed Charter amendments that will be decided by the voters during the General Election on November 6, 2018.

The Charter is a contract between the citizens and their government, which is sworn to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. It serves as the City’s constitution and can only be changed by the will of the people who exercise their right to vote. For the first time in 10-years this document and its provisions were reviewed, and amendments proposed. Charter amendments are passed by a plurality vote of the electorate, *not* a super majority or over 60%, as is required for amending the state constitution.

City Manager Jonathan Evans, City Clerk Clara VanBlargan, and City Attorney Ralf Brookes will review each one of the proposed amendments, explain their impact and answer questions from the audience. The proposed changes cover areas involving voting on development, powers of the City Manager, qualifications for the City Clerk and more.

“I continue to be impressed at the level of civic engagement by the citizens of Madeira Beach, said City Manager Jonathan Evans. “It will be a crowded ballot with national, state and municipal elections, and we just want to remind people about the importance deciding the future of your local government.”

A committee of volunteers spent months hosting public meetings and reviewing the existing Charter. From those discussions they proposed twenty-nine updates for the Charter to the Madeira Beach City Commission, which approved 10 proposed amendments to be placed on the Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> ballot.

For more information contact Curt Preisser, City of Madeira Beach Public Information Officer at 727-391-9951 x299 or [cpreisser@madeirabeachfl.gov](mailto:cpreisser@madeirabeachfl.gov).