



March 14 Election 5 Referendum Questions

On The Ballot March 14

- NO Election for Commission Seats
 - Roby DeReuil
 - Pat O'Hara
- Five Referendum Questions
 - Approval to Borrow Underground Utility Funds
 - Four Charter Questions

Underground Utility Question 1

“May the Town of Palm Beach Shores, Florida issue, in one or more series, not exceeding \$5,500,000 of general obligation bonds, bearing interest of not exceeding the legal rate and maturing not later than twenty years after the date(s) of issuance, to finance costs of undergrounding the electric, cable television and telephone utility facilities serving the Town and costs incidental thereto.”

_____ For Bonds

_____ Against Bonds

Underground Utility Benefits

- Reliability
 - Reduced likelihood of losing power from windstorms
- Safety
 - Foliage leads to Transformer fires
 - Downed lines are dangerous and can hinder power restoration
- Aesthetics
 - No Hardened Poles;
 - Transformers Can be Landscaped
- Likelihood of Town-wide Fiber Optic installation

Aesthetics



Underground Utility Downsides

- Construction Inconvenience
- Transformers Along Streets
- Possible Damage to Landscaping
- Expensive (Current estimate: \$4.3 million)
- Town Debt
- Storm Surge Risk
- “Call Before You Dig”

Underground Utilities

Where will we get the money for the loan payments?

Utility Consumption Tax

- Currently collecting 6% added to your Electric, Water and Gas bills. Increases to 10% starting April, 2017.
- That should generate around \$320,000/year
- Best Case: \$4.3 million project cost, 15 year loan, 3% interest rate: \$360,000/year
- Worst Case: \$5.5 million, 15 year loan, 3% interest rate: \$460,000/month
- Shortfalls from operating funds and ad valorem taxes

Underground Utilities

- Estimated Project cost is \$4.3 million. \$ 5.5 funding request includes contingency.
- FPL is contributing 25% of their project cost
- We will only borrow what we need. No more.
- Borrowed funds can only be used for this project.
- Resident UU Financing Workgroup
- Though the referendum language refers to bonds, that is legal terminology. We expect to actually obtain a bank loan for better terms, lower initiation costs and repayment flexibility.

What if it doesn't pass?

- The Undergrounding Project will likely be terminated.
- FPL will begin the process of hardening the poles in Town.
- We will have to continue to trim trees away from wires and transformers.
- This is our one chance to do this project. Once FPL hardens the poles and interest rates rise, it will be too expensive.

UU Referendum Question 1

Up to you, the voters, to decide whether the benefits of reliability, safety, and aesthetic improvements will justify the expense and obligating the Town to debt for the next 10-15 years.

Charter Referendum Questions 2-5

- The Charter is the Town's Constitution. It determines our governmental structure, roles, responsibilities, requirements and operating guidelines.
- Town should periodically review and update Charter
- Charter Review Committee recommendations
- Commission had a number of discussion workshops
- Individual Commissioners do not necessarily endorse all of the specific changes
- Four Items on March 14 ballot for Voter Consideration

Referendum Question 2

“Shall the Charter of Palm Beach Shores be amended to conform with State Law for recall of elected officials, and for use of referendum with zoning changes, and to update language throughout the document without altering substance?”

- The language throughout the document is revised to be gender neutral and to add clarity without changing the substance of the text.
- Items 3.18 (Removal of Elected Officials) and 9.1 (Height Referendum Requirement) conflict with State Law and should be modified.

Referendum Question 3

“Shall the Charter of Palm Beach Shores be amended to eliminate the office of Town Tax Collector, make the Town Manager a non-Officer employee, clarify and detail the Mayor’s overall authority, provide specific Mayor authority to fill a vacancy in an appointed position and prescribe residency requirements for Planning and Zoning service?”

Referendum Question 3

- 3.17 Mayoral Authority to fill a vacancy (temporary basis)
- 4.1 County Provides Tax Collector Function
- 4.2 Mayor duties further defined – Does not increase or change current authority of Mayor or Commission
- 4.6 Town Manager: Allows for a contract. Does not change Commission oversight or TM authority
- 4.7 Add 2 Yr Residency Requirement for P&Z Board

Referendum Question 4

“Shall the Charter of Palm Beach Shores be amended by clarifying the powers, authority and responsibilities of the Town Commission; by creating at-large Commission seats for election purposes; by prescribing residence requirements for eligibility to hold elected office; by adding flexibility to the date upon which the Town Commission may re-organize every year; and by defining the term “extended absence or disability” for purposes of a Commission seat vacancy?”

Referendum Question 4

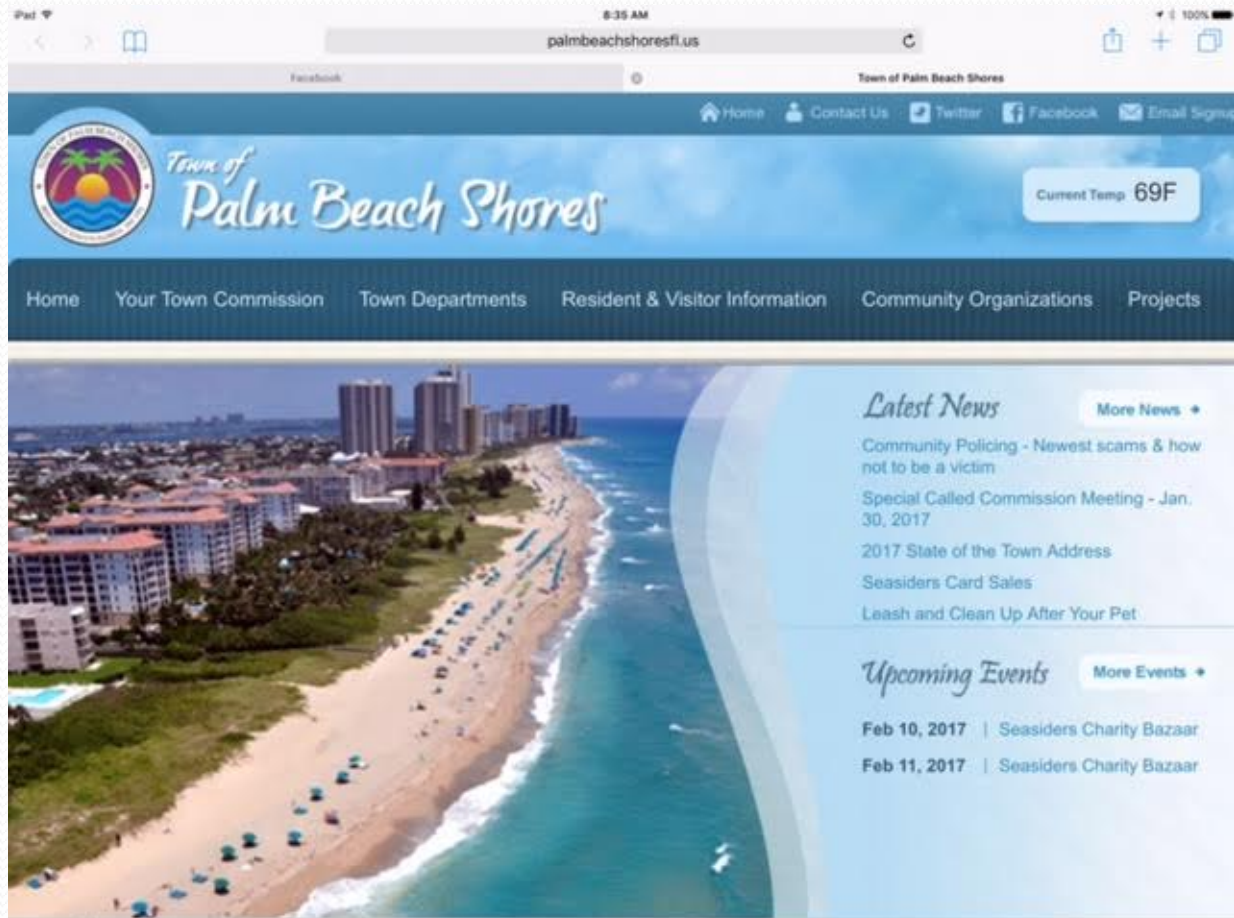
- 3.1 Town Commission powers added giving Commission authority to exercise any and all legal authority over the Mayor, staff, budgets, and policy to run the Town.
- 3.2 Add 2 year requirement to hold elected office
- 3.3 Proposal to Number Commission seats: Recommended to simplify election process and make it easier to challenge a particular Commissioner. 37 of 39 PBC municipalities have numbered seats.
- 3.7 Reorganization meeting changed to “next scheduled Commission meeting” to add flexibility in case of run-off or other delays
- 3.12 “Extended absence or disability” defined to 6 months or longer. No definition exists in current Charter.

Referendum Question 5

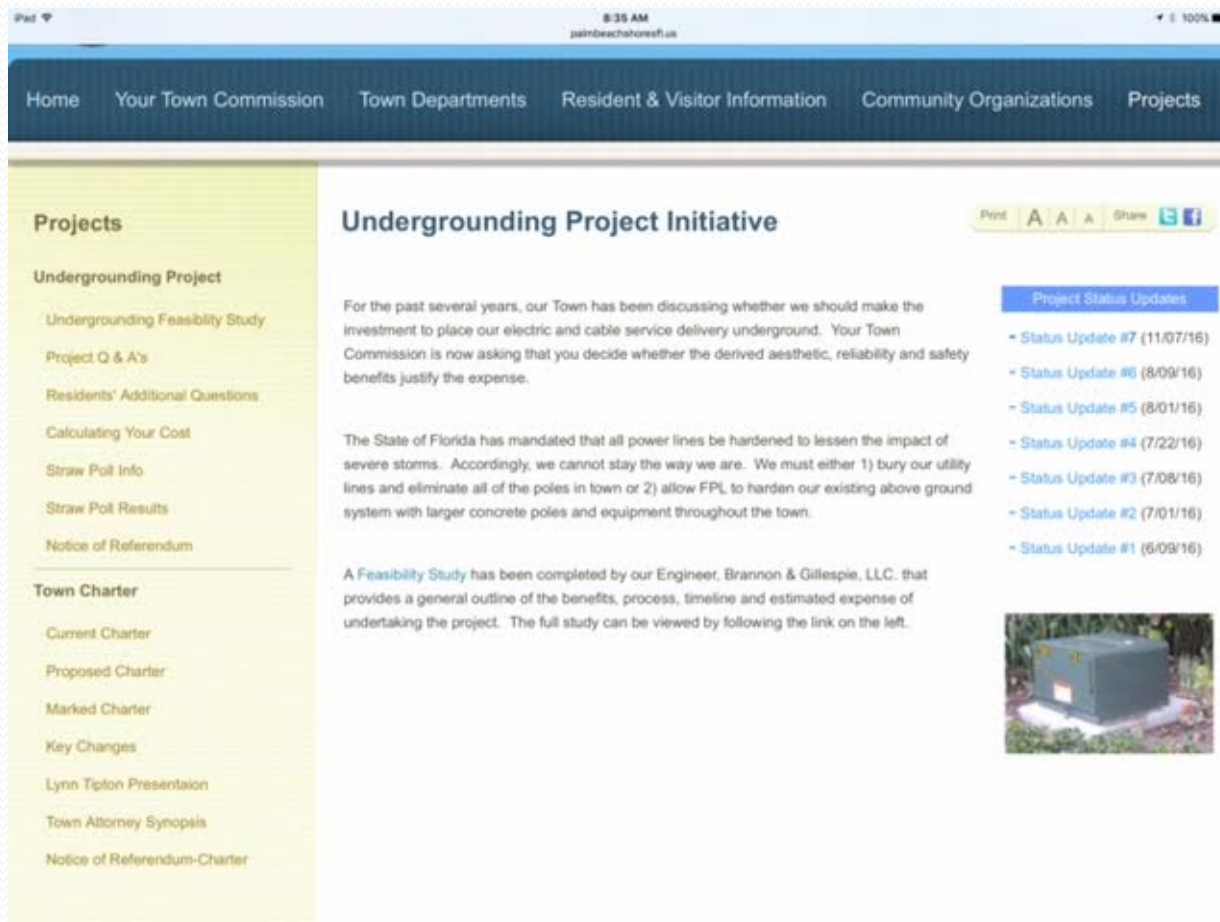
“Shall the Charter of Palm Beach Shores be amended to allow the Town Commission the option of providing remuneration to the Mayor and/or Commissioners by ordinance, which remuneration would not be effective for the Mayor or any Commission until their next term following the term during which such ordinance is adopted?”

- 3.13 Remuneration of Elected Officials is included to add flexibility for the future. Offset to following term designed to eliminate immediate benefit to electeds.

Website Information



Project Pages



Charter Markings Example

- Original Text: The term of office of the members of the town commission to be elected shall commence...
- Marked Up: The term of office of the elected members of the town commission ~~to be elected~~ shall commence....
- New Text: The term of office of the elected members of the town commission shall commence...

Vote March 14

1. Commission Seats were unopposed.
2. Underground Utilities Funding
3. Charter Cleanup; Compliance with State Law
4. Mayor and Town Officers
5. Town Commission Structure and Operations
6. Remuneration of Elected Officials

More Questions? Workshop Schedule