

**CHARTER REIVEW TASK FORCE**  
**Meeting Minutes – July 11, 2018 at 9:00 AM**  
**Courtyard Conference Room**

**Member Attendance:**

Tom Brandes (Chair)  
Mark Collier - Late  
John Fralich  
Rob Pell

**Council Members:**

Barry Eames  
Tyler Flaming  
Roy Lindsay

**City Liaison:**

Mark Bartholomew

**1. Roll Call**

**2. Review existing Charter and discuss potential changes.**

- Mark handed out packets with the City Charter and Model Charter as well as a list of cities where Councilors are compensated for their service.
- Mark shared some history on past Charter Review Committees beginning with 2012.
- Member Pell handed out his application and shared some ideas with the committee.
- Mark stated that it is good governance to review the Charters every so often.
- Mark said there is one portion of the Charter that is inconsistent with subsequently enacted state law, which is the annexation. The Charter requires City voters as a whole to approve the annexation. The ORS has been changed, saying, “Notwithstanding any element of a City Charter or local City regulation you cannot require a vote of the City as a whole for annexation”.
- Member Pell said we may want to postpone that discussion. Today is the day that an appeal on that ORS was scheduled. Both sides are quite certain that no matter how that appeal goes, it will be appealed to the Oregon Supreme Court.
- Mark said it is worth discussing regardless of any appeal.
- Member Pell said it is in the Charter now because the people of Grants Pass voted for it.
- Councilor Eames suggested determining what this Committee wants to do as far as organization and develop a plan or goal to accomplish it.
- Councilor Flaming suggested starting at the beginning of the Charter.
- Member Pell suggested taking the six points Mark identified and assign three to five cities to each member. Then have the members see how each city handled these points. Members can bring this back and discuss them with the Committee.
- Member Pell suggested to compare our Charter with the Model Charter and see where they differ.
- Councilor Lindsay said he is concerned about patterning our Charter after somebody else. He thinks it should be unique and be looked at from our perspective and what our needs are.
- Mark gave a presentation to Council regarding some of the differences in the model Charter and our Charter. He said there really are not a whole lot of differences. Some of those differences are the annexation and number of Councilors.
- Member Pell stated that another difference is who can hire and fire the City Attorney. Before 2012 the City Manager had complete control over hiring and firing the City Attorney in Grants Pass.
- Councilor Eames said he doesn't feel we have that problem here. He feels the Attorney works very well with the City Manager and the City Manager works very well with the City Council.

- Member Pell said a Charter must be viewed with a long range perspective that goes far beyond the personalities of current office holders or persons of influence.
- Councilor Flaming suggested starting with Marks list of six items today and then each member looking over the Charter and adding any concerns to the list for the Committee to review at the next meeting.
- Councilor Flaming stated that he and Councilor Lovelace asked other Councilors at League of Oregon Cities about stipend or benefits they are getting. We have a history of not being able to fill our Council. He asked if Council should get a stipend or some other remuneration.
- Discussion followed on compensation, term limits and how many Councilors to have.
- Everyone agreed there should be some compensation.
- Mark said they could have a Charter amendment that specifically says you get paid but leaves it open, you could have a Charter amendment that takes away the language that says you don't get paid in which case the Council can set it or you can have an amendment that says they get paid at a rate set by Council. All of those would open the door for payment.
- Member Pell suggested the Committee go out and talk to the public about these questions.
- Councilor Lindsay suggested that this Committee elect a chair to keep the meeting on track.

**MOTION/VOTE**

**Councilor Lindsay moved and Councilor Eames seconded the motion to elect a Chair for this Committee. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Councilors Eames, Flaming and Lindsay and Members Brandes, Collier, Fralich and Pell. "NAYS": None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.**

**The motion passed.**

**MOTION/VOTE**

**Councilor Lindsay moved and Councilor Eames seconded the motion to elect Member Brandes as Chair for this Committee. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Councilors Eames, Flaming and Lindsay and Members Brandes, Collier, Fralich and Pell. "NAYS": None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.**

**The motion passed.**

- Chair Brandes stated that this Committee talked about compensation for the Councilors. He asked for input on the number of Councilors elected, if the Mayor is a voting member and if Councilors should be elected from their Ward or at large.
- Discussion followed.
- Chair Brandes asked what the Committee feels about the amount of Councilors.
- Councilor Flaming would like to keep 8 Councilors and see if the stipend drives enough interest to keeps the number up. He still likes equal representation from each Ward.
- Councilor Eames feels we should have one from each Ward and three at large members.
- Discussion followed on representation from each Ward vs at large.
- Chair Brandes asked who wanted to agree to 8 Councilors. Member Fralich and Councilor Eames did not agree.
- Member Fralich said he would like to see 5 Councilors, one from each Ward and the Mayor.
- Councilor Eames stated that he would like to have an odd number on Council so ties don't happen.

- Chair Brandes asked if the Committee would like to meet every week or two. It was agreed to move the meetings to every two weeks, on the second and fourth Wednesday's of the month.
  - Chair Brandes asked if this would be sent to Council as a package or pieced out.
  - Mark suggested that we submit this as a package and get a yes or no vote.
  - Chair Brandes asked if the Mayor should be a voting member of the Council.
  - Discussion followed.
  - Chair Brandes asked if anyone read the Charter or the Model Charter. He asked the Committee to review the six questions, check with other cities and see how they run and then bring ideas back to the next meeting.
  - Mark said he would prefer to be here at every meeting. He suggested meeting again next month and then start every other week after that.
- 3. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting**
- Bring ideas back for next meeting on suggestions from other cities.
- 4. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

<b>Next meeting date:</b> August 8, 2018 at 9:00 am in the Courtyard Conference Room
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Minutes prepared by Dianne Phelan, City Administration.