



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of June 22, 2026

Title/Subject

Adoption of Resolution No. 2434 – Refer Amendments to the Charter to the November 3, 2026, election.

Summary and Background

The city council convened a charter review committee to review and propose amendments to the city charter. The charter review committee met in public meetings to review the 2015 City of Hermiston Charter and suggested multiple amendments that would bring the Charter into alignment with the Model Charter published by the League of Oregon Cities and also held a public meeting to receive public comment regarding the proposed amendments and then voted to recommend the amendments to the city council. The city council reviewed the recommendations over multiple open meetings and finds that the amendments to the charter will improve governmental efficiency and will meet present and future needs of the city. The amendments include:

- Changing the method of electing ward councilors from at large to elected by those electors within the ward boundary
- Removing the description of the ward boundaries from the charter to allow the wards to be adjusted by ordinance from time to time as needed to balance the population of the wards
- Changing the municipal court judge position from an elected role to an appointed role and removing the language related to an elected role throughout the charter
- Changing the selection of City Council President from every other year to every year
- Allowing any newly hired city manager up to 12 months from the date of their employment to establish residence in the city
- Clarifying that day-to-day supervision of the city attorney is the responsibility of the city manager
- Requiring the city charter to be reviewed every 10 years

- Making various language changes clarifications to better align the charter with the League of Oregon Cities Model Charter

Tie-In to Council Goals

N/A

Fiscal Information

N/A

Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2434 without modification.
2. Adopt Resolution No. 2434 with minor modifications.
3. Direct staff to make major changes to Resolution No. 2434 and return at a later date.

Recommended Action/Motion

Adopt Resolution No. 2434 without modification.

Submitted By:

Richard Tovey

Byron Smith