



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of April 27, 2026

Title/Subject

Review, Discussion and Next Steps of Charter Review Committee Results

Summary and Background

In late 2025, City Council adopted Resolution No. 2382 establishing a Charter Review Committee. The resolution appointed seven residents as committee members. It also directed the committee to review the complete charter and directed them to complete the review within 6-9 months and to hold one publicly advertised public hearing.

The Committee completed its work and held the public hearing on March 4, 2026. Below is a summary of the changes proposed by the Charter Review Committee broken into four general categories:

Elections and Candidates

- Moving the ward boundaries out of the charter but directing the city council to adopt ward boundaries by ordinance to keep them roughly equal in population.
- Changing the four ward councilor positions to be elected by the voters in their ward and not voters throughout the City.

City Council Roles

- Changing the municipal court judge position to be appointed rather than elected
- Changing the selection of the City Council president from every other year to every year.

City Manager Responsibilities

- Allowing any newly hired city manager up to 12 months from their date of employment to establish residence within the city.
- Clarifying that day-to-day supervision of the city attorney is the responsibility of the city manager.

City Charter Maintenance

- Requiring the City Charter to be formally reviewed at least once every 10 years.
- Making various language clarifications to better align the charter with the League of Oregon Cities Model Charter.

Tie-In to Council Goals

Good governance: Evaluate core governing documents and processes

Action 4.2

Fiscal Information

N/A

Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

1. Direct staff to prepare necessary documents to place the proposed charter amendments on the November 2026 ballot as presented.
2. Direct staff to make specific edits and place those proposed charter amendments on the November 2026 ballot as presented.
3. Direct staff to reconvene the charter review committee to review other changes and have the committee resubmit a recommendation.

Recommended Action/Motion

Motion to direct staff to prepare necessary documents to place the proposed charter amendments on the November 2026 ballot as presented.

Submitted By:

Byron D. Smith