



Charter Review Committee Minutes

October 15, 2025

Chair Dave Drotzmann called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Committee members in attendance included: Val Hoxie, Rod Hardin, Kyndra Stone, Paul Wolverton, Karyn Jones, and Monique Brandley. Also present was Mayor Doug Primmer as Council representative, and staff to include: City Manager Byron Smith, City Attorney Rich Tovey, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong.

Introductions

Committee members and staff in attendance introduced themselves and members shared why they wanted to be involved in the Charter Review Process.

Mayor Primmer thanked the Committee for their involvement in this very important process.

Review Expectations of the Charter Review Committee

Dave, Doug, and Lilly spoke regarding: attending meetings when scheduled, public retention and disclosure requirements, open and serial meeting laws for members to be aware of.

Review Charter

Byron presented and reviewed the 2015 Adopted City Charter (PowerPoint Presentation attached), and emphasized the specific recommendations the Council asks that the Committee evaluate, to include:

- Geographic representation on the Council,
- Ward boundary adjustments,
- The process for adopting ordinances,
- The hiring and supervision of the city attorney,
- The selection method for the municipal court judge, and
- The necessity of a city manager residency requirement

Byron stated tonight's meeting was intended to give a brief overview of the entire Charter and answer questions; then, take a deep dive into each section of the Charter at each future meeting until the Committee has completed their review and is ready to give their recommendations to Council.

Committee members asked for the following:

- At the next meeting
 - The Charter to be printed for each Committee member
 - A population/ward density map be prepared and presented
- At a future meeting
 - City Planner Clint Spencer present information on ward boundaries
 - Municipal Court Judge Cameron Bendixsen attend a meeting

Byron stated he will also be asking the League of Oregon Cities Executive Director Patty Mulvihill to attend a future meeting to present information as well.



Charter Review Committee Minutes

October 15, 2025

Elect a Vice Chair

Kyndra volunteered and moved to be elected Vice Chair of the Committee, Paul seconded; motion carried unanimously with Members Dave, Val, Rod, Kyndra, Paul, Karyn, and Monique in favor.

Schedule the Next Committee Meeting

The Committee agreed that meeting twice per month was necessary while taking into consideration the holiday season which could change their meeting schedule to once per month during this time frame. The next Committee Meeting will be Wednesday, November 12th at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Other

No other items were presented or discussed.

Public Comment

None present.

The Committee asked if public comments could be allowed at any other time during the meeting, City Manager Smith stated yes.

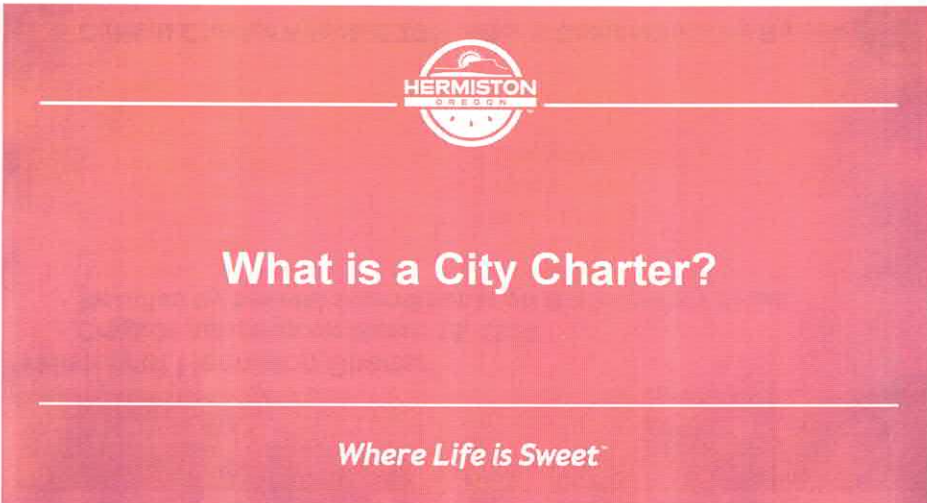
Adjournment

There was no other business and Chair Drotzmann adjourned the meeting at 6:18pm.



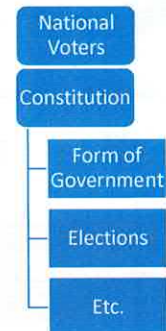
Outline

- What is a Charter?
- Review Expectations – Res. 2382
- Review Charter

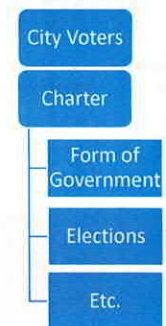


Charter Review

United States



City of Hermiston

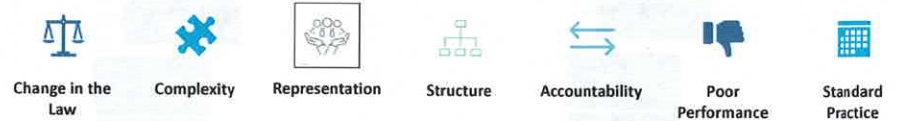


Charter Review

- History of Hermiston Charter
 - Original Adoption on March 15, 1910
 - Modified by several amendments on the following dates:
 - January 24, 1943
 - July 26, 1965
 - May 24, 1966
 - April 3, 1967
 - October 14, 1970
 - March 2, 1976
 - March 8, 1977
 - December 20, 1977
 - November 2, 1982
 - November 8, 1960
 - May 1, 1959
 - May 18, 1956
 - May 18, 1999
 - November 2, 1954
 - Current Charter Adopted 2015 After a Comprehensive Review



Why Charter Review?



Adopted Council Goal
10 Year's Since Adoption
Review ≠ Change



Charter Review Process

- Review Committee
 - David Drotzmann, Chair
 - Monique Brandley
 - Karyn Jones
 - Paul Wolverton
 - Kyndra Stone
 - Rod Hardin
 - Val Hoxie
- Look at the whole charter
- Recommendations to Council
- Potential Ballot Measure



Resolution 2382

- Review the entire Charter
- Specific Sections to Review
 - Geographic representation for Council Members
 - Ward Boundary Adjustment
 - Elected/Appointed Municipal Judge
 - City Manager Residency Requirement
 - Ordinance Adoption Process
 - City Attorney Supervision/Hiring





QUESTIONS??

Where Life is Sweet™