



CITY COUNCIL

Work Session Meeting Minutes July 14, 2025

Council President McCarthy called the work session meeting to order at 6:00pm. Present were Councilors Roberts, Duron, Linton, Kelso, and Barron. Mayor Primmer and Councilors Hayward and Myers were excused. City Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, City Attorney Rich Tovey, Finance Director Ignacio Palacios, Chief Jason Edmiston, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong.

City Charter Review

City Manager Smith gave information (PowerPoint Presentation attached) regarding the City Charter, stating the City Charter is like the Constitution of the City, it is the People's Document as electors vote on all items in the Charter; reviewed Hermiston's Charter History, when adopted and modified; why a charter review is needed and necessary to keep up with changing times and circumstances; staff recommended specific Charter areas to consider, ie: Ward Boundaries, Council Structure/Ward Election Procedures, Ordinance Adoption Procedure, Municipal Judge Election, City Manager Residency, and City Attorney Hiring, as well as recommendations to assemble a seven member Charter Review Committee to review these items and the entire Charter document, and spoke regarding the importance of local government.

City Manager Smith addressed questions from the Council stating:

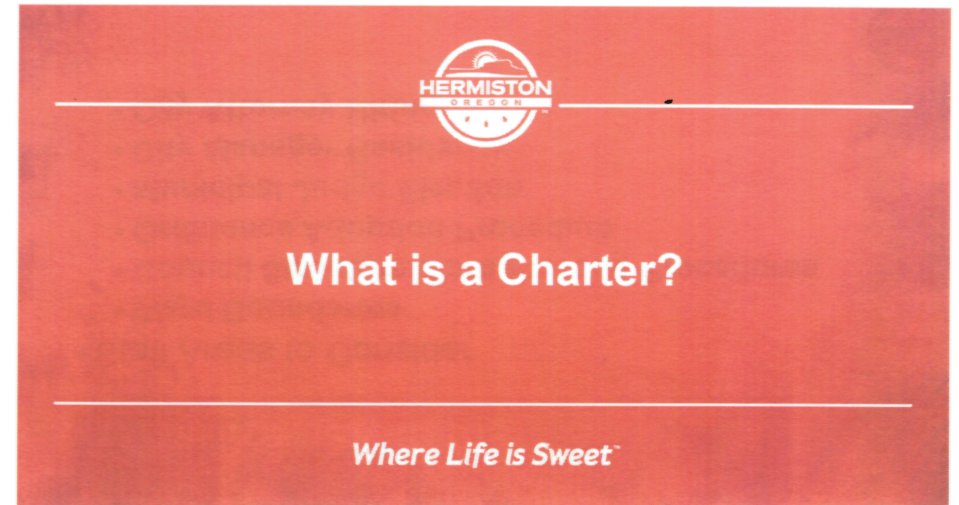
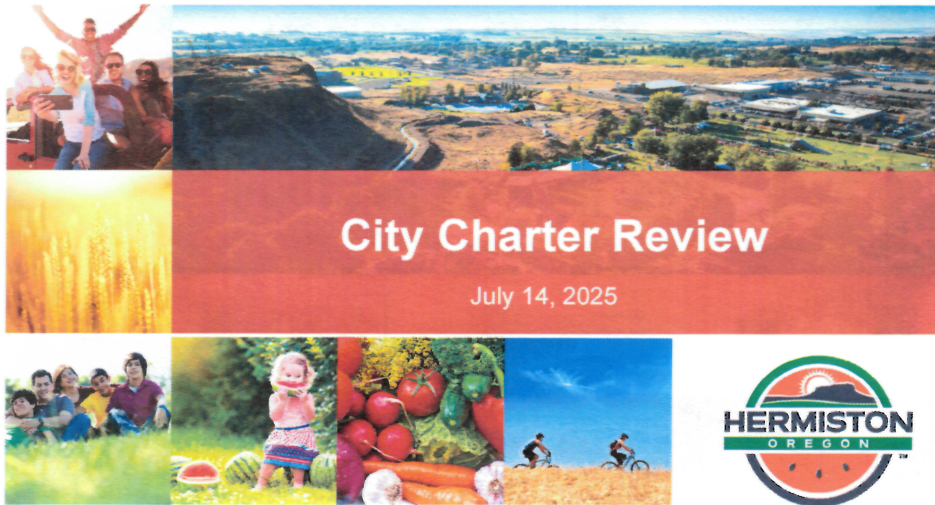
- Current ward boundaries have been unequal in population as development continues to grow
- Does not believe changing ward boundaries will increase persons running for office
- Allowing all electors to vote for ward candidates can have legal implications as the city of Pasco, Washington recently went through this scenario
- Low costs associated with doing this review in-house with members of the public and staff support

The Council also spoke regarding Umatilla County having the lowest voter turnout in the State, providing more education on the election and city processes to try to get more people interested and involved, support for the Charter Review Committee, and having the Mayor appoint himself or a member of the Council to be a Council liaison.

City Manager Smith stated he will present the Council with a resolution incorporating the items discussed for Council review and adoption at the next City Council meeting.

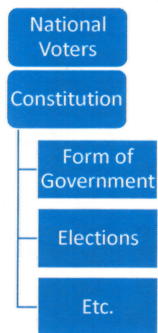
Adjournment

Council President McCarthy adjourned the work session meeting at 6:31pm and stated the regular council meeting would convene at 7:00pm.

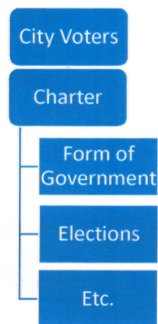


Charter Review

United States



City of Hermiston



Charter Review

Municipal Home Rule

The journey of a local government is one fraught with challenges and achievements, successes and failures, risks and rewards. One of the most interesting things about local governments is the flexibility they have in forging their own paths. Within some constraints set by state law, municipal governments create their own futures through the decisions made by citizens and local elected officials. One important way that a local government controls its own destiny is through its charter.



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**



Why Charter Review?

Where Life is Sweet™

Charter Review



Change in the Law



Complexity



Representation



Structure



Accountability



Poor Performance



Standard Practice

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



Charter Review Items

- Staff Areas to Consider
 - **Ward Boundaries**
 - **Council Structure/Ward Election Procedures**
 - **Ordinance Adoption Procedure**
 - **Municipal Judge Election**
 - **City Manager Residency**
 - **City Attorney Hiring**



Charter Review Process

- 2015 – A Council Driven Process
- National Civic League/League of Oregon Cities
- Staff Recommendation
 - **Seven-member charter review committee with the assistance of City Staff (manager, attorney, recorder)**
 - **Recommendation to Council for Final Review and Possible Referral to Ballot**



Charter Review

Of all levels of government, local government is by far the most common point of contact for the average citizen. In fact, it is difficult to imagine any important aspect of American life that is insulated from the influence of local government. An individual may interact with federal or state agencies a handful of times in an entire lifetime, but he or she will interact with local government employees on a much more frequent basis—while speaking to a police officer, paying a water bill or greeting the people who have come to collect the garbage.



DISCUSSION!

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