



# Charter Review Committee Minutes

November 12, 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.

## Meeting Minutes

Rod moved and Kyndra seconded to approve the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously with Members Dave, Val, Rod, Kyndra, Paul, Karyn, and Monique in favor.

## Review Charter Chapters 1-3

Byron presented and reviewed Chapters 1-3 of the 2015 Adopted City Charter with the Committee. The Committee agreed that the following should be included in recommended changes to the Council- new language will be identified in red and underlined - language removed will be in ~~red and crossed out~~ in the 2027 Proposed Charter Amendments:

1. PREAMBLE
  - a. No changes recommended
2. Chapter I, NAMES AND BOUNDARIES
  - a. No changes recommended
3. Chapter II, POWERS
  - a. Section 5. Construction
    - i. Add language from the 2018 League of Oregon Cities Model Charter for Oregon Cities under Section II POWERS, Section 2.2 Construction.
4. Chapter III, COUNCIL
  - a. Section 7. Council
    - i. Byron gave information regarding possibly changing the way electors vote for ward council candidates, stating the City of Pasco, Washington recently underwent a legal battle as their Charter was the same as Hermiston's- allowing all electors in the city to vote for ward council candidates instead of only allowing ward electors to vote for the councilor in their ward. The Committee discussed possibly changing the language on who should be allowed to vote for ward council candidates vs at-large council candidates. Byron stated the Committee will be discussing this in further detail during review of Chapter VII, ELECTIONS.
    - ii. Remove language.
  - b. Section 8. Council Wards
    - i. The Committee reviewed existing and conceptual ward boundary maps (attached) detailing specific populations in each ward and asked that multiple conceptual ward boundary maps be created and presented to the Committee at another meeting stating they would like to see cleaner simplified ward lines with some flexibility keeping each ward population within 2-3% of each other.
    - ii. Adding more specific language to the last paragraph/sentence addressing extending ward boundary lines though annexation.



# Charter Review Committee Minutes

November 12, 2025

- iii. Per Rich's recommendation, the Committee agreed to add language allowing ward boundary lines to change by Ordinance with data received by the Census.
- c. Section 10. Council President
  - i. Remove language.
- d. Section 12. Meetings
  - i. The Committee asked staff to add legal terms from open meeting laws.

## **Schedule Next Committee Meeting**

Byron gave the Committee various dates the League of Oregon Cities Executive Director, Patty Mulvihill, would be able to attend a future meeting to present information. The Committee discussed possible meeting dates and agreed to meet on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30pm and Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at City Hall. Patty will be present at the January meeting.

## **Public Comment**

None given.

## **Adjournment**

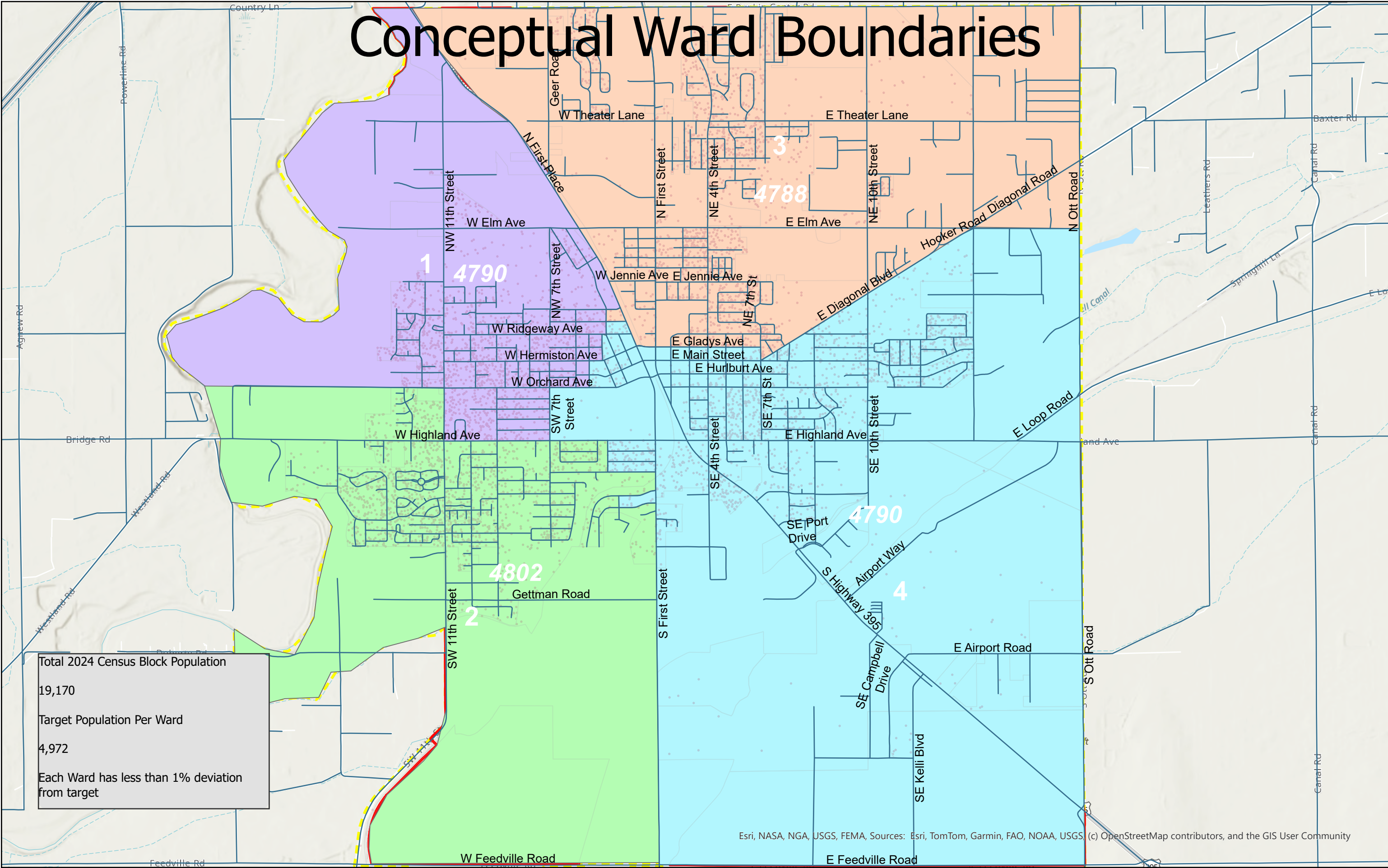
There was no other business and Chair Drotzmann adjourned the meeting at 6:37pm.

**Existing Ward Boundaries**

Ward	Households
Ward I	4,241
Ward II	7,423
Ward III	5,287
Ward IV	4,965



# Conceptual Ward Boundaries



Total 2024 Census Block Population  
19,170  
Target Population Per Ward  
4,972  
Each Ward has less than 1% deviation  
from target