

**From:** [Craig Ziegenhagel](#)  
Testimony/Proposed Charter Amendments  
**Subject:** Thursday, April 8, 2021 11:14:43 AM  
**Date:**

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## City Charter Proposed Amendments

### City Hall

"NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Section 25 of the Millersburg City Charter, that public hearings concerning the following proposed amendments to the City of Millersburg Charter will be held during the April 13, 2021 and May 11, 2021 City Council meetings."

### **This is my formal Written Testimony for the Public Hearings regarding proposed Charter Amendments.**

I have no issue with the proposed Amendments. That said, over the last 4-6 years other Amendments have been discussed both informally, by the Public and brought up in Council Meetings. It was said that, though not a priority at the time that they would be considered in the future as the Charter was Amended for other reasons. Since Amendments are being proposed, I bring up this topic as a reminder. It is time that term limits and Voting for the Mayor by the Public be added to our City Charter. This would create fairness and more opportunities for others in our Community to serve.

### **The Council should also Amend the Charter to include:**

- Mayor to be Elected by the Voters (not appointed by the Council) \* *and* \*\*
- Term Limits for Council Members \*\*
- Term Limits for Committee Appointments \*\*

-In addition to Charter Amendments the City should develop a **Employee Policy** that strictly prohibits "Electioneering" by ANY City Employee. Violation of said policy would result in termination. This has been an issue in the past and the City Attorney is aware of it. \*\*\*

**Here is just an example of a possible change/submitted before to the City:**

**Millersburg Oregon**

**Proposed Charter Change**  
**Term Limits & Residency - City Council**

*Currently there are no term limits for any of the Council positions. There is also no requirement to maintain residency. This proposal is as follows:*

1. City Counselors must maintain their permanent residence within the confines of the City of Millersburg City Boundaries throughout their term of service.
2. Council positions will be designated as follows; Position #1 is also the Mayor, followed by; Positions 2, 3, 4 and 5.
3. Term Limits. Counselors shall be elected to and shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive, four (4) year terms in office. A total of eight (8) consecutive years. In the event a counselor is appointed to a term due to a vacancy, if that vacant term is less than 50% completed, then that term shall count as one full term in office. If the vacant term is greater than 50% completed, that partial term will not be counted for the purpose of term limits.
4. In the event that a counselor has completed their two consecutive four year terms in office and no one runs for that council position, then the counselor may remain in that position until the next 4 year election cycle if they so choose/again run for Office for another term. If they chose not to remain, then the City Council shall appoint a resident to the position.
5. Current terms of service would count during the implementation process of this Charter Change.

**Term Limits & Residency - Voting of Mayor**

1. The Mayor must maintain his/her permanent residence within the confines of the City of Millersburg City Boundaries throughout their term of service.
2. The Mayor position is also a City Council Member who upon election by the people of Millersburg acts as the Mayor of the City of Millersburg. This shall be designated as Council Position #1-Mayor. The Mayor will be voted on by the residents at and upon the designated election sequence. *Mayor is no longer appointed by City Council*
3. Term Limits. The Mayor-Council position shall be elected to and shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive four (4) year terms in office. A total of eight (8) consecutive years. In the event a Mayor is appointed to a term due to a vacancy, that partial term will not be counted for the purpose of term limits. A person could serve two (2) terms as a Council Member and two (2) terms as Mayor.
4. In the event a Mayor can no longer full fill the duties of the Office, the City Council Members shall by majority vote appoint another Council Member to serve out the remainder of that term.
5. Current terms of service would count during the implementation process of this Charter Change. ---end---

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The above example covers any concern where a “termed out” Counselor could still run for further terms when no one ran for the Council Position (thus not leaving a

position vacant and allowing the current termed out Counselor to run and serve beyond the term limits).

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**Proposed Policy and/or Charter Amendment regarding Committee Positions  
(example):**

**Proposed Policy**  
**Volunteer Citizen's on Committees and Commissions**  
**(Budget, Planning, other)**  
**Term Limits - Residency**

1. Any resident of the City of Millersburg that holds a volunteer citizen position on any committee or commission must maintain their permanent residence within the confines of the City of Millersburg City Boundaries throughout their term of service.
2. Must have been a permanent resident of the City for one continuous year prior to appointment.
3. Must not be related to any City employee.
4. Must maintain adequate attendance or shall be removed and replaced by another citizen willing to serve.
5. Term Limit. Those serving on such committees will serve for one (1) term of six (6) years. *Or two, three year terms.* In the event that after the term is fulfilled and no one is interested in the position, then the member may remain for another term of service.

After a break of two years, the citizen can re-apply to serve another term. Terms cannot be consecutive.

6. In the event a citizen is appointed to a term due to a vacancy, that partial term will not be counted for the purpose of term limits.
7. A citizen volunteer can serve on no more than two separate committees at the same time.
8. Upon policy implementation, any current member who has served 6 or more years already, may serve 6 more months and then be replaced, if there is an interested citizen. – end--

Respectfully Submitted by email on 4-8-21:  
Craig Ziegenhagel  
Millersburg Resident

**Footnotes:**

\*: Mayor Lepin stated in the past he would entertain this Amendment.

\*\* : Councilor McPhee and Former Councilor Don Miller ran for Office on a platform of these Charter Amendments.

\*\*\* Electioneering: “Restrictions on Political Campaigning by Public Employees - ORS 260.432”