



CITY OF SWEET HOME CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 27, 2020, 5:00 PM
Sweet Home City Hall, 3225 Main Street
Sweet Home, OR 97386

WIFI Passcode: guestwifi

PLEASE silence all cell phones – Anyone who wishes to speak, please sign in.

Mission Statement

The City of Sweet Home will work to build an economically strong community with an efficient and effective local government that will provide infrastructure and essential services to the citizens we serve. As efficient stewards of the valuable assets available, we will be responsive to the community while planning and preparing for the future.

Meeting Information

The Charter Review Committee will hold their first meeting to review the Sweet Home Charter. To view the meeting live, online visit live.sweethomeor.gov. If you don't have access to the internet you can call in to 541-367-5128 and you'll be asked to choose option #1 to be logged in to the call.

This video stream and call in options are allowed under Council Rules, meet the requirements for Oregon public meeting law, and has been approved by the Mayor and Chairperson of the meeting.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Present were: Councilor Dave Trask, President Pro-Tem Diane Gerson, Tim McQueary (Phone), Dave Holley, Robert Briana, and David Lowman.

Absent: Lisa Willson.

Staff Present: City Manager Pro Tem Blair Larsen, Finance Director Brandon Neish, City Attorney Robert Snyder, Public Works Director Greg Springman.

New Business:

President Pro-Tem Gerson stated that tonight's meeting was to examine Chapters one through four. She asked what kind of format the committee would like to follow—chapters, sections, or one of the other formats used by other cities, and whether the City should include a preamble. The consensus of the committee was that a long preamble wasn't really necessary, but some sort of introduction is a good idea.

No questions came up for Chapter 1.

Chapter 2: President Pro-Tem Gerson asked about the election of the office of Mayor, and whether any changes should be made. David Lowman said that the people he has spoken to stated that they would like to vote directly for the mayor rather than have the Council elect the mayor. Mr. Holley stated that if the Mayor was elected directly by the people, he would like the mayor to be a voting member of the Council. Mr. Snyder said that the current system results in a mayor who is already an experienced

The location of the meeting is accessible to the disabled. If you have a disability that requires accommodation, advanced notice is requested by notifying the City Manager's Office at 541-367-8969.

member of the Council. Councilor Trask voiced support for the current method of electing the mayor, which resulted in an experienced mayor. The committee discussed sending out surveys or questionnaires.

President Pro Tem Gerson said that she thought the Charter should state that the City has a Council-Manager form of government. She asked about the provision that the City Manager appoint a Treasurer, when the City has a Finance Director, and asked if it could be changed to simply state that the City Manager appoints city officers as deemed necessary by the Council. The consensus was to keep the term "treasurer."

Chapter 3: The committee discussed qualifications for City Councilors.

Chapter 4: Mr. Holley said that sometimes the Council takes too long to act on repeated absences by individual Councilors. The committee discussed absences and whether there should be an effect on stipends. President Pro Tem Gerson asked if the term "absence" needed to be defined, and the committee discussed the matter. President Pro Tem Gerson suggested that the committee research that matter before the next meeting. She also stated that the Charter needs to be reader friendly.

President Pro Tem Gerson said that the next meeting will involve discussion of Chapters 5 and 6.

The next meeting was set for November 17th at 5:00 PM.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 PM.

Committee Co-Chair Gerson

Committee Co-Chair Trask