



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Request for Council Action – Resolution No. 4 for 2026 – Referring a Charter Amendment to the Electors of the City & Adopting a Ballot Title & Explanatory Statement

Preferred Agenda: March 10, 2026

Submitted By: Cecily Hope Pretty, Deputy City Manager

Reviewed By: Jason Ogden, City Manager
Blair Larsen, City Attorney

Type of Action: Resolution Motion Roll Call Other

Relevant Code/Policy: Sweet Home Charter

Towards Council Goal: N/A

Attachments: Resolution No. 4 for 2025 – Referring a Charter Amendment to the Ballot
Sweet Home Charter – Proposed Markup Version
Sweet Home Charter – Proposed Clean Version
Sweet Home Charter – Current Version (May 2025)

Purpose of this RCA:

To present a potential Charter Amendment Referral that, if passed by the voters of the City of Sweet Home, would include several changes to all sections of the Sweet Home Charter.

Background/Context:

Mayor Susan Coleman appointed a Charter Review Committee in January 2025 to review the Sweet Home Charter and determine if any changes were recommended. The Committee met regularly in open meetings between April and October 2025 to develop recommendations and receive public input and finalized its recommendations on October 7, 2025. The City Council considered the recommendations during two Work Sessions held on December 9, 2025 and January 27, 2026, resulting in the proposed changes outlined in the attachments to this RCA.

The Challenge/Problem:

In order to meet the deadlines imposed by the applicable State statutes, a Resolution referring the matter to the voters at the May 19, 2026, election must be passed by the City Council and referred to Linn County no later than March 18, 2026.

Issues and Financial Impacts:

Measures referred to the ballot for the May or November elections in even years will incur no additional costs to the City.

Elements of a Stable Solution:

A stable solution is one that complies with State law and implements the will of the Council and Sweet Home Citizens.

Options:

1. Do nothing: No measure will be referred to voters for the May 2026 election.
2. Move to approve Resolution No. 4 for 2026 as proposed: Staff will move forward with the process to place the proposed Charter amendments on the May 2026 ballot.
3. Move to approve Resolution No. 4 for 2026 with amendments: Direct staff to place modified Charter amendments on the May 2026 ballot.

Recommendation:

Staff recommend option 2: Move to approve Resolution No. 4 for 2026 as proposed.