

June 5, 2024 City Charter Review Committee Meeting

Meeting minutes

Call to Order

The meeting of the City Charter Review Committee was called to order with four members present, establishing a quorum. David Robinson joined the meeting shortly after it began and assumed the role of chair.

Continue review of the Toledo City Charter

The committee continued its review of the city charter, focusing on miscellaneous provisions. The discussion began with compensation for council members and mayor.

Doug provided an example from the City of Union regarding how they structured their council compensation. In Union's system, council members are paid per meeting attended rather than receiving quarterly stipends regardless of attendance. The committee discussed how Union had structured their compensation to incentivize participation, including docking pay for non-attendance at budget committee meetings.

The committee explored several approaches to establishing compensation:

- Creating a compensation committee composed of budget committee citizen members
- Paying council members based on participation rather than automatically
- Ensuring that removed councilors forfeit any remaining compensation
- Potentially having the mayor and council president participate in compensation discussions but not vote on compensation

Mike and David noted they needed to research the legal issues regarding Oregon Government Ethics Commission rules and potential conflicts of interest when council members vote on their own compensation. The committee reviewed examples from other cities including Tigard, Newberg, and Bend to understand how they structured compensation in their charters.

The committee discussed the possibility of adding designated positions to the council structure, rather than continuing with the current at-large system where candidates with the most votes are elected. Members noted several advantages to having numbered positions:

- It would allow citizens to run against specific councilors rather than just being part of a general pool
- It could provide a more organized framework for elections
- It would still maintain at-large representation while providing structure

Lisa presented her work on compiling a draft charter based on the committee's discussions to date. The committee reviewed the structure and content of the draft, including:

- The preamble with mission statement
- Chapter organization
- Language regarding ordinance adoption requiring unanimous approval

The committee scheduled two additional meetings: Wednesday, June 12 at 10:00 AM and Tuesday, June 18 at 10:00 AM to finalize the charter review before presenting it to the City Council. The deadline for finalizing the charter to be placed on the November ballot is approaching, requiring City Council review in July.

New business

No new business was discussed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Mayor Pro-Tem Tracy Mix

City Recorder Paul Johnson

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