

June 12, 2024 City Charter Review Committee Meeting

Meeting minutes

Call to Order

None was recorded

Continue review of the Toledo City Charter

The Charter Review Committee continued its review of the Toledo City Charter. The main focus of this meeting was discussing how to handle compensation for city council members and the mayor in the updated charter.

The committee began by addressing when compensation would take effect after being approved by voters. They discussed the complexity of timing, as elections for council positions are staggered. The committee wanted to ensure that compensation would only take effect after current council members' terms had expired, to avoid ethical concerns about voting for their own pay increases.

There was substantial debate about the language for this provision. The committee examined charter language from the city of Bend, which had successfully implemented council compensation. They discussed replacing the phrase "next intervening election" with clearer language such as "after each councilor's current term has expired" to avoid confusion.

The committee discussed two primary approaches for implementing compensation:

1. Setting specific compensation amounts directly in the charter
2. Establishing a process for council to set compensation by ordinance after the charter is approved

David Robinson noted that the Oregon Government Ethics Commission had previously provided guidance to Bend on this issue. The committee reviewed Bend's approach, which included setting initial compensation in the charter and then allowing future changes by ordinance based on recommendations from an independent advisory committee.

Several committee members expressed concern about public perception if compensation was implemented immediately after charter approval. Lisa suggested waiting until the 2025-26 fiscal year budget cycle to begin payments, which would allow the finance officer time to properly budget for these expenses and would demonstrate to the community that the council wasn't rushing to pay themselves.

The committee discussed various compensation amounts, with suggestions ranging from \$200-\$1000 per month for councilors. Some members advocated for tiered compensation

with the mayor receiving more than regular councilors, and potentially the council president receiving an amount between those two figures. The committee decided to ask Amanda (finance officer) to provide parameters on what would be financially feasible before finalizing specific amounts.

The committee also briefly discussed including provisions that would allow councilors to decline compensation if they chose to do so, and potentially implementing attendance requirements for receiving the stipend.

Regarding the charter document review, Lisa Figueroa presented the draft charter document and the committee reviewed several sections, focusing specifically on sections related to council rules, quorums, and voting requirements. There was discussion about clarifying the definition of "quorum" and ensuring consistency in the language used throughout the document.

The committee determined they would need to schedule an additional meeting beyond the already scheduled June 18th meeting. They agreed to meet on June 27th from 10:30 AM to noon to continue their work.

New business

David Robinson raised a question about whether the charter should include language regarding the city recorder's obligation to attest to documents, noting this appears in some city charters. Lisa Figueroa agreed to research this question before the next meeting.

Lisa also mentioned she had contacted the city of Bend to request a copy of their resolution and ballot materials related to council compensation to use as a reference.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 AM.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Mayor Pro-Tem Tracy Mix

City Recorder Paul Johnson