



Charter Review Committee Minutes

January 8, 2026

Chair Dave Drotzmann called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Committee members in attendance included: Val Hoxie, Rod Hardin, Kyndra Stone, Paul Wolverton, Karyn Jones, and Monique Brandley (arrived at 5:51pm). Also present was Mayor Doug Primmer as Council representative, Municipal Court Judge Cameron Bendixsen, and staff to include: City Manager Byron Smith, City Attorney Rich Tovey, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong.

Meeting Minutes

Dave stated the 2027 Proposed Charter Amendments redline would be presented to the Committee all at once when the Committee has finalized its review of the complete Charter.

Val moved and Rod seconded to approve the December 3rd meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously with Members Dave, Val, Rod, Kyndra, Paul, and Karyn in favor.

Presentation from the League of Oregon Cities Executive Director Patty Mulvihill

Byron stated Patti is very apologetic that she was unable to attend tonight's meeting as she was ill. City staff will reach out to the Committee with proposed dates from Patti to be able to attend a future meeting.

Comments from Municipal Court Judge Cameron Bendixsen

Byron stated the Committee had previously asked to invite Municipal Court Judge Cameron Bendixsen to a meeting to hear his perspective regarding Elected VS Appointment Municipal Court Judge positions.

Cameron spoke regarding his legal background practicing law since 2013, his Municipal Court Pro-Tem Judge experience prior to running for Municipal Court Judge, and the current two-year term for Municipal Court Judge. Cameron spoke regarding the conveniences his elected position has being flexible to be able to work when needed with great court staff; and spoke regarding some challenges to include running for office every two-years. Cameron stated there are arguments in favor for both Elected VS Appointed Municipal Court Judge and spoke regarding perceived influences and public perceptions. Cameron stated he does not have an opinion on either one and would be content with the choice made by the Committee and community, however would like the Committee to consider expanding the qualification boundaries to allow more practicing attorneys to run for office as there is a lack of attorneys and they are extremely busy.

There was some discussion regarding expanding the boundaries for Municipal Court Judge if the position was appointed, however because the position is currently elected, this limits those who can run for office. Cameron and Byron answered other questions related to the current amount of hours the Municipal Court Judge currently applies towards his elected position of about five hours per week, and Byron clarified that if appointed, the position would not be a city position but be contracted. The City would also continue to contract Pro-Tem Judges in cases of conflict of interest and set qualification parameters as well.



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Karyn stated she would prefer the Municipal Court Judge to remain as an elected position, all other Committee members stated they would prefer recommending the position be changed to appointed to allow for a wider pool of qualified applicants.

(Monique arrived at 5:51pm)

The Committee recommended that the Council decide what qualifications would be required for this position if it changes from elected to appointed.

Review Charter Chapters 8-10

Byron presented and reviewed Chapters 8-10 of the 2015 Adopted City Charter with the Committee. The Committee agreed that the following should be included in recommended changes to the Council-new language will be identified in red and underlined - language removed will be in ~~red and crossed out~~ in the 2027 Proposed Charter Amendments:

- Chapter VIII, OTHER OFFICERS
 - Section 35. City Manager
 - (c) Update- to allow the City Manager to live outside city limits for no more than 12 months.
 - (i) Update- replace current language with LOC recommended language
 - Section 36. City Attorney
 - Update- to either allow collaboration with the Council and City Manager for hiring, evaluations, and firing or allow the City Manager to completely oversee this position as the City Manager has a better day-to-day operation view of the City Attorney
 - The Committee agreed they would wait to hear Patti's perspective about this item before final recommendation.
 - Section 37. Municipal Court Judge.
 - No changes recommended
- Chapter IX, PERSONNEL
 - No changes recommended
- Chapter X, MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
 - No changes recommended

Next Committee Meeting

Byron stated staff will reach out to the Committee with possible meeting dates in February.

Public Comment

None given.

Adjournment

There was no other business and Chair Drotzmann adjourned the meeting at 6:22pm.