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**Charter Review Committee
Meeting Minutes**

**September 27, 2023
Zoom & Community Auditorium**

Minutes approved as amended by CRC 10/25/2023

1. Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Present: Ashley Driscoll, City Attorney, Joyce Phillips (staff liaison), Tacy Steele, Elysha Johnson, Dale Thaler, LaAna Littlefield, Wolanda Groombridge (via Zoom), Bryan Dennis, Tammi McLaughlin, Adolph “Val” Valfre (via Zoom), Kate MacDonald

Absent:, Isaac Echeverria, Nina Davis

2. Public Comment: N/A

3. Consent Agenda: Items under the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be adopted with a single motion, without separate discussion. Committee members who wish to remove an item from the Consent Agenda may do so prior to the motion to approve the item(s). Any item(s) removed from the Consent Agenda will be discussed and acted upon following the approval of the remaining Consent Agenda item(s).

1. Approve/review meeting minutes from the September 13, 2023 meeting - approved

4. Additions/Deletions: None.

5. Discussion Items – Meeting decorum was presented and reviewed.

a) 9.13.23 Meeting Recap

- 6 to 5 vote in favor of mayor voting in case of tie
- Council vote history in relation to 2009 CRC recommendation
- Neutrality
- Shared equity among council perspectives
- How often is there a 4;3 vote
- Council should be elevated by the mayor
- Ratio of votes to be mayor vs. council member

b) Forest Grove Mayor Voting Language

- A round table discussion ensued, with language examples for the voting role of the Mayor. Each committee member was polled for their ideas and concerns regarding this topic. The vote on the suggested language slide was opposed by only one.
- A request was made regarding information requests. Information requests need to be brought to the CRC meetings and discussed in this format. The committee will decide collectively what information will be researched and presented to the CRC.
- Defining the CRC was presented; the intent of the Charter was discussed and how Council rules impact the Charter. Why and when the Charter changes. The impact of changing the Charter and the question – can this be solved another way? Has the issue in review been problematic with multiple placeholders in a particular position?
- Vote on Suggested Language: The Mayor shall vote only in case of a tie and has no veto authority. Unanimously passed.

c) Section 8 – Role of the Mayor

- What does it mean to be the political figurehead? Discussed the policy role, administrative role, and the liaison role. The phrase “The Mayor is first among equals”, the political head of the city was deliberated. Discussed policy head vs. political head. Currently serves as the political figurehead with the consent of the Council. Why change the language? Does this change the role? It was stated that the current language does not represent the times.
- Consensus of updating the language of Political Figurehead.
- Non-partisan vs. Governing language. Does a modification of language change anything and what is the impact? Round table discussion replacing Political Head with Civic Leader.
- Motion: to change Political Head to Civic Leader – 8 to 1 vote.

d) Next sections for review

- Section 9 & 12
 - o Council President
 - o Quorum

e) Meeting Schedule

- Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

6. Adjournment and Announcement of Next Meeting: The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m. The next CRC meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Phillips, Staff Liaison