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**Charter Review Committee Listening Session
Meeting Minutes**

**March 13, 2024
Zoom & Community Auditorium**

Minutes approved by CRC on March 20, 2024.

1. Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

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

Absent: Kate MacDonald

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 February 7, 2024, meeting – approved as stands.

4. Additions/Deletions: None.

5. Discussion

a) **Meeting decorum**

Was presented and reviewed. The CRC timeline and process overview was given by the chair. The next meeting/listening session date of March 20 was mentioned.

b) **CRC Suggested Amendments Recap**

City Attorney, Ashley Driscoll reviewed the process of establishing the Charter Review Committee. The committee was kicked off last February with an open recruitment. Then applicants were interviewed by the Council and hand-selected to serve; at least two members from each of the four quadrants of the City. The three remaining members were at large. A total of eleven members were originally selected. One member eventually resigned, so the committee currently remains at ten. Elysha Johnson was

voted as the Chair and Val Valfre was voted as Vice-Chair. Meetings began in August 2023, and to date, 12 public noticed meetings have occurred. The scope of the review included reviewing the entire Charter, in addition to making specific recommendations on the following: geographic representation for council members, term limits for the mayor and council members, the role of the mayor and council president, and the necessity of the city manager residency requirement. Ranked choice voting; appointing councilors when there are a large number of vacancies; as well as the council appointing process was evaluated.

The process included an in-depth review of the League of Oregon Cities Model Charter and a comparison to other Washington County jurisdictions (such as Hillsboro, Tualatin, Sherwood, Tigard, Newberg, and Cornelius.) The committee's approach was to first review what problem, issue, or inequity they would address with amendments. Matters were approached first asking if the issue was a "charter issue" or if it could be addressed through a different avenue, such as an ordinance, policy, or change in council or administrative personnel. The CRC considered historical patterns, long-standing concerns, and current issues facing the city, to draft deliberate recommendations for the future of the city.

c) Public Comment

Peter Truax – voiced concerns about several of the recommendations. Most specifically, the vote of the mayor. Not allowing the mayor a vote (only in a tiebreaker) eliminates the ability to track the accountability of the mayor. Denying the mayor a vote does not make sense as it communicates to the community their vision. He also disagrees with the language change: Political Head of the City to the Civic Leader.

Kristy Kottkey – voiced concerns about not having term limits. Would prefer term limits to provide more opportunities for community members to get involved. Suggested that the CRC listening session format be more of an open discussion with the community members.

Richard Kidd – voiced concerns about the language change of the role of the mayor from Political Head to Civil Leader. The community views the mayor as the political head, not a civic leader. Also, he does not agree with the mayor only voting in case of a tie. The mayor's vote is goal based on their intentions in this role. This takes away the constituent's ability to track the response of the mayor and is one reason why they voted for them into office. Richard was adamant that we consider his suggestions so he could support and back the changes going forward to the ballot.

d) **Meeting Schedule**

- Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 6:00 PM
- The next CRC listening session is on March 20, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Community Auditorium
- Next Charter Review Committee Meeting: April 3, 2024, at 6:00 PM

6. Adjournment and Announcement of Next Meeting: The listening session was closed at 6:34 PM. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM. The next CRC listening session will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Phillips, Staff Liaison