

**CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER  
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**February 20, 2025**

The Charter Review Committee met on Thursday, February 20, 2025 in the Albee Room of the City Library, 8 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 5:30 p.m.

The following members were present: Chair Suni Danforth, Sally Babcock, Margo Piver, David Prock, Paul Seaquist, Kay West and Kenneth Jenkins.

Staff members present were: City Manager Chad Morris and City Recorder Leanne Steadman.

Citizen present was Ryan Westman.

Representing the news media was Griffin Beach of Elkhorn Media Group.

**ADOPTION OF JANUARY 16, 2025 MINUTES**

Paul Seaquist motioned to adopt the January 16, 2025 meeting minutes. Kenneth Jenkins seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

**OPEN DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CHARTER**

Chair Danforth recommended adding a timeframe of 7 – 10 years that the Charter be reviewed to Chapter X, Section 3.

There was a consensus of the committee to recommend “every 10 years”.

Kay West asked when would the new Charter take effect.

The city council will be the final judge of what recommended changes from the committee would be passed onto a ballot measure for the voters to decided. The Charter would take effect January 1<sup>st</sup> after an election.

Kay West asked what the reference was to a couple of the pages of the Charter that have “November 2015” at the bottom of the page.

City Recorder Steadman stated there has been no changes to the Charter since it was last updated in 1993 so it may have been something with the codification.

Manager Morris referred to Chapter X, Section 2, Set Aside of Utility Revenues, he asked where the 8% came from. He stated he would like to see that number higher and be at 10%.

A brief discussion ensued.

Chair Danforth suggested raising the 3% to 5% and 8% to 10%.

Manager Morris stated he would find out how much was being set aside now, but believed it was pushing the 8%. He also said he would want to run this by the city attorney to check the Oregon Revised Statue for maximum allowances.

There was a recommendation to have Chapter X, Section 6, Severability, reviewed by the city attorney to be sure the language was current.

Manager Morris stated he intended to get a legal opinion on Chapter X, Section 1, Limitation of Indebtedness, to be sure he was interpreting that paragraph correctly.

Kay West asked who reviewed the ordinances.

Manager Morris stated after the Charter Review was completed, he is going to review all the ordinances and do updates.

Ryan Westman stated as a citizen, he appreciates all the services the city provides. If the city had an opportunity to collect additional revenue, he would be in favor of it.

Kay West asked what was the goal of the next meeting.

At the previous meeting there was a request to have the city attorney present at the March meeting for committee members to be able to ask him questions. A message has been sent to him, but so far there has been no response. As soon as a reply is received the committee will be updated.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Charter Review Committee Chair or Vice Chair