
**City of Newberg
City Council
August 8, 2022
Virtual meeting format**

SPECIAL SESSION –

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilors Present: Mayor Rick Rogers, Councilors: Elise Yarnell Hollamon, Denise Bacon, Mike McBride, Stephanie Findley, Jefferson Mildenerger, and Peggy Kilburg.

Staff Present: City Manager Will Worthey, City Attorney James Walker, City Recorder Sue Ryan,

PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION – Initiative Petition to Amend Charter:

City Attorney Walker discussed the Council's role in the context of the initiative process and referral option as well as timelines for the upcoming November ballot. It was noted there were not enough verified signatures for the initiative petition to be included in the November election.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Maryl Kunkel was concerned about the initiative and circumventing the rules since they did not receive enough signatures for the November ballot. She explained her concerns about the broad definitions and liability, and how the language could be changed.

Bill Rosacker said there would be enough signatures to place the initiative on the May 2023 ballot. The initiative was about helping low income people. He asked that the Council pass a resolution to put it on the November ballot.

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS:

There was discussion regarding whether or not to forward a referral to the November ballot, circumventing the process, concerns about the content of the petition, revising the language, passing a resolution instead of a petition, and legal ramifications.

MOTION: Bacon/McBride moved to work with the chief petitioners of the initiative to revise the language and refer the measure to the November ballot.

Mayor Rogers was concerned about amending the Charter and the language in the petition as well as potential liability to the City. He questioned the intent of the petition.

Councilor Bacon said this would go to the voters in May. She would like to create better legislation prior to that. Mayor Rogers suggested forming a committee to work on the language and bring it back to Council.

Councilor McBride thought they should work with the petitioners to revise the language. Councilor Mildenberger agreed that they should work together to make the changes.

Councilor Yarnell Hollamon was concerned about the language requiring permanent foundations. Councilor Findley thought this was poor legislation and she did not want to push it through when they knew they could do it better. She did not know if they could revise the language in time for the August 19 deadline. She thought a committee should work on it over the next several months.

Councilor Kilburg would be willing to work on the committee, but also questioned the timeline. Councilor Bacon said the petitioners could not change the wording, but if the Council referred it, they would be able to change it.

Motion withdrawn.

Action: To create a committee to work with the petitioners to revise language (initiative petition for charter amendment) to bring to Council at their August 15 meeting and to have a comprehensive legal review.

Motion: Councilor Bacon
Second: Councilor McBride

There was discussion regarding the type of legal review, who would be included on the committee, and the cost of the legal review.

Vote: 4 Yes [McBride, Yarnell Hollamon, Bacon, Findley] 3 No [Mildenberger, Kilburg, Rogers].

Councilors Yarnell Hollamon and Bacon would meet with the petitioners to work on the revised language.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.



Sue Ryan, City Recorder

ATTEST:


Rick Rogers, Mayor