

NEWBERG CHARTER REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 29, 2005
12:00 P.M. MEETING
CITY HALL – 2ND FLOOR CONFERNECE ROOM

NOTE: The meeting will be approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes to adjourn at 1:30 p.m. sharp. Chairman Andrews has requested the committee consider a limited number of items in order to stay within the time established.

MEMBERS:

Council:

Bob Andrews
Mike McBride
Robert Soppe
Bob Stewart (ex-officio)

Staff:

James Bennett, City Manager
Terry Mahr, City Attorney
Norma Alley, Deputy City Recorder

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Andrews called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Council:

Bob Andrews
Mike McBride
Robert Soppe

Staff:

James Bennett, City Manager
Terry Mahr, City Attorney
Norma Alley, Deputy City Recorder

Absent:

Mayor Stewart (ex-officio)

III CONSENSUS ISSUES (ISSUES THAT COMMITTEE SEEMS TO AGREE UPON AND CAN BE OFFICIALLY ACTED UPON WITH LITTLE DISCUSSION)

1. Remove from Charter Chapter 10 – Hospital.

Discussion was held and consensus was met to remove all of Chapter 10 in the Charter.

2. Rely upon General Grant of Authority, therefore removes specific references to powers under Chapter II Section 4 of present Charter such as:
 1. Property.
 2. Indebtedness.
 3. Public Services.
 4. Bonds.
 5. Police Licensing and Taxing Power.

Attached is Appendix A from Model Charter, which discusses General Grants of Power.

Discussion was held on general grants of power and the authority it gives the City of Newberg. No decision was made.

IV. MAJOR ISSUES

1. Mayor's term and voting.

Terry Mahr pointed out the change of the Mayor position to a four-year term and it becoming a voting member of the Council.

Chair Andrews split the term and voting member into two separate points to discuss.

Councilor McBride said he liked having the Mayor as a voting member, because it may force the Mayor to stay up to date and informed on the issues. He suggested that if the position becomes a voting member then adding another Council member should be considered.

Councilor Soppe agreed the current situation is unfair to the Mayor position. The Mayor should be prepared to *break a tie* no matter what. He said he did not like having an even number of Council positions, and it should be looked at to adding another position, possibly at-large. He suggested having these on the ballot as separate issues to either have an at-large Council position added or the Mayor position a voting member.

Discussion was held on having the issues separated out on the ballot.

Chair Andrews asked what the problem was with the current set up.

Councilor McBride said it creates a barrier between the Council and the Mayor. We should have a coherent group that works as a team.

Councilor Soppe answered if two people are absent a unanimous vote is required for something to pass.

Chair Andrews said he was comfortable recommending to Council to have the Mayor position a voting member. This was established by creating the Mayor as a voting member on the Budget Committee.

VOTE: 2 yes (McBride & Andrews)/1 no (Soppe) to recommend to Council the Mayor position be a voting member of the Council.

Discussion was held on changing the Mayor position's term from two years to four years.

Councilor McBride said a four-year term creates more stability and cohesiveness.

Councilor Soppe said the Mayor spends too much time campaigning with a two-year term and is in favor of changing it to a four-year term.

Chair Andrews asked the committee which group of Councilors would the position run with. He expressed concern for potential affiliation to be created with the group he runs with.

Terry Mahr said if ratified, the position would change to a four-year term with the next election the Mayor would run.

VOTE: Unanimous to recommend to Council the Mayor position change from a two-year term to a four-year term.

2. Districts.
 - a. Continuing with districts.
 - b. Continuing requirement to live in districts.
 - c. Other issues involving districts.

Chair Andrews said he would like to see the procedure of position vacations by moving out of districts be addressed in the Charter.

Councilor Soppe suggested addressing, if they move out of their district they have three months, six months or the remainder of their term.

Councilor McBride said in our small community we do not need to have districts.

Councilor Soppe suggested because the voters voted to have districts, if it is to be reconsidered then it should be a separate issue on the ballot to let the voters decide if districts are removed.

Chair Andrews said the discussion would continue to the next meeting.

V. BALLOT MEASURE

Sample Ballot Measure, which we can edit and proof in the future.

No discussion was held on this item.

VI. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be October 18, 2005 at Noon in the City Hall, Second Floor Large Conference Room.

VII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.