



## RESOLUTION 2024-054

### APPROVING BALLOT TITLE AND EXPLANATORY STATEMENT AND SUBMITTING TO THE VOTERS A PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT REGARDING COUNCIL COMPENSATION FOR EXPENSES INCURRED WHILE CONDUCTING THE CITY'S BUSINESS

**WHEREAS**, the Sherwood Charter Review Committee convened as required by Section 1 of the Sherwood City Charter, on May 15, 2024 and recommended an amendment to the Charter to provide an official compensation package for the mayor and councilors when they incur expenses while conducting the City's business; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sherwood City Council met in a public work session on June 4, 2024 to discuss this recommended amendment to the City Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council further considered said amendments during a public meeting on July 16, 2024 and has determined to submit to the voters of Sherwood a ballot measure proposing to amend the City Charter with regard to Mayor and Council compensation.

### NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF SHERWOOD RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1.** An election is called for the City of Sherwood, Washington County, Oregon for the purpose of submitting to City voters an amendment to the City's home rule charter regarding Mayor and Council compensation.
- Section 2.** Tuesday, November 5, 2024 is designated as the date for holding the election for voting on the measure.
- Section 3.** The election will be conducted by the Washington County Elections Department.
- Section 4.** The precincts for this election will include all of the territory within the corporate limits of the City of Sherwood.
- Section 5.** The Ballot Title and Explanatory Statement attached as Exhibits 1 and 2, respectively, are hereby approved and certified.
- Section 6.** The City Recorder will publish the Ballot Title as required by state law. The City of Sherwood authorizes the City Recorder or her designee to act on behalf of the City and to take such further action as is necessary to carry out the intent and purposes set forth herein, in compliance with the applicable provisions of law.

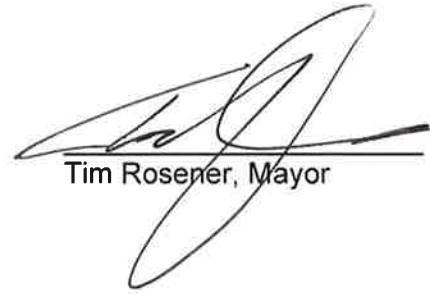
///

///

///

**Section 7.** This Resolution shall be effective upon its approval and adoption.

**Duly passed by the City Council this 6<sup>th</sup> of August 2024.**



Tim Rosener, Mayor

Attest:



Sylvia Murphy, MMC, City Recorder

**BALLOT TITLE FOR INITIATIVE TO AMEND THE CITY CHARTER REGARDING COUNCIL'S USE OF  
REWARDS PROGRAMS WHILE CONDUCTING THE CITY'S BUSINESS**

**Caption:**

Amends Charter to allow Council to use travel rewards benefits

**Question:**

Shall Council be permitted to use rewards programs while conducting the City's business?

**Summary:**

City councilors presently receive no compensation for performance of their duties. The Sherwood City Charter would be amended to allow councilors to retain and apply benefits accrued through rewards programs if they use personal accounts to conduct City business. Allowing councilors to use rewards programs can at times provide discounts on travel and accommodations which can reduce the expense to the City. The charter currently states, "The mayor and councilors shall not be compensated but may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses." The Sherwood employee handbook allows employees to retain any benefit from their travel rewards programs for their personal use. The Charter would be amended to state, "The mayor and councilors may be compensated for expenses incurred while conducting the City's business using the same standard that applies to city employees. This will be the council's official compensation package and only compensation."

This measure leaves certain terms undefined, which City Council may define in an implementing ordinance.

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The proposed charter amendment would permit the mayor and city councilors to use travel rewards programs as their official compensation package.

Sherwood's Charter states, "The mayor and councilors shall not be compensated but may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses." Reimbursement of expenses that are currently authorized is limited only to those expenses personally paid while conducting the public body's business.

In a 2022 stipulated final order by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission, the Commission considered one official's use of airline and hotel membership rewards points a possible misuse of his official position. However, Oregon ethics laws state that public officials may accept any financial benefit that is identified by the public body they serve as part of the official compensation package of the public official. The phrase official compensation package includes the direct payment of a public official's expenses by the public body, in accordance with the public body's policies. The City of Sherwood recognizes that use of rewards memberships often saves the City money, and accordingly, it allows its employees to keep those rewards under their official compensation package.

This amendment to the City's Charter would make direct payment of the mayor and councilors' expenses incurred while conducting the City's business their official compensation package, including allowing them to use travel rewards programs.