

**April 15, 2020  
Work Session  
City of Gaston  
Zoom Videoconference**

**Present:** Mayor David **Meeker**, Council President Bill **Martin**, Councilors Mario **DePiero**, Andrew **Sewall**, Sarah **Branch**, Suzy **Whittaker**, and Don **Richter**. Others present are Gaston residents Brent **Whittaker** and Robert **Dooley**.

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** City Recorder Wenonah **Blanchette**.

**ROLL CALL:** Recorder **Blanchette** conducted the roll call for the record with:

Councilor Mario **DePiero**: present

Councilor Andrew **Sewall**: present

Councilor Bill **Martin**: present

Mayor David **Meeker**: present

Councilor Sarah **Branch**: present

Councilor Suzy **Whittaker**: present

Councilor Don **Richter**: present

**City Charter Update Committee Review:**

Mayor **Meeker** opened the work session open at 6:00PM. Brent **Whittaker**, Charter Update Committee member said all members should have received a draft copy with all the revisions that the committee requested from him. Brent **Whittaker** went on to explain that three items were left up for discussion amongst the committee include municipal court, utilities commission and parks and recreation commission. Councilor **Sewall** stated he is leaning away from including commissions for both water and park departments in the charter as it is extremely difficult to find qualified citizens willing to volunteer for these positions. Each Councilor provided their opinion all agreeing to remove these sections of the proposed charter citing it would be difficult to maintain qualified volunteers to oversee the water and park departments. Brent **Whittaker** explained that the commission would have authority in dealing with policies and personnel, alleviating duties of the Council expressing the need for qualified volunteers. It was requested to have the Recorder strikeout the commission sections as it can be implemented through Resolutions and forward to the attorney. Councilor **Branch** confirmed with Council to have the attorney review the financial section ensuring that the City cannot exceed State laws for city indebtedness. Municipal Court was discussed, and it was requested to include in the Charter ability of transferring some or all Municipal Court functions to a nearby courthouse. Recorder **Blanchette** confirmed the draft copy is ready for attorney review.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor **Meeker** asked for any further questions, none heard. Work Session adjourned at 6:37PM.

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor David Meeker