

**December 18, 2019
Work Session
City of Gaston**

Present: Mayor David **Meeker**, Andrew **Sewall**, Mario **DePiero**, and Bill **Martin Sarah Branch**, Suzy **Whittaker**, and Don **Richter**. Others present Gaston Resident's Brent **Whittaker** and Robert **Dooley**.

Absent: None

Staff: City Recorder Wenonah **Blanchette**.

City Charter Update Committee Review:

Mayor **Meeker** opened the work session open at 6:02PM. Charter review committee member Brent **Whittaker** informed everyone that he sent Councilor **Sewall** and Councilor **DePiero** copies of a draft charter he put together and asked for input to review with questions heard regarding the voting process and what wording would look like placed on the ballot for the community to vote on. Councilor **Branch** asked for a copy with the Recorder providing copies for the entire committee for review. Brent explained he used direct examples from the City of Hillsboro, City of Forest Grove, City of Yamhill, City of Carlton, and City of Cornelius; which all of them based their charter from a model charter that was generated by League of Oregon Cities. Discussion heard of contacting a local city that successfully updated their charter to understand the processes for what to expect with revising the charter. The committee began reviewing and suggesting changes as provided by Brent **Whittaker** at this time. Revisions to the Charter are as follows:


1. Update *Preamble* to read, "*We the voters of the City of Gaston, Oregon exercise our power to the fullest extent possible under the Oregon Constitution and laws of the state, enact this Home Rule Charter.*"
2. Move sections "*Repeal*," "*Severability*," and "*Time of Effect*" to the end of the Charter.
3. Section 1- *Titles* to read, "*This charter may be referred to as the 2021 City of Gaston Charter.*"
4. Section 2- *Name* to read, "*The City of Gaston, Oregon, continues as a municipal corporation with the name City of Gaston.*"
5. Section 3- *Boundaries*-to read, "*The city includes all territory within its boundaries as they now exist or as legally modified. The city will maintain an accurate and current description of the boundaries as a public record.*"
6. It was decided to organize the charter with "Section/Subsection" changing from "Chapter/Section"
7. Section 4-*Powers* to read, "*The City has all powers that the constitution, statutes and common law of the United States and Oregon expressly or implied grant or allow the City, as a fully as though this charter specifically enumerated each of those powers.*"
8. Section 5- *Construction* to read, "*This charter will be liberally construed so that the city may exercise fully all powers possible under this charter and under United States and Oregon Law.*"
9. Add Section 6-*Distribution* to read, "*The Oregon Constitution reserves initiative and referendum powers as to all municipal legislation to city voters. This charter vests all other city powers in the council except as the charter otherwise provides. The council has legislative, administrative, and quasi-judicial authority. The council exercises legislative authority by ordinance, administrative authority by resolution, and quasi-judicial authority by order. The council may not delegate its authority to adopt ordinances.*"
10. Section 7. *Council*, to read, "*The council consists of a mayor and six councilors. The councilors are nominated and elected by the city at large for terms of four-year terms.*"
Strikethrough, "*A councilor may serve no more than two consecutive elected four-year terms.*"

11. Section 8. Mayor (a), to read *"The mayor is nominated and elected by the city at large for a term of four years."* Strikethrough, *"A mayor may serve no more than two consecutive elected four-year terms."*
12. Section 8. Mayor (b), to read *"The mayor presides over and facilitates council meetings, preserve order, enforces council procedures, and determines the order of council business."*
13. Section 8. Mayor (c), to read, *"With the consent of the council, the mayor appoints members of commissions, boards, and committees established by ordinance or resolution."*
14. Section 8. Mayor (d), to read, *"The mayor must sign all records of council decisions."*
15. Section 8. Mayor (e), to read, *"The mayor shall sign all records of proceedings approved by the council. The mayor shall have no veto power and shall sign all ordinances passed by the council within three days after their passage."*
16. Section 8. Mayor (f), to read, *"The mayor has no formal authority outside the council; the mayor cannot directly appoint or remove officials or employees unless directed by council."*
17. Section 8. Mayor (g), Strikethrough *"The mayor lacks veto power over council votes."*
18. Section 9. Council President, to read *"At its first meeting of each odd numbered year, the council must elect a president from its membership. The president presides in the absence of the mayor and acts as mayor when the mayor is unable to perform duties."*
19. Section 10. Meetings, to read, *"The council must meet at least once a month at a time and place designated by its rules and may meet at other times in accordance with the rules and laws of the state of Oregon."*
20. Add Section 11. Rules, to read, *"The council must by resolution adopt rules to govern its meetings."*
21. Section 12. Quorum, to read, *"A majority of the council members is a quorum to conduct business. In the event of a vacancy to resignation or other events, the quorum is reduced accordingly. In the event of an absence, a smaller number may meet and compel attendance of absent members as prescribed by council rules."*
22. Section 13. Vote Required, to read, *"The express approval of a majority of a quorum of the council is necessary for any council decision, except when this charter requires approval by a majority of the council."*
23. Section 14. Record, to read, *"A record of council meetings must be kept in a manner prescribed by the council rules and the laws of the state of Oregon."*

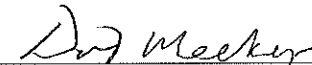
Brent **Whittaker** explained Chapters 4, 5, and 6 all go together and will continue reviewing the charter again at the next work session scheduled for January 15, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor **Meeker** asked for any further questions, none heard. Work Session adjourned at 6:59PM.

Attest:



 City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette



 Mayor David Meeker