

**February 19, 2020
Work Session
City of Gaston**

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

Absent: Mario **DePiero**

Staff: City Recorder Wenonah **Blanchette**.

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

Councilor Mario **DePiero:** *(absent)*

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 5:59PM. Charter review committee member Brent **Whittaker** announced the committee will begin on Chapter XI with him noting two provision for council to review; utilities commission and park and recreation commissions.

1. Update- Section 37, to read, "*Utilities Commission:*
 - a. *The mayor must appoint and the council confirm a minimum of three and a maximum of five qualified electors of the City to serve as members of the city's utility commission each member will serve a three year term or until the appointment of his successor.,*
 - b. *The commission must elect one of it's members as chair. The chair is the commission presiding officer.*
 - c. *The commission has authority over the operation of the city water system and other duties as delegated by ordinance. The commission may take actions it deems necessary or convenient for the management and operation of the city water system including the acquisition and sale of real property.*
 - d. *The commission may take possession and charge of and manage and conduct, and alter, improve and extend any water system acquired by the city. It may collect and receive all money earned for the consumption and use of water. All sums must be kept in a separate find and may be used for utility purposes, including retirement of city bonds issued for the purchase of or construction of a water system.*
 - e. *The commission may make rules for the conduct and management of the water system and to provide for penalties for violations of the rules. It may set rates for the use and consumption of water and charges for other services provided inside or outside of the city. It may provide for payments of water rates and shut off water for non-payment. The commission must enforce water ordinances."*
2. Update- Section 38, to read, "*Parks and Recreation Commission: The Mayor must appoint, and the council confirm a minimum of three and a maximum of five qualified electors of the city parks and recreation commission. Each member will serve a three-year term or oversee the management of the city park and recreation facilities and activities. It has authority to regulate the use of parks and recreation facilities, establish fees and charges for such uses, and perform other duties delegated by ordinance."*

Discussion heard on the pros and cons of including this section to oversee employees. A utility commission for either parks or/and water department would add additional oversight and


supervision to those departments but a lack of interest from residents to participate is likely the problem. Brent explained the current charter outlines having the public works employee making most administrative decisions for the water system and parks department.

3. Update-Section 39, to read, *“Debt, City indebtedness may not exceed debt limits imposed by state law. A charter amendment is not required to authorize indebtedness.”*
4. Update-Section 40, to read, *“Ordinance Continuation, All ordinances consistent with this charter in force when it takes effect remain in effect until amended or repealed.”*
5. Update-Section 41, to read, *“Repeal, All charter provisions adopted before this charter takes effect are repealed.”*
6. Update- Section 42, to read, *“Severability, The terms of this charter are severable If any provision is held invalid by a court, the invalidity does not affect any other part of the charter.”*
7. Update- Section 43, to read, *“Time of Effect, this charter takes effect (_____).”*

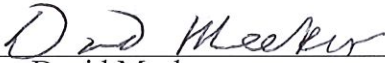
It was decided to hold one more work session to review all changes. Once changes have been approved by the committee it will be recommended to the Council for the attorney to review and consider on the November election ballot.

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

Attest:



City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette



Mayor David Meeker