

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

Present: Mayor David **Meeker**, Andrew **Sewall**, Mario **DePiero**, Sarah **Branch**, Suzy **Whittaker**, and Don **Richter**. Others present are Gaston Resident's Brent **Whittaker** and Danielle **Garza**.

Absent: Council President Bill **Martin**

Staff: City Recorder Wenonah **Blanchette** and City Attorney Ruben **Cleaveland**.

City Charter Update Committee Review:

Mayor **Meeker** opened the work session open at 6:00PM reviewed with Council the City is continuing to work on the charter review and hearing recommendations from the City Attorney Ruben **Cleaveland** who is also present at the meeting. Councilor **Branch** reminded those joining the meeting to have their microphones muted.

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

Councilor Mario **DePiero**: Present

Councilor Andrew **Sewall**: Present

Councilor Bill **Martin**: *Absent*

Mayor David **Meeker**: Present

Councilor Sarah **Branch**: Absent

Councilor Suzy **Whittaker**: Present

Councilor Don **Richter**: Present

Mayor **Meeker** asked everyone if they had a chance to review the revised charter from City Attorney Ruben **Cleaveland** with his revisions. Councilor **DePiero** asked Attorney **Cleaveland** Section 3.2, "the Mayor," line "(a.)" and "(f.)" questioned why those struck from the original draft, with Attorney **Cleaveland** explaining is covered in article 7. Article 7 already explains the Mayor is elected to a four-year term. Section 3.1 has the Mayor and the Council members are elected from the City at large and do not need to have the "at large," language in Section 3.2 (a.). In 3.2 (f.), not sure where the language is coming from and could be construed as the Mayor unable to order (for example) a box of staples if he needed to for the City. Attorney **Cleaveland** explained the Mayor needs the ability to perform his function on a day to day basis. Councilor **DePiero** agreed the Mayor should have that authority but wants the Charter to have the Mayor and Council collectively appoint or remove employees or officers of the City and not permit the Mayor's exclusive authority to remove or appoint persons alone. Any appointment or official positions would need to have Council's approval. Councilor **Sewall** feels that in general the intention is not that the mayor has authority to control day to day operations it's the Council as a whole and the Mayor is part of that council. Attorney **Cleaveland** agreed saying that as officials of the City all have some powers regarding operations of the City unless limited by the Charter or by administrative rules you put in Resolution or Ordinance form. Section 3.2 (f.) to include, "all powers to appoint and remove officials and employees shall be subject to approval of Council." No further questions on this item.

Attorney **Cleaveland** wanted to review with Council further changes with the biggest change is removing Sections 11.1 and 11.2 that calls to the formation of commissions and how those commissions are going to operate. The purpose behind removing these sections is the Council may adopt such powers through Ordinance without having to put an amendment on the ballot if changes need to be made within that section. Attorney **Cleaveland** explained the charter is a framework for how the Council operates and commissions are on the operational side not the framework side. No further discussion on changes.

A resolution has been prepared for adopting the charter in preparations for placing the amendment on the ballot. Also included in the charter memo provided by the attorney are sample motions. If Council agrees upon the changes, the Attorney suggested for consideration amongst the Council to “add section 3.2 to article 3, all powers to appoint and remove officials and employees shall be subject to approval of Council,” which will follow the suggested second city council option suggested motion. Tomorrow Council will be provided with an updated charter including the changes recently discussed for the Mayor’s signature. No further discussion heard.

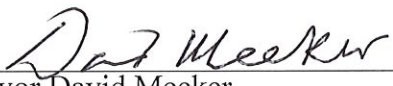
At this time City Attorney **Cleveland** left the meeting at 6:20PM.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor **Meeker** asked for any further questions, none heard. Work Session adjourned at 6:20PM.

Attest:



City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette



Mayor David Meeker