

**November 20, 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 at 6:04PM calling for volunteers to review and make recommendations for updating the City Charter. Councilor **Whittaker** asked the Recorder if notices were sent out asking the community to participate in a Charter Update beginning tonight with the Recorder responding they were sent in water bills with minimal responses heard including Gaston resident Robert **Dooley** who previously stated he wanted to participate. Gaston resident Brent **Whittaker** requested to participate with Mayor **Meeker** appointing Brent **Whittaker** and Robert **Dooley** to the charter update committee.

Recorder **Blanchette** provided copies of the current City Charter, the model City Charter provided by the League of Oregon Cities and the analysis that City Attorney **Cleaveland** provided of the Charter in 2016 for review. Discussion heard on updating the Council Procedures, changing the language to the proper pronouns and determining the Charter Update will be meet an hour before the regular Council Meetings unless additional dates are needed. Also discussed is going line by line or starting at the beginning section by section with the committee agreeing to review the Charter section by section. The City Recorder announced the committee will need to finish updating the Charter by May to get it on the ballot for November's election. Councilor **Branch** requested to have the committee review and make notes from information provided so when the committee meets again, they can possibly make those changes. Councilor **Sewall** announced the importance for discussing changes and suggested updates with the community being the update will need approval by the community at large. Further discussion was heard on using social media to bring more attention to the community of Charter update with Councilor **Sewall** agreeing he will gain access the City's FaceBook for future updates.


Next Charter Update Committee meeting scheduled for December 18, 2019 at 6:00PM.

Recorder **Blanchette** suggested to remove the debt limit which hinders the City's availability to exceed \$5,000 or 5% of the City's adopted budget unless it's gone out for vote of the electors of Gaston. Councilor **Sewall** confirmed in the Charter analysis, section 40; debt limit is a section suggested for change by the City Attorney. Councilor **Martin** suggested to restrict members of Council and their significant others' serving on Council together.

Discussion heard of using the City's newly purchased property at Onion Lane for use and what could be done with the property and updates to the Wapato Wildlife Refuge.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor **Meeker** asked for any further questions, none heard. Work Session adjourned at 6:58PM.

Attest:

  
City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette

  
Mayor David Meeker