



CITY COUNCIL ISSUE SUMMARY

CITY OF BEND

MEETING DATE: February 7, 2018

SUBJECT: Resolution to refer a measure to the ballot for an amendment to the Bend Charter to have the voters directly elect the Mayor to a four year term

STAFF MEMBER: Mary Alice Winters
DEPARTMENT: City Attorney's Office

ACTION REQUIRED:

- ☐ Motion
- ☐ Public Hearing Date:
- ☐ Ordinance 1st Reading Date:
- ☐ Ordinance 2nd Reading Date:
- ☒ Resolution
- ☐ Information/Direction
- ☐ Consent Agenda (*adopted by motion*)

ADVISORY BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

- ☐ Approval
- ☐ Denial
- ☐ None Forwarded
- ☒ Not applicable

Comments:

RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE FOR MOTION: I move to adopt the Resolution to refer a measure to the May 2018 ballot to amend the Bend Charter to provide for a directly elected mayor for a four year term beginning in November 2018.

ISSUE / COUNCIL DECISION & DISCUSSION POINTS:

It is an objective of the 2017-2019 Council Goals to propose a City Charter amendment to the voters. The Charter Review Committee was formed and made various Charter amendment recommendations. One of the recommendations relates to a directly elected mayor, the term of the mayor, election cycle for the change to a directly elected mayor and the transition.

BACKGROUND:

The City has had periodic discussion of a Charter review process for years. The last review was conducted in 2011, although no changes were ultimately pursued. During the summer of 2016, Bend 2030, the Bend Chamber of Commerce, and City Club of Central Oregon held public forums to discuss Bend's form of government and ideas for potential changes, including Charter reform. Following the forums, the City formed a Charter Review Committee, which recommended that Council consider a directly elected mayor, election by geographic wards, and removal of councilor compensation from the Charter.

After Council review and consideration, two separate ballot measures are being placed before the voters in the May 2018 election for amendments to the Bend Charter for a directly

elected mayor and removal of councilor compensation from the Charter to be set by ordinance based on the recommendation of an independent advisory committee.

This proposed measure amends the Bend Charter. Currently, the City Council appoints one of its members as mayor and one as a mayor pro tem every two years in odd numbered years. If approved, Sections 7, 8 and 9 would be amended to provide that a mayor shall be elected to Position 7, beginning in the general election in November 2018, for a four-year term and every four years thereafter. The mayor pro tem would continue to be selected by the Council for a term of two years every odd numbered year.

The measure also amends Section 23 of the Charter to provide that the mayor serves as the political head of the city government, consistent with the 2004 League of Oregon Cities Model Charter, and clarifies language on mayoral duties related to committees to be consistent with Council practice.

The measure also makes minor amendments to Sections 10, 12, 13, 14, 19 and 27 of the Charter changing the term “councilor” to “council member” or “mayor and each councilor” as it relates to qualifications, beginning and ending of terms, oath of office and council membership, to specify their application to a directly elected mayor as well as councilors. The measure amends Sections 21 and 22 of the Charter to clarify that taking the oath of office for another elective position in government creates a vacancy for the current incumbent position, and that any vacancy in the office of the mayor or a sitting councilor is filled as provided in the current Charter.

If approved by the voters, the proposed revisions will take effect upon the City Council adoption of the May 15, 2018 election results, and the mayor would be elected first at the election to be held November 6, 2018, and then every four years thereafter.

CURRENT YEAR BUDGET IMPACTS IDENTIFIED BY DEPARTMENT:

None.

FINANCIAL REVIEW:

Reviewed by: Camilla Sparks **Date:** 1/30/18

LEGAL REVIEW:

Reviewed by: Mary Alice Winters **Date:** 1/30/18

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROCESS AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

The move toward a directly elected mayor has been considered by the community members and leaders, and various city council members or sitting mayors, for many years. Grassroots groups have formed to discuss the concept, as have community organizations. A formal recommendation was made by a citizen Charter Review Committee, whose meetings were open to the public. Council received the Committee’s recommendations, and heard from the public at two Council meetings, and publicly discussed the issue at later public Council meetings.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Proposed Resolution and Explanatory Statement
- Text of Amended Charter