



**CITY OF KEIZER**  
**CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 21, 2020, 6:00 p.m.**

**Attendance:**

Elizabeth Smith, Chair  
Shannon Flowers  
Broderick Pack  
Pat Fisher  
Kim Freeman  
Zaira Flores-Marin  
Kathy Lincoln

**Absent:**

Garry Whalen, Vice Chair  
Rick Kuehn

**Staff:**

Shannon Johnson, City Attorney  
Tammie Harms, Legal Assistant  
Debbie Lockhart, Deputy City Recorder

Chair Smith called the 'virtual' meeting to order 6:00 pm. Committee members participated through the Zoom app with simultaneous interpretation being done into Spanish on a separate internet link.

**Approval of Minutes:** Broderick Pack moved for approval of the March Minutes. Kim Freeman seconded. Motion passed as follows: Smith, Pack, Freeman, Flores-Marin, Fisher and Lincoln in favor with Flowers abstaining and Whalen and Kuehn absent

**Committee Questions and Concerns:** City Attorney Shannon Johnson reviewed the 4 issues that the committee had deferred for Public Comment: A) 'At-Large' vs. 'Ward' system of election; B) 'head to head' on certain position or at-large contest with top voters filling vacancies; C) 4-year vs. 2-year term; and D) vacancies filled by appointment regardless of length of term remaining vs. special election. Mr. Johnson then reviewed the timeline noting that he expected Council to have three Council meetings on this but the process needs to be completed by August in order to be on the November ballot.

Meeting was paused while technical difficulties were addressed in order to get the Spanish translation broadcast to the public.

**Public Forum**

- **Chair Summarization of Written Testimony Received:** Chair Smith summarized testimony received via email and comments posted on Facebook. Generally, comments were opposed to changing to the Ward system of voting.
- **Acceptance of Comments from Interested Citizens:**
  - *Michael DeBlasi* referred to maps that he had developed showing voting districts in the city with the number of candidates in each district (emailed to City staff but not received prior to the meeting). He noted that the southeast quadrant of the city has historically had no representation so the representation on council is not fair. It allows only certain people with connections and power to get the proper

number of votes and the power center in the north controls the funds that are spent by the city.

- *Dan Kohler* spoke in opposition of Wards (noting that apparently there is no one from the 'non-represented' area interested in serving) and the 'top three' option of election (preferring that candidates run for specific position numbers). He supported keeping the 4-year term and leaving the method of filling of vacancies unchanged.
- Chair Smith noted that one Facebook comment questioned what would happen if no one ran for office from a specific ward. Mr. Johnson indicated that Council would appoint someone to fill the vacancy after the election.

Kathy Lincoln pointed out that with the current method of elections there could be two very good candidates running against each other and two very bad ones running against each other for different positions so the City would end up with one good candidate and one bad one. With the 'top three' option, the city could end up with the two good candidates. She also noted that she was leaning away from the Ward option because Keizer is a small town the Councilors can represent everyone.

Pat Fisher pointed out that current and former elected officials have indicated that they want to keep things the way they are. She noted that she felt more research outreach should be done ~~into~~ regarding the top-three option.<sup>1</sup>

Kim Freeman noted that she was opposed to the top-three option because it makes the election look like a popularity contest rather than a question of qualifications. She also noted that there will be more opportunity for public comment when this comes to the Council.

### **Determination of Preferred Charter Version**

Discussion followed regarding having two Charter votes on the ballot – one for removal of Section 44 and the other to address the other 4 options, leaving the 4 options unresolved for Council to address, and the duty of the committee to complete all tasks and come up with a recommendation to Council.

- (A)\* Broderick Pack moved to retain the at-large system and not move to the Ward system. Kim Freeman seconded. Motion passed as follows: Smith, Pack, Freeman, Flores-Marin, Fisher and Flowers in favor with Lincoln opposed and Whalen and Kuehn absent.
- (B)\* Kathy Lincoln moved to recommend having all councilor candidates run against each other and the top three be elected to the three vacancies. Pat Fisher seconded. Motion failed as follows: Lincoln and Fisher in favor with Smith, Pack, Freeman, Flores-Marin and Flowers opposed and Whalen and Kuehn absent.

Mr. Johnson clarified that with the motion failing it was the recommendation of the committee to have three councilors run for numbered positions, as is currently the case.

- (C)\* Broderick Pack moved to retain the 4-year term for Councilors (leave current language unchanged). Kim Freeman seconded. Motion passed as follows: Smith,

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<sup>1</sup> Changed at 5/5/20 meeting prior to approval

Pack, Freeman, Flores-Marin, Fisher, Lincoln and Flowers in favor with Whalen and Kuehn absent.

(D)\* Kim Freeman moved to leave the current language as is (vacancy filled by appointment). Broderick Pack seconded. Motion passed as follows: Smith, Pack, Freeman, Flores-Marin, Fisher, Lincoln and Flowers in favor with Whalen and Kuehn absent.

\*Indicates item number from Mr. Johnson's staff report.

Mr. Johnson informed the committee that the May meeting would be short. He will want the committee to review the final draft of the Charter and recommend it to Council. He urged committee members to direct any questions to him noting that he hoped to have a final version of the Charter out next week.

Chair Smith urged everyone to continue to send comments via the special email address: [charterreview@keizer.org](mailto:charterreview@keizer.org). Zaira Flores-Marin thanked Spanish speaking participants for attending the meeting noting that she hoped next time the Spanish link could be published in a timely manner.

Chair Smith read a question received: Could a new council member be potentially chosen from someone who had run but not won. Mr. Johnson responded affirmatively and explained how the process would take place.

**Adjourn** ~ Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

**Next meeting:** May 5, 2020

**Minutes approved:** 05-05-20