

**SCAPPOOSE CITY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**Council Chambers at City Hall**  
**33568 E. Columbia Avenue**

**Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order**

Chair Ingham called the meeting to order.

**Present:** Judie Ingham City Council Member, Larry Meres City Council Member, Craig Frasier Citizen at large, Prudie White Budget Committee Member, Loren Holm Budget Committee Member and Jon Hanken City Manager.

**Excused:** Devra Hermosilla Citizen at large

Prudie White expressed her concern of there not being a Planning Commissioner on this committee.

**Approval of Minutes from March 25, 2009**

Larry Meres moved and Loren Holm seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the Scappoose City Charter Review Committee meeting minutes of March 25, 2009. Motion passed (4-0). Larry Meres, aye; Craig Frasier, aye; Prudie White, aye and Loren Holm, aye. Chair Ingham abstained.

**Discussion of Current Charter**

City Manager Hanken explained what is on the agenda is a continuation of discussion from the last meeting. He went over the brief synopsis of the discussion: **No employee can serve as Mayor or on Council, Community Immunity Clause, Section 11 related to quorum and Modify the language related to eminent domain.** Also other issues to be discussed: **Council Districts, Term Limits and Position Longevity.**

Loren Holm explained in a previous meeting the committee discussed compensation for the Mayor and Council and he would like to add that topic to the list of issues to be discussed.

Prudie White explained if there is a conference that somebody wants to go to she has always encouraged getting more education for what you are doing and if that is available for the mayor and council she would say go for it. She feels it is very important to our community because then you network with other people that have similar problems. She feels per diem is very appropriate.

City Manager Hanken explained one of the things to discuss is there is travel and training dollars in our budget for council members to use and that is budgeted on a regular basis. He explained we do encourage councilors to go to training sessions. He explained the question that he had

relates more to a general statement in the Charter that says Mayor or Council will receive compensation as set by ordinance. Chair Ingham expanded on what City Manager Hanken said about meetings and trainings. She explained when council travels to the City/County meetings they get reimbursed for the fuel and the City also pays for their meal.

Prudie White explained she feels that is important but she feels also they need to be recognized that they are taking time away from their family. Should their spouse wish to attend a training she thinks that is kind of like saying thanks for giving up their time. She doesn't object to that, she doesn't want to see abuse of that, but she doesn't object to that, she thinks it is being very supportive.

Chair Ingham explained it is a lot of time for the councilors but we know that going in. She explained at one time she brought up that she would like to be able to get a good rate on health insurance and she thought council could get compensated but that didn't go anywhere.

Chair Ingham explained council had an agenda item regarding compensation and they were given information from cities about our size and the compensation they provide for their council. She can bring that information to the meeting so we can all look at that. She explained the end result of Councils conversation was probably not now with a 6,500 person population but maybe on down the road when the population gets to be about 10,000 or 12,000, double about what we have now because the time involved for council is going to multiply.

Larry Meres explained what he would be more in favor of is the council, or each individual Councilor, has \$2,000.00 a year to buy materials, books, etc, what ever they feel they need to do the job.

Prudie White stated it may be a point that needs to be reviewed each time the charter is reviewed and maybe that is where we want to put in it the charter that states discussion of compensation needs to be done with each Charter review.

City Manager Hanken explained you can do that now without having it in the Charter. Chair Ingham explained if it is in the Charter then you get the negativity from the community.

Craig Frasier stated there could be a problem if it is in the Charter and if you ever want to change it you have to change the Charter.

Larry Meres explained it is important to him to volunteer in the community.

Prudie White feels the spouses should be encouraged to go and have the City pay for the event. She explained it was proven to be extremely worthwhile.

City Manager Hanken explained we currently do not do that because if we do it for Council and then why aren't we doing it for staff.

City Manager Hanken explained paying for the spouse to go has never been an approved policy

here.

Loren Holm feels the value of what they feel their spouse would get should be determined by the individual attending the conference. He explained if he attended a conference and felt it valuable for his wife to attend he would pay her way. He wouldn't want the tax payers to do that because she really isn't in the position to make decisions for the City.

There was a question on rather the City Charter would be approved by section by section or the entire document.

Chair Ingham asked if the committee has come to a discussion regarding employees being Mayor or Council. City Manager Hanken explained his understanding was there was general consensus that a provision be added to prohibit employees from running for Mayor or Council.

Chair Ingham asked about the council immunity clause. City Manager Hanken explained it is in the ORS's that way but some communities have added it to their Charters.

Chair Ingham explained there were some gray areas about what she read in the minutes regarding the quorum issue. City Manager Hanken explained there is a phrase in the Charter that says request and everybody thinks that is a type o and it should be require. She explained she feels the committee should know the rules about a councilor being able to attend a meeting via phone.

Chair Ingham explained she agrees with City Attorney Jordan's comments from the last meeting regarding eminent domain. City Manager Hanken replied he feels that is something that the committee pretty much agreed on.

City Manager Hanken asked if the committee wanted to talk about districts.

Loren Holm would like to delay the discussion until the next meeting. He would like ask more neighbors and do more research.

Loren Holm explained he as a voter would prefer Council to have districts because then his council member would be from the same area that he lives in. The councilor would understand the problems, issues and the improvements that could be done in his particular area.

Prudie White feels the community is to the point where there should be districts. She explained we are getting some many more new people in Scappoose and this would be a way of reaching out. Chair Ingham stated she agrees with the issues completely. She explained then we will have to figure out how to divide the City.

Craig Frasier explained he doesn't feel the diversity within the City of Scappoose is where the areas of town are that different.

Chair Ingham explained another thing we could think about doing as a transition to see how this idea works is have Council form an input committee that has a representative from each precinct

where they would come before and bring any concerns from their neighborhood to Council. City Manager Hanken explained when the councilors start to handle the day to day operation that is commission form. Prudie White explained council should be aware though.

Chair Ingham explained her concern is when she is not home that some person doesn't know how to use the system correctly calls her home and her husband picks up the phone and he starts getting railed on by some neighbor or if her son picks up the phone and some one is really upset and starts railing on him; she doesn't want to subject her family to that.

City Manager Hanken asked the committee is this something that you want to make a recommendation on? Chair Ingham feels the committee should think about this and discuss it at the next meeting.

Chair Ingham explained there were some interesting comments on term limits. She explained she doesn't have a problem with term limits.

Prudie White feels it is a wasted election for a two year term. Larry Meres is concerned if someone wants to be mayor and they don't have any political background. Chair Ingham explained there has to be an election either way since there are council positions that are up every two years.

Larry Meres wants to keep the two year terms but just term limit them out.

Craig Frasier feels there needs to be a combination of the experienced and the inexperienced.

Loren Holm feels terms limits are important but he is not sure where to set them.

Chair Ingham asked what purpose/benefit is it to have term limits then being able to run again after two years. Larry Meres explained he feels it is to try to get new people on the council. Prudie White explained that Devra Hermosilla had mention that if the mayors term was up they could come back and serve as a councilor. Chair Ingham explained then we have to have the discussion where there is a maximum amount of time that one person can serve in a particular position i.e.: councilor or mayor. She stated so if she is termed out then she can't come back after two years because you put a limit on how many years you can serve. She then asked if we have districts can she live over here and do her term and then move over there and be a representative of that district. Craig Frasier asked is she could she also be elected by district over there and then be term limited out and then run for the at large position.

Craig Frasier replied his response would be let the voters term limit you.

Prudie White brought in a newsletter from DuPont, Washington. She feels the newsletter is very worth while. She could see the City spending a little bit of money and putting these out once a month and the schools could get involved because you can have it put out by some of the civics students. Larry Meres feels something like this should go out with the water bill. Prudie White explained her point here is putting it in the community is involving the community.

The Committee discussed having City Attorney Jordan present at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 6, 2009.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Ingham adjourned the meeting.

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Chair Judie Ingham, Councilor

Minutes typed by:

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Susan M Reeves, CMC, City Recorder