

City Council Agenda Item Memo

From: Paul Briseno, City Manager
Council Meeting: November 19, 2024
Subject: Charter Commission Proposed Changes
Presenter: David Gilbertson, Charter Commission Chair

Summary and Recommended Action:

The City Council established a City Charter Review Committee to evaluate the current Brookings Charter for potential updates and necessary changes. The original Charter was adopted in 2002 and last amended in 2006. After a thorough examination, the proposed updates are now ready for City Council review.

Item Details:

The City of Brookings Charter has not undergone a comprehensive review since its last amendment in 2006. The City partnered with the National Civic League in May to support a systematic and informed evaluation. The City Council appointed an 11-member Charter Review Commission, composed of residents committed to civic engagement and objective analysis of the Charter and related governance structures.

Members include:

David Gilbertson, Chair	Jeanne Manzer
Dr. Lisa Hager, Vice Chair	Dianne Nagy
Bob Burns	Ashley Ragsdale
Keith Corbett	Gail Robertson
Van Fishback	Roger Solum
Tom Yseth	

The Commission conducted approximately six public meetings from July through October. These meetings facilitated detailed reviews and discussions to ensure a comprehensive examination of the Charter. The resulting document includes a redlined version that highlights proposed changes and additions. The reasons for change includes:

- Enhanced clarity in language
- Alignment with community values
- Removal of transitional language
- Updates to outdated terminology
- Inclusion of language reflecting current and best practices

The revised Charter draft is now presented for the Council's consideration. Following Council review, the Charter Commission will initiate a public outreach campaign to inform the community and gather feedback before the April 2025 election.

Legal Consideration:

None.

Strategic Plan Consideration:

Service and Innovation Excellence – The City of Brookings will provide an accessible environment committed to ongoing innovation and outstanding service through listening and engagement.

Financial Consideration:

This presentation has no financial implications for the budget.

Supporting Documentation:

Memo

Summary of Changes

Charter - marked

Presentation