

Memo to: City of John Day Mayor and Councilors

From: Chris Labhart, John Day City Councilor

After reviewing several Oregon City Charters, I have found that our city charter needs reviewed and updated. John Day's City Charter was enacted in 1976 and replaced in 1993. I believe, after 30 years, our Charter needs reviewed and updated. I would like to suggest that *the Council appoint* a **Charter Review Committee**. This committee would be made up a citizens throughout the community of John Day. Anyone interested in being on the committee could submit a letter to interest to the city and the council would select from those interested individuals. Looking at Oregon cities that have reviewed and updated their Charters, it looks like the committee was made of up around 10 individuals (several councilors included). Once the committee has reviewed and suggested updates, their recommendations would be forwarded too Council to discuss and or approve suggestions made by the committee. If the Council, chooses to revise the charter, those changes would be summarized and a ballot measure would be placed for the next general election.

One example of a possible review and update is as follows:

Present John Day City Charter Chapter II - POWERS states:

Section 20 – Vacancies: Filling.

A vacancy in the council shall be filled by appointment by a majority of the Council. The appointee's term of office runs from the time of his or her qualifying for the office after the appointment and until expiration of the term of the predecessor who has left the office vacant. During a council member's disability to serve on the council or during a member's absence from the city, a majority of the other council members may by appointment fill the vacancy.

Possible Revision to John Day City Charter

VACANCIES IN OFFICE

Filling of Vacancies. Vacant elective offices shall be filed by appointment. A majority of the council shall be required to validate the appointment. *The appointee's term of office shall be begin immediately upon his appointment and shall continue until a successor is elected at the next regular general election to fill the remainder of the unexpired term of said office.*