



Staff Report

For City Council Meeting - 7/7/2021

Subject - Old Business - Resolution 960 Follow-Up

Synopsis: At the June City Council meeting, Councilor Smith questioned the validity of omitting the Fire Chief from Resolution 960, which adjusts the compensation of City Officers during the budget process. The Council approves the (previously ordinance, and now) resolution annually in order for salaries to take effect in the new fiscal year. The concern, and question, was whether or not the Fire Chief is, or ever was, an official "City Officer".

The Gearhart City Charter states the following as City Officers: Judge, Treasurer, Police Chief, Attorney, and Auditor (which is one of the City Administrator's duties). Chief Jeff Bowman, retired City Treasurer Gail Como, City Planning Assistant Cheryl Lund, and retired Mayor Bruce Maltman all maintain the Fire Chief was never a City Officer. The attached Organizational chart was created off of this basis when the Handbook process began two years ago.

After a lengthy search through each Gearhart City resolution back to 1970, no evidence can be found amending the Gearhart City Charter to ever name the Fire Chief as one of the Gearhart City Officers. It appears the Fire Chief appeared in the compensation ordinance (#810) for the first time June 6th, 2007 for no identifiable reason other than transparency. It also appears the Fire Chief title began appearing on the Council agenda under Officer Reports sporadically beginning March 2010 through 2011, and then monthly from 2012 forward. Our assumption is the Council wished to receive a fire department report, and that was the logical spot to list it.

Since the position is not one of the five officers, City staff was justified in removing the Fire Chief's salary from Resolution 960, and will continue to list only the five officers going forward. Further, you'll notice tonight's agenda has renamed the reports section to encompass both City officers and leaders so that updates from all departments continue to be encouraged.

Recommendation: N/A **Legal Analysis:** N/A **Financial Analysis:** N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Chad



CITY OF
GEARHART

Organization Chart

