



## **Staff Report**

For City Council Meeting - 8/4/2021

### ***Subject - Old Business - Discussion - Fire Chief as a City Officer***

**Synopsis:** At the June City Council meeting, Councilor Smith questioned the validity of omitting the Fire Chief from Resolution 960, and whether or not the Fire Chief is, or ever was, an official "City Officer".

After a lengthy search through each Gearhart City resolution back to 1970, no evidence amending the Gearhart City Charter to ever name the Fire Chief as one of the Gearhart City Officers was found. The Fire Chief's salary appeared in the annual budget compensation ordinance (#810) for the first time June 6th, 2007 for no identifiable reason other than transparency, and on the Council agendas under Officer Reports monthly from 2012 forward (likely) due to monthly departmental reporting.

The findings were reported at the July Council meeting, where a motion was made to make the Fire Chief a City Officer. City Attorney Peter Watts explained a motion couldn't be made as public input is required. Staff stated they would research the process, which is as follows:

- Public Hearing
- A Resolution to go to the voters for approval to amend the City Charter
- A measure to amend the City Charter listing the Fire Chief as the 6th City Official is put on the ballot for voter approval → Pass means the Charter can be amended via Resolution

**Recommended Motion:** Staff recommends no changes to the City Charter or the Fire Chief's position designation. The "title" of City Officer in no way affects the Chief's salary, job description, or work load. It is a long, lengthy process without an apparent benefit to the duties and responsibilities of the Fire Chief, or to the City or residents.

**Legal Analysis:** As described above.

**Financial Analysis:** No financial impact either way.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Chad', written in a cursive style.

Chad