

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 5 – CONCERNING CHANGING THE CLAIMS PROCESS TO CONFORM TO STATE LAW

The charter currently requires that the city council approve payroll, bills, invoices and other claims prior to payment. This is inconsistent with Washington State law and with current city practice. This amendment to Section 2.05 would authorize the city council to review and approve all bills, invoices or claims at their next regularly scheduled public meeting, within one month of issuance of payment.

Should this amendment to the Charter be enacted?

Yes

No

Full Text:

Section 2.05 Powers and Duties: The city council shall have the power to enact ordinances or resolutions, adopt rules and regulations, appoint and remove the city manager, fix all salaries, adopt the budget, control indebtedness, and the issuance of bonds, and to provide for an independent audit of any department or office. It may punish its members and others for disorderly or otherwise contemptuous behavior in its presence, and expel for such behavior in its presence, any member by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of its members, specifying in the order of expulsion the cause thereof. It shall at least once each year hear a report from the head of each city department and division. All other powers of the city and the determination of all matters of policy, whether enumerated in this charter or not, are vested in the city council. ~~The city council shall approve before payment, all bills, invoices and other evidences of claims, demands, or charges against the city government, and shall approve and confirm payrolls.~~ All bills, invoices and other claims presented against the city by persons furnishing materials, rendering services or performing labor, or for any other contractual purpose, shall be audited, before payment, by an appointed auditing officer. The city council shall review and approve claims at the next regularly scheduled public meeting within one month from issuance of payment.