

Council approves sending charter changes to ballot

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer voters will have the opportunity to update the city's charter for the first time in almost three decades this November. If the changes are approved, it will remove the language put in place the last time voters were given the chance to amend the city's founding document.

The Keizer City Council voted 5-0 to put changes to the city charter before voters on Nov. 3. Councilors Marlene Parsons and Laura Reid were absent.

"I'm thrilled to see this, it's been a long time coming," said Councilor Dan Kohler.

The council convened task force with an eye toward removing a section that marginalizes LGBTQ+ residents last year. The removal of the offending section, Section 44, was the major change recommended by the task force, but its members also found other ways to make the document more inclusive, such as using less gendered language throughout the document, and more readable. While city staff are prohibited from promoting the charter changes, Mayor Cathy Clark said it was the responsibility of the council to advise voters on why the changes are needed.

"It would behoove us as council to put together messaging to explain this to voters," Clark said.

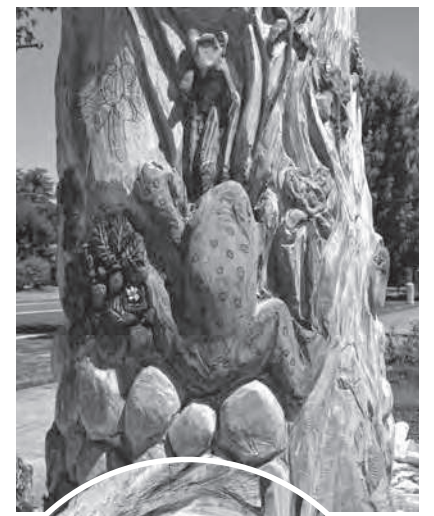
Councilors Elizabeth Smith and Roland Herrera volunteered to lead the charge.

Section 44, which was added to the charter in 1993, prohibits the city from: extending minority status to individuals based on sexual orientation and expending funds that "promote homosexuality or express approval of homosexual behavior."

The effort to pass the measure in Keizer was a last-ditch attempt by members of the No Special Rights Committee and Oregon Citizens Alliance to put in place such language wherever they could. After several attempts to have similar measures passed statewide, the groups targeted a more limited number of individual cities and counties where they thought the ideas might gain traction. Keizer was on the short list and didn't disappoint the idea's supporters when it hit the ballot box. Voters approved the measure with a 55 percent majority.

Since that time, the Oregon Legislature passed a measure making all such local provisions unenforceable, but then returned to the issue in 2017 with a statute putting any local government that tried to enforce on the hook for court challenges. Despite the neutering, the language has remained in the city's founding document for 27 years.

Storytelling with a chainsaw



Artist James Lukinich outlines trees with a chainsaw at the second of two story poles in front of the Keizer Civic Center Tuesday, Aug. 4. LEFT: Close-up of a frog and dragonfly near the base of the pole.

New wave of city-sponsored business loans in the works

Keizer eligible for \$1.1 million in CARES pandemic grants

By ERIC A. HOWALD
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In May, the City of Keizer awarded 18 \$2,500 grants to local businesses struggling in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to a matching grant from Oregon Business Development Department, another round of grants will be offered.

The new grants will look quite different from the first wave, in which a total of \$45,000 was awarded via drawing business names out of a bucket. There could also be far fewer grants available out of the second \$45,000 allotment.

Because the money is arriving through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act approved by Congress earlier this year, there will be a completely different system of awarding grants.

This time around, grants could range from \$2,500 to \$12,500 depending on the number of employees or verifiable expenses. Applications will likely be accepted through the city's website, www.keizer.org.

"These loans will also be geared toward minority-owned or historically disadvantaged businesses," said City Manager Chris Eppley.

"The goal of the program is also trying to get at least 50 percent of the grant awards to sole proprietors," added Shane Witham, interim development director.

Keizer had applied to receive a matching grant from a state program ordering a cash infusion into local businesses, but the terms the city set for the first round of grants did not align with that program.

Under the terms of the CARES agreement, the city

could be eligible for up to \$1.1 million in federal reimbursements for expenditures related to COVID-19. However, the city would need to spend the money first, then apply for reimbursement.

Eppley said the reimbursements did not seem to cover staff time related to COVID-19 issues, but that it could cover some other pandemic-related projects.

"We are looking at renovating the customer service counters in the civic center as a result of the pandemic and it may cover those sorts of expenses," Eppley said. "It looks as though we could possibly partner with some social service organizations to help them."

Background

The original money approved for the first round of grants was a result of fortuitous timing. In January, prior to the onset of the COVID-19

pandemic in the United States and massive economic shutdowns, the city agreed to accept \$15,000 a year from Marion County over the next three

years. Part of the agreement was determining how the money, which is coming from the Oregon Lottery, would be used. Numerous possibilities were mentioned, but all fell to the wayside in the wake of COVID-19's spread and councilors embraced a forgivable business loan program.

Potential projects that lost out included: prepping city-owned properties to be placed on the market for lease; development and support of sports facilities; revitalization of public investment projects, installation of a food truck pod on city-owned property; and paying consultants to advise the city on creation of an urban renewal district or expanding Keizer's urban growth boundary for employment land.

"It looks as though we could possibly partner with some social service organizations to help them"

— Chris Eppley
Keizer city manager

obituaries

Darold Milton Strea

April 17, 1927 - July 25, 2020

Darold Milton Strea of Keizer, Oregon peacefully passed away on July 25, 2020. He was born to Milton and Mary Strea in Fernwood, Oregon. He attended school in Fernwood, and also Molalla High School. He was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, one brother and six sisters.

pioneer history. Darold was a devoted father and was always there for his children. He spent much of his time sharing patiently his experience with each one, and was always there to lend a hand. Darold lived the last seven years of his life with his youngest daughter, Becki and her husband Kent, and enjoyed many outings and camping trips with them. Darold was a lifelong follower of Christ, and will be remembered for being such a wonderful role model for his children and grandchildren. He was always faithful to his church and was active in his seniors group, "Prime Timers." Anyone who ever met or knew Darold will miss him greatly. Well done good and faithful servant. Enter in the joy of your Lord. Matthew 25:23. Due to Covid restrictions, an immediate family graveside service will be held. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Willamette Valley Hospice.



D. Strea

Darold was drafted from the 11th grade into the U.S. Army in 1945 and was stationed in Garmisch, Germany, during WWII. After returning home, he married Gwendolyn Ochampaugh. They lived in the Salem/Keizer area and raised five children: David Strea (Diane), Steven Strea (Ying), Gerald Strea, Cheryl Rempel (David), and Rebecca Barker (Kent), all of Salem. He had 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Darold was a patriot, and at the end of his military career of 35 years, he retired as an E-9 sergeant major, serving in the Army Reserves and Army National Guard.

Darold enjoyed woodworking, reading and exploring places in Oregon and learning, together with his wife, about early Oregon

Free bike repair offered Aug. 21

A free bike repair session hosted by the NW Hub will be held in the Kennedy neighborhood at the Keizer Church of Christ, 5405 Ridge Dr N.E on Friday, August 21 from 2 to 4 p.m. The City of Keizer's Traffic Safety, Bikeways and Pedestrian Committee will be offering helmets in exchange for a \$5 donation. Fittings are free.

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