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# Few changes posted in city's proposed charter

by Paul Stewart

Those looking for sweeping changes in the nature of Dillon's government under the study commissions proposed Charter will be disappointed.

The city study commission has issued a document comparing the characteristics of the current mayor-council form of city government, with its proposed "charter with mayor-council plan of government," which shows that there are only three areas of specific change.

The form of government itself under the charter will remain the same. The elected council will perform policy-making functions, and the mayor will administer the government with the advice and consent of the council. The mayor and council will continue to be responsible for all legislative, executive and administrative functions under the charter.

The mayor will also remain at the helm as the presiding officer of the city administration, and the mayoral term will remain as four year overlapping terms.

According to the document there will also be no change in the powers and duties of the officers in the administration. Despite the study commission's earlier indications that it wished to increase the power of the legislative branch, i.e. the council under the proposed charter, the council mayor balance

of power remains essentially the same.

There is a slight change indicated as far as appointment powers are concerned. Under the present form, the commission states, the mayor appoints department heads and members of boards and commissions with the consent of the council. Under the charter, the "department heads" is substituted by "All employees."

In the area of the city budget, there will also be no change, with the mayor continuing to prepare the budget in cooperation with department heads, which is then modified and approved by the city council.

Another difference under the new form of government would be the powers that the reformed city government, as a whole, would have.

According to the commission, the self government powers bestowed under the charter, would give to the town "the power to act in its own best interest." It would also, say the commission, provide flexibility in shaping government structure.

Finally, the charter would provide that council members be voted for in non-partisan elections. The commission argue that local government issues are usually non-partisan in nature, and that such elections would leave the council

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## Study

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free to "concentrate on efficient delivery of services." There would be no change in the number on the council, which will remain as an eight member group. Earlier commission suggestions that the four council wards be divided up on population, rather than on geo-

graphical spread, appear to have been dropped.

At last week's council meeting

Keith Reeder, of the commission, informed council members that one more public hearing on the

proposed charter will take place on Wednesday, June 26, at the Council Chambers.