

City of St. Helens

P. O. BOX 278

St. Helens, Oregon  
97051

March 17, 1981

ATT. JAF  
RETURN ✓  
YOUR FILE ✓

1915-01  
FILED MAR 17 1981  
HENRY T. HUDSON  
Assessor  
City  
Deputy

Henry T. Hudson  
County Assessor  
Columbia County Courthouse  
St. Helens, Oregon 97051

Dear Hank:

Attached is all the information that I could come up with for you regarding the legal descriptions of the corporate limits of St. Helens, Houlton and Milton. You will note that historic research indicates that Milton changed its name to Houlton in 1890.

While it appears there were charter amendments before the voters in 1909 and 1910, we do not have any copies of the charter prior to the full 1915 copy.

Hope this information will be of value to you.

Very truly yours,

*Rosaline L. Mallory*

Rosaline L. Mallory  
Asst. City Recorder

rlm

Attachments

*The Voters by the Council*  
(Here follows, -passed in, the entire Notice, Res  
Charter Amendment.

### ELECTION NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that on April 4th, 1910, an election will be held in St. Helens, Oregon, to vote on the question of the consolidation of the cities of St. Helens and Houlton, said election to be held in the Masonic Hall Building between the hours of 8 a. m. and 7 p. m.

Dated February 14, 1910.

JOHN Q. GAGE,  
City Recorder.

### ELECTION NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that, on Monday, the Fourth day of April, 1910, there will be held in the Masonic Hall building, in the City of St. Helens, Oregon, the annual city election.

The polls to be opened at the hour of eight (8) o'clock a. m. and remain open until the hour of seven (7) o'clock p. m. of said day.

The purpose of said election is to elect officers as follows, to-wit:

- One Mayor, to serve one year.
- Two Councilmen, to serve one year.
- Two Councilmen, to serve two years.
- One Treasurer, to serve one year.
- One Marshal, to serve one year.
- One Recorder, to serve one year.
- One Water Commissioner, to serve five years.

Also to vote on the following propositions submitted to the people by the Council:

An amendment to the charter of the City of St. Helens.

AND

Shall the Cities of St. Helens and Houlton consolidate as one municipal corporation?

JOHN Q. GAGE,  
City Recorder.

## NOTICE TO VOTERS OF ST. HELENS.

Notice is hereby given that at the regular city election to be held on the 4th day of April, 1910, the following proposed charter amendments will be submitted to the voters of the City of St. Helens for their approval or rejection, which said proposed charter amendments are contained in a resolution duly passed by the Council on the 24th day of March, 1910, which proposed resolution is in words and figures as follows, to-wit:

### RESOLUTION.

Be it resolved by the Common Council of the City of St. Helens, Columbia County, Oregon, that the following proposed amendments to the charter of said city be, and the same hereby are proposed for submission to the legal voters at the regular election to be

held in said city on the 4th day of April, 1910.

CHARTER AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS BY THE COUNCIL.

### AN ACT.

To amend "An Act entitled an Act

also amended by that certain proposed charter amendment submitted to the legal voters of the City of St. Helens at a special election held therein on August 2, 1909, approved by said voters at said election, same being entitled "An Act to amend the charter of the City of St. Helens, under the provisions of Section 2 of Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Oregon, and to provide a system of water works for said city; to provide for the formation of a Board of Water Commissioners to construct, acquire and manage said system of water works, and to provide funds by issuing bonds and otherwise to pay for the same, and to manage and control the receipts and disbursements of money necessary in creating and operating said system; to delegate to said Board of Water Commissioners all the powers now vested by the charter of the City of St. Helens in the Common Council of the said City of St. Helens, State of Oregon, necessary to give said commissioners power to fix rates for the use of water, to collect the same, and to provide penalties for failure to pay water rates, and for the waste of water by users; to do and provide for all matters necessary for the construction and operation of a complete system of water works, including the purchase of any existing systems, the acquisition of needed land, rights of way, reservoir sites, springs and streams, and water rights, to provide funds for paying the same."

### BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF ST. HELENS. CHAPTER I.

Section 1. That an Act entitled "An Act entitled an Act to incorporate the City of St. Helens, in Columbia County, and State of Oregon," filed in the office of the Secretary of State February 25, 1889, and as amended by "An Act to amend 'An Act entitled an Act to incorporate the City of St. Helens, in Columbia County, and State of Oregon,' filed in the office of the Secretary of State February 25, 1889," filed in the office of the Secretary of State February 10, 1893; and as also amended by an Act entitled "An Act to provide a definite plan for the construction and maintenance of sidewalks and sewers in the City of St. Helens, Oregon, at cost of interested property owners, and providing for the subjection of property benefited to the payment thereof," filed in the office of the Secretary of State February 11, 1905; and also amended by that certain proposed charter amendment submitted to the legal voters of the City of St. Helens at a special election held therein on August 2, 1909, approved by said voters at said election, same being entitled: "An Act to amend the charter of the City of St. Helens, under the provisions of Section 2 of Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Oregon, and to provide a system of water works for said City; to provide for the formation of a Board of Water Commissioners to construct, acquire, and manage said system of water works, and to provide funds by issuing bonds and otherwise to pay for the same, and to manage and control the receipts and disbursements of money necessary in creating and operating

Section 2. The inhabitants of the City of St. Helens are hereby constituted and declared to be a municipal corporation by the name and style of the City of St. Helens, and by each name shall have perpetual succession, sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in all courts of justice, in all actions, suits or proceedings whatsoever; may purchase, hold and receive property, both real and personal, within said city for public buildings, public works and city improvements; may lease, sell or dispose of the same for the benefit of the city; may purchase, hold and receive property, both real and personal, beyond the limits of the city, to be used for city parks or burial purposes, for the establishment and maintenance of a hospital for the reception of persons affected with contagious diseases or other diseases, for water works, power plants, workhouses or for houses of correction, and may control, lease, sell or dispose of the same for the benefit of the city. And it shall have and use a corporate seal and may alter and change the same or make a new one at pleasure.

Section 3. The corporate limits of said City of St. Helens shall be as follows, to-wit: Commencing at the northwest corner of the donation land claim of H. M. Knighton and wife, in section 4, township 4 north, range 1 west of the Willamette Meridian in said county; thence in a northwesterly direction, and on the northern boundary line of said claim to a point where the said northern boundary line of said claim would intersect the center of the main channel of the Columbia River; thence up the center of the main channel of the said river to a point where the southern boundary line of the said donation land claim extended would intersect the center of said main channel of said river; thence in a southwesterly direction and on the southern boundary line of said claim to the southwest corner of said claim; thence in a northwesterly direction and on the western boundary line of said claim to the place of beginning. An iron stake at the northeast corner of block 10, set by the County Surveyor Prescott, and established by the Circuit Court as the initial point from which all surveys are to be run and is hereby adopted as such initial point.

### OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY.

Section 1. The power and authority given to the municipal corporation of the City of St. Helens by this act is vested in a Mayor and Common Council and their successors in office.

Section 2. The Council shall compose the Common Council of the City of St. Helens, and shall be elected by the qualified voters of said city at the same time that the other officers are elected.

Section 3. The elective officers of the city shall be one Mayor, who shall be ex-officio President of the Common Council, four Councilmen, and one Treasurer.

Section 4. The Mayor and Treasurer shall be elected annually, and shall each hold office for the term of one year, and until his successor is elected and qualified. They shall be subject to removal in accordance with the State Law governing the removal

for cause, provided Councilmen elect election in April first meeting of themselves by lot number shall give annual election. the second annual

Section 7. The Mayor shall hold office for the first regular meeting soon thereafter hold their office their successor qualified; provided shall and Recorder 1910, shall hold regular election.

Section 8. may in its discretion Attorney and firm term of office.

Section 9. Any office in any who, at the or appointment privileges of the laws of this resided in the twelve months or appointment the owner of corporate limits member of the

Section 10. Mayor and Recorder shall be elected by the Council by the faithful officer, which by the Council shall enter into duties. The todian of the State relation officers shall except as he every officer the City of upon the d take and f oath to he charge the that he will stitution of of the Unit ability. All undertaking shall be p fund of the Section 1 men shall whatever f ficers. The Marshal at shall recei sation to l Council, w be increas election, o of office. shall be Council amounts instance, any such The comp shall be ordinance

# CHARTER

of

## City of St. Helens Oregon



*E. A. Livingston*  
City Clerk

ADOPTED JULY 6, 1915

the legal voters of said City at the regular election held in said City on the fourth day of April, 1910, be amended so as to read as follows:

## CHAPTER I.

Section 1. The municipal corporation now existing and known as the City of St. Helens, the boundaries of which are hereinafter described, shall remain and continue and the inhabitants thereof are hereby constituted and declared to be a municipal corporation by the name and style of City of St. Helens and by such name shall have perpetual succession, sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in all courts of justice, in all actions, suits or proceedings whatsoever; may purchase, hold and receive property, both real and personal, within said City for public buildings, public works and city improvements; may lease, sell or dispose of the same for the benefit of the city; may purchase, hold and receive property, both real and personal, beyond the limits of the city to be used for city parks or burial purposes, for the establishment and maintenance of a hospital for the reception of persons affected with contagious diseases or other diseases, for water works, power plants, workhouses or for houses of correction, and may control, lease, sell, or dispose of the same for the benefit of the City. And it shall have and use a corporate seal and may alter and change the same or make a new one at pleasure.

Sec. 2. The corporate limits of the City of St. Helens shall be as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of the H. M. Knighton D. L. C. in Sec. 4, Tp. 4 N., R. 1 W.; thence running in an easterly direction on the North boundary line of said D. L. C. to a point where the center line of the N. P. R. R. Co.'s right of way crosses said North boundary line; thence running Northerly following the center line of said R. R. right of way to a point due west of the southwest corner of a tract of land described in Book 11 at page 559 of Records of Deeds for Columbia County, Oregon; thence East to the Southwest corner of said tract; thence South 60 degrees 15 minutes East 5 chains; thence North 56 degrees 45 minutes East 18.72 chains; thence South 6 degrees 50 minutes East 1976.3 feet to the Northerly line of a tract of land described in Book O at page 382, Records of Deeds for Columbia County, Oregon; thence North 71 degrees 30 minutes East to the center of the Columbia River; thence up the center of the main channel of the Columbia River to a point where the Southern boundary line of said Knighton D. L. C. extended would intersect the center of said main channel of said river; thence in a Southwesterly direction and on the Southern boundary line of said Claim to the Southwest corner of said Knighton D. L. C.; thence in a Northwesterly direction along the Western boundary line of said Claim to a point where the Northern boundary line of the Thos. Smith D. L. C. intersects said West line; thence South 68 degrees 41 minutes West along the North boundary line of said Smith D. L. C. 4367.2 feet to the Northwest corner of said Smith D. L. C.; thence North 25 degrees 21 minutes West 236.2 feet; thence North along the East boundary of the John McNulty D. L. C. 1324.3 feet to the Northeast corner of the John McNulty D. L. C.; thence North 89 degrees 56 minutes West along the North boundary of said McNulty Claim 1342.0 feet; thence North 68 degrees 07 minutes East along the South line of the Aaron Broyles D. L. C. 1031.5 feet; thence North 30 degrees 27 minutes West 1149.0 feet; thence North 67 degrees 33 minutes East 504.3 feet; thence North 1 degree 27 minutes West 1027.7 feet; thence North 0 degrees 52 minutes West 704.6 feet; thence North 87 degrees 44 minutes East along the North boundary of the Aaron Broyles D. L. C. 670.7 feet; thence North 511.5 feet to the Southwest corner of the Francis A. Lemont D. L. C. in Sec. 5, Tp. 4 N., R. 1 W.; thence South 87 degrees 49 minutes East along the South boundary line of the Lemont D. L. C. 2843.6 feet to the Northwest corner of the Knighton D. L. C. and the place of beginning.

## CHAPTER II.

Sec. 3. The power and authority given to the municipal corporation of the City of St. Helens by this act is vested in a Mayor and Common Council and their successors in office.

Sec. 4. The Council shall compose the Common Council of the City of St. Helens, and shall be elected by the qualified voters of said City at the same time that the other officers are elected.

November 17, 1913 the Cities of St. Helens & Houlton voted to consolidate.

# CITY CHARTER

of

## THE CITY OF HOULTON

### OREGON

Notice is hereby given that at a special City Election to be held on the 3rd day of October 1910, the following proposed Charter Amendments will be submitted to the voters of the City of Houlton for their approval or rejection, which said proposed charter amendments are contained in a resolution duly passed by the Council on the 13th day of September, 1910, which proposed resolution is in words and figures as follows, to-wit:

#### RESOLUTION.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the Town of Houlton, Columbia County, Oregon, that the following proposed amendments to the Charter of said Town be, and the same hereby are proposed for submission to the legal voters at a special election to be held in said Town on the 3rd day of October, 1910.

#### CHARTER AMENDMENT SUBMITTED BY THE COUNCIL TO THE VOTERS. AN ACT

To amend an act entitled "An Act

to incorporate the Town of Houlton, in Columbia County, Oregon," filed in the office of the Secretary of State on the 11th day of February, 1905.

Be it enacted by the People of the Town of Houlton.

#### CHAPTER 1.

Section 1. That an act entitled "An act to incorporate the Town of Houlton, in Columbia County, Oregon," filed in the office of the Secretary of State on the 11th day of February, 1905, be amended so as to read as follows:

Section 2. The inhabitants of the City of Houlton are hereby constituted and declared to be a municipal corporation by the name and style of the City of Houlton, and by such name shall have perpetual succession, sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in all courts of justice, in all actions, suits or proceedings whatsoever; may purchase, hold and receive property, both real and personal, within said City for public buildings, public works and City improvements; may lease, sell or dispose of the same for the benefit of the City; may purchase, hold and receive property, both real and personal, be-

## 2 CITY CHARTER

### Houlton, Oregon

yond the limits of the City, to be used for City parks or burial purposes, for the establishment and maintenance of a hospital for the reception of persons affected with contagious diseases or other diseases, for water works, power plants, workhouses or for houses of correction, and may control, lease, sell or dispose of the same for the benefit of the City. And it shall have and use a corporate seal and may alter and change the same or make a new one at pleasure.

Section 3. The corporate limits of said City of Houlton shall be as follows, to-wit: Beginning at the S. W. Corner of the Francis A. Lamont D. L. C. in Sec. 5, T. 4 N., R. 1 W., and running thence South 511.5 feet to the and Corner on N. Boundary of Aaron Broyles D. L. C.; thence S. 87° 44' W. along the N. boundary of the Aaron Broyles D. L. C. 670.7 feet; thence S. 0° 52' E. 704.6 feet; thence S. 1° 27' E. 1027.7 feet; thence S. 67° 33' W. 504.3 feet; thence S. 30° 27' E. 1149.0 feet to the South boundary of the Aaron Broyles D. L. C.; thence S. 63° 07' W. along the S. boundary of the Aaron Broyles D. L. C. 1031.5 feet to the N. boundary of the John McNulty D. L. C.; thence S. 89° 56' E. along the N. boundary of the John McNulty D. L. C. 1342.9 feet to the N. E. Corner of John McNulty D. L. C.; thence South along the East boundary of the John McNulty D. L. C. 1324.8 feet; thence S. 26° 21' E. 236.2 feet to the N. W. Corner of the Thos. Smith D. L. C.; thence N. 68° 41' E. along the North boundary line of the Thos. Smith D. L. C. 4367.2 feet to the West boundary line of the H. M. Knighton D. L. C.; thence N. 18° 09' W. along the West boundary of the H. M. Knighton D. L. C. 3874.2 to the N. W. Corner of said D. L. C.; thence N. 87° 49' W. along the S. boundary of the Francis A. Lamont D. L. C. 2843.6 feet to the place of beginning.

#### CHAPTER 2.

##### OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY.

Section 1. The power and authority given to the municipal corporation of the City of Houlton by this act is vested in a Mayor and Common Council and their successors in office.

Section 2. The Council shall com-

pose the Common Council of the City of Houlton and shall be elected by the qualified voters of said City at the same time that the other officers are elected.

Section 3. The elective officers of the City shall be one Mayor who shall be ex-officio President of the Common Council, four Councilmen, and one Treasurer.

Section 4. The Mayor and Treasurer shall be elected annually, and shall each hold office for the term of one year, and until his successor is elected and qualified. They shall be subject to removal in accordance with the State law governing the removal of elective officers for cause.

Section 5. The Councilmen shall be elected for two years, one-half thereof being elected each year, and shall hold their office until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section 6. The Mayor, Councilmen and Treasurer shall be elected by the qualified voters of said city at a general municipal election to be held therein on the last Monday in October of each year, the term of office of the said officers to begin on Monday following the said election.

The present President of the Council, as Mayor, and present Treasurer shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. The Councilmen shall hold office for the term of two years and until their successors are elected and qualified, unless removed for cause, providing that the first Councilmen elected under this Charter at the election in October, 1910, shall, at the first meeting of the Council, so classify themselves by lot as that two of their number shall go out of office at the annual election thereafter, and two at the second annual election thereafter. The Marshal and Recorder shall be appointed by the Mayor, with the approval of a majority of the Council, at the first regular meeting of the Council in November of each year, or as soon thereafter as convenient, and shall hold office for one year, or until their successors are appointed and qualified; provided, that the present Marshal and Recorder shall hold their respective offices until the first regular meeting in November, 1910.

and sawmill there. Captain Henry M. Knighton purchased or pre-empted White's claim on the south bank of the Columbia near the north end of Sauvie Island in 1847. Knighton laid out the town of Plymouth (also called New Plymouth, Knighton, and Cassino) and established the Plymouth Post Office in 1850. He finally changed the town's name to St. Helens after the mountain across the Columbia.

During the 1850's St. Helens became a serious rival to Portland. In 1852, the Pacific Mail Steamship built a large wharf and began to trade between St. Helens and San Francisco. Knighton built a second wharf a year later. Eventually, Portland constructed a plank road through the West Hills into the Tualatin area, drawing the bulk of agricultural trade to Portland. St. Helens planned a railroad from its docks over Cornelius Pass to the Tualatin Valley, but the plans never materialized, and St. Helens diminished in importance.

## 2. Milton and Houlton

Milton Creek and settlement were apparently named from the pioneer mill established by Francis Perry at the mouth of the creek. It was the first sawmill in Columbia County. Perry moved his mill up the creek to his 640 acre Donation Land Claim (14). The intense rivalry between St. Helens and Portland led Captain Nathaniel Crosby to establish a third town, in hopes that a dark horse might win (15). In 1850, Crosby and T. H. Smith, who held the Donation Land Claim, established the town of Milton, now South St. Helens, on Scappoose Bay, a mile and a half south of St. Helens. Crosby ambitiously



planned to establish shipping from Milton to China and the Far East. He and Captains Seth Pope, Drew, Menzies and Posey Williams purchased the controlling interest in a sawmill built in 1848 for Joseph Cunningham, but owned at that time by T. H. Hunsaker. They shipped their lumber to San Francisco, built a store at Milton, and began to have a road constructed from Milton to the Tualatin Plains. The town was washed away during a spring flood of the Columbia several years later and never rebuilt on that site.

About a mile northwest of the original Milton site a new town was built much later. The railroad had been extended from Portland to Columbia City, but had bypassed St. Helens. Thus the new Milton became the St. Helens station in 1883 or 1884 (16). In 1890 the town's name was changed to Houlton. Around 1920 the Lower Columbia River Highway 30, which followed the railroad, was built through Houlton. In 1946, the Houlton post office became Station A, St. Helens, and the Houlton area is now West St. Helens.

### 3. Bachelor Flat

The Bachelor Flat area, several miles southwest of the city of St. Helens, derived its name from the many bachelors who settled there during the late nineteenth century. Many of the roads in that area are named after these early settlers including Eric Morton, Homer Bennett, Sard Saulser, Charles Gable, and Kappler and Millard.

There were several lumber mills in the district. I. G. Wikstrom had logging operations in Bachelor Flat and the logs



## References Cited

1. Francis G. Wells and Dallas L. Peck. Geologic Map, Oregon West of the 121st Meridian. 1961.
2. personal communication, Don Dumond, Director, Oregon State Museum of Anthropology. Univ. of Oregon, Eugene.
3. Roy F. Jones, *Wappato Indians: Their History and Prehistory*. Privately Printed. 1972.
4. Emory Strong, "Report on the Powell Site," in Roy F. Jones, *Wappato Indians*. pp. 151-157.
5. Roy F. Jones, *Wappato Indians*, pp. 151-157.
6. Richard M. Pettigrew, *A Prehistoric Culture Sequence in the Portland Basin of the Lower Columbia Valley*. 2 volumes. Ph.D. dissertation, Anthropology Dept., Univ. of Oregon, March 1977.
7. *Federal Register*, Vol. 42, No. 19, Friday, Jan. 28, 1977. pp. 5374-5383.
8. Howard McKinley Corning, *Dictionary of Oregon History*. Binfords and Mort, Portland, Oregon. 1956. p. 58.
9. *Ibid*
10. *Ibid*
11. *Ibid*, p. 275
12. *Ibid*, p. 58
13. *Ibid*, p. 137
14. Columbia County Historical Society, *Columbia County History*. Vol. 1, 1961, p. 29.
15. Fred Lockley, *History of the Columbia River Valley from the Dalles to the Sea*. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1928. Vol. 1, p. 314.
16. *Columbia County History*, Vol. 5, 1966, p. 5.
17. Nellie Burkhead, "Bachelor Flat," *Columbia County History*, Vol. 2, 1962, p. 42.