

Charter Commission

March 16, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

In the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair, the consensus was for Heinonen to chair the meeting.

Members Present: Blashill, Heinonen, Marhula, Meuers, Ravnikar

Members Absent: Chair Dodds, Jorstad, Tanem

Staff present in role as City employees: None

Marhula indicated he would like all meetings recorded. From the audience, City Clerk Miller indicated she would no longer take minutes and would not provide a recording device. Motion by Meuers, seconded by Blashill, to name Marhula the Acting Secretary. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Meuers, second by Marhula to approve the agenda. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February 16, 2022, meeting was presented for approval. Motion by Marhula to approve minutes emailed and amended by Marhula. Audience member Miller challenged the minutes as amended. Marhula raised a point of order about audience members participating in discussion. Heinonen ruled she could speak as it was minutes that she prepared. Marhula challenged the ruling and asked for vote on the ruling. Moved by Ravnikar, seconded by Blashill to table approval of the minutes until the next meeting. Motion carried by majority vote; in favor Heinonen, Marhula, Meuers, and Ravnikar. Opposed Blashill.

Business

1. Acquiring Independent Council

- At this time, Council Member Emelie Rivera asked permission to address the commission. Acting Chair Heinonen declined her request as “Public Comments” were not added to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting. Meuers reviewed some of the history of various issues confronted by the Commission over the past years. Motion by Marhula, seconded by Blashill, that Dodds and Meuers proceed to bring recommendations for an independent counsel to the next meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

2. Charter Commission Bylaws

- No action. Committee still needs to meet.

3. Mission Statement

- No action.

4. Conflict of Interest

- No action. General discussion.

5. Code of Conduct

- No action. People encouraged to do more research.

6. Vacancies/Special Elections

- There was general discussion on lag time on council vacancies caused by state requirements. No action. Heinonen will provide research on instant runoff/ranked choice voting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Topics for the Next Meeting

1. Public Comment on Agenda
2. Size of Council

Adjourn

With no further business, a motion by Marhula, seconded by Meuers, to adjourn. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.