

Charter Commission

Special Meeting

October 18, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Blashill, Ravnikar, Reitmeir, Meuers, Albrecht, Faver, Dodds

Members Absent: Heinonen

Staff Present: City Clerk Michelle Miller, City Attorney Katie Nolting

Chair Ravnikar noted a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Faver, seconded by Albrecht approving the agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Blashill, seconded by Albrecht approving the minutes of March 16, 2023, June 21, 2023 and August 16, 2023 as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment Period

CT Marhula, 4524 Birchmont Drive NE #10, provided comments regarding conflict of interest, code of conduct and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag before Charter Commission meetings.

Business Items

Interim City Manager Charter Language

Discussed potential amendments to the city charter regarding filling the city manager position on an interim basis when the manager is absent or unable to serve. They discussed allowing either the city manager or city council to designate a qualified person to perform the duties. They tasked the city attorney with drafting proposed language for a charter amendment to discuss further at the next meeting.

Other Charter Amendments

Commissioner Meuers suggested changes to Section 2.04 regarding Incompatible Offices. Information memo published by League of Minnesota Cities was cited regarding conflicts of interest and incompatible offices to review for further discussion on any charter amendments to Section 2.04.

Commissioner Meuers suggested changes to Section 2.05 Vacancies wherein an elective office can become vacant if a person elected is convicted of a felony and if language should be added to prohibit a person from filing for an elective office of the person has a prior felony conviction. Upon discussion, no further review or changes will be made regarding this suggestion.

Commissioner Meuers suggested adopting Roberts Rules of Order due to the Mayor speaking from the chair given the influence the Mayor's position holds. Meuers suggested language to ensure that the intent of the commission for a ballot charter amendment is the exact language in the question. Dodds suggested that the commission needs to be more diligent in educating the public on charter ballot questions.

Albrecht suggested adding charter language similar to the city charter for St. Louis Park with regards to Code of Ethics and campaign finances.

Members discussed the process of the City Council and their progress on adopting a code of conduct prior to the six month deadline given by the commission. Staff stated that council is meeting in a work

session in October with a possible resolution adopting a code of conduct at the November 6 council meeting.

Nolting sought clarification from the commission on Section 2.08 Investigation of City Affairs.

Commissioner Reports

No reports.

Next Meeting and Topics

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall. The following topics were identified as Sections 2, 3, 6 and 12, Code of Conduct and Enforcement of Charter with a focus on Chapter 6 of the Charter.

Adjourn

With no further business, a motion by Blashill, seconded by Albrecht, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle R. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk/Secretary