

# **CITY OF BEMIDJI**

## **CHARTER COMMISSION**

### **ANNUAL REPORT – DECEMBER 31, 2017**

*IN ACCORDANCE WITH MINNESOTA STATUTES 410.05, Subd. 2*

#### **June 27, 2017 Annual Meeting**

The Bemidji Charter Commission held the required annual meeting. The City Clerk administered Oath of Office to reappointed Commission members Chuck Stombaugh and Caleb Newman. The Commission also held election of officers.

#### **Special Election Update**

Clerk Murphy reported on the recent special election for Ward 4 Council person. Although it took several months, the election went smoothly. Commission members were satisfied with the process.

#### **State of the City Address**

Members recommended amending Section 2.06 of the Charter as follows:

“...Annually, during the months of January or February, the mayor shall, during either a regular or special meeting of the city council, provide a state of the city address to the city residents...”

The City Clerk prepared a proposed ordinance for a first reading by the council.

#### **Chapter 10, Franchises**

Commissioner Stombaugh stated that at last year’s annual meeting the City Manager suggested that the Charter Commission remove Chapter 10 regarding franchises. Stombaugh stated that he researched other city charters and found that their franchise language was similar to Bemidji’s language. City Clerk Murphy relayed that the City Attorney recommended to leave Chapter 10 as is. Consensus of the Charter Commission was to make no changes at this time.

#### **July 11, 2017 Special Meeting**

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the comments made during the first reading of the proposed ordinance that was brought to Council at the July 3 council meeting. At the council meeting, the Mayor indicated that she thought more flexibility should be allowed by extending the deadline of the State of City Address to the first quarter, rather than just January or February.

Members discussed at length the time frame for conducting the Mayor’s State of the City Address. Members feel consistency is important to have the address read during a regular televised meeting and that the address should be read into the official record of the council meeting. However, that wouldn’t preclude having a second presentation of the address done at a different time and venue.

The commission recommended modifying the previous amendment to Section 2.06 of the Charter as follows:

“...Annually, during the months of January or February, the mayor shall, during either a regular or special meeting of the city council, provide a state of the city address to the city residents...”

The City Clerk provided the recommendation to the council. The Council held the final reading of the proposed ordinance on August 7, 2017 which passed unanimously.

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  
Deputy City Clerk