



City of Blaine

Charter Commission

February 11, 2025 | 6:00 PM
Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

The Charter Commission reviews the City Charter and recommends charter amendments in keeping with the state law. Commissioners are citizen volunteers recommended for appointment by the City Council to the Tenth Judicial District Chief Judge. The Charter Commission meets annually as required by statute, but may convene more often as needed. Those interested in having direct input into City government are encouraged to consider serving on the Commission. Appointments are 4-year terms and Commissioners are no longer limited to two 4-year terms per Minnesota Statute. The Charter Commission must consist of a minimum of seven commissioners and no more than 15 commissioners.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. 2025-73 Approval of Minutes
Sponsors:

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

5. New Business

5.1. 2025-75 Potential Topics and Meeting Schedule Discussion
Sponsors:

6. Old Business

6.1. 2025-74 Recap of Proposed Charter Commission Amendments: Council Salaries, Council Recall, Ward Redetermination
Sponsors:

7. Adjournment

DRAFT

City of Blaine
Anoka County, Minnesota
Minutes of the Meeting
Blaine Charter Commission

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

6:00 PM
Community Room
10801 Town Square Drive NE

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present: Vice Chair Alan Goracke, Commissioners Ayman Ali Khan, Ken Anderson, Tom Doran, Jason Halpern, Abdi Hussein, and Arman Tagarro

ABSENT: Chair Jeff Lester, Commissioners Jason Hartmann, Terri Homan, Dick Swanson, and Nyle Zikmund

Also Present: City Clerk/Staff Liaison Cathy Sorensen

Quorum present.

3. Approval Of Minutes – November 14, 2023

Moved by Commissioner Halpern, seconded by Commissioner Tagarro, that the minutes of November 14, 2023, be approved as presented.

Motion approved unanimously.

4. Open Forum

No one appeared.

5. New Business

None.

6. Old Business

6.1 Recap of Proposed Charter Commission Amendments: Council Salaries, Council Recall, Ward Determination

City Clerk/Staff Liaison Cathy Sorensen shared a summary from the February 5, 2024, council meeting regarding the proposed charter amendment for council salaries and council recall, stating both amendments failed as a unanimous vote of the council was required and the vote was 6-1, Councilmember Saroya voting nay. She noted the salary ordinance outlining the new mayor/council salaries was adopted 6-1 (Councilmember Saroya voting nay) that will increase the mayor/council salaries as recommended by the Commission effective January 1, 2025. She summarized the concerns raised by Councilmember Saroya that including not needing regular salary review as she felt the current salaries were sufficient and regarding the recall petition amendment, Councilmember Saroya wanted to see the scope of reasons for a recall petition expanded to include gross misdemeanors in a councilmember's personal capacity as well as official capacity.

Commissioner Halpern asked if the commission should discuss including nonfeasance language again to the recall ordinance.

Commissioner Khan suggested exploring whether a gross misdemeanor would come under the umbrella of serious malfeasance.

Commissioner Tagarro noted having the amendment fail resulted in having no recall mechanism in place at all.

Clerk Sorensen shared the process outlined in statute should the commission wish to move forward with any amendments as proposed which would allow questions to be added to the ballot on November 5. She noted should that be the commission's direction that the deadline for forwarding ballot questions to the county auditor was August 23, 2024.

Vice Chair Goracke said that it may be best for the commission to remain silent and not be seen as adversarial to the council at this time and wait until the commission can work together with council on these amendments.

Commissioner Anderson said he wanted the record to reflect that the commission considered the council-requested topics of council salary review and council recall and concluded that no further action would be taken at this time.

Other Business

Commissioners Doran and Hussein introduced themselves and shared their backgrounds with the commission.

Set Next Meeting Date

Clerk Sorensen said unless the commission wishes to review other sections of charter, she will notify the commission of the next meeting date in 2025 as required by statute. She noted the agenda will include an opportunity for the commission to consider possible actions again regarding council salaries, council recall, and ward determination.

7. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Khan, to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Catherine M. Sorensen, CMC, City Clerk
Staff Liaison/Blaine Charter Commission