



City of Blaine

Charter Commission

April 9, 2024 | 6:00 PM
Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at by Vice Chair Goracke 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 Cathy Sorensen

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. 2024-64 November 14, 2023 Minutes
Sponsors:

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 for Citizen Input

No one appeared.

5. New Business

None.

6. Old Business

6.1. 2024-53 Recap of Proposed Charter Commission Amendments: Council Salaries, Council Recall, Ward Determination
Sponsors:

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.

Discussion was held on whether the commission should suggest language amendments such as adding nonfeasance back to the recall ordinance or other modifications that addressed gross misdemeanors as suggested. 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 Hussein, to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.