



City of Blaine

Charter Commission

August 12, 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. 2025-448 Approval of Minutes
Sponsors:

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

5. New Business

6. Old Business

6.1. 2025-145 Charter Amendment - Councilmember Salary Review
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

6.2. 2025-175 Review of Proposed Charter Amendment - Council Recall
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

6.3. 2025-176 Review of Proposed Charter Amendment - Ward Redetermination
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

6.4. 2025-168 Discussion of Other Sections of Charter for Possible Review
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

7. Adjournment



City of Blaine

Charter Commission

May 13, 2025 | 6:00 PM
Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

2. Oaths of Office

City Clerk Sorensen shared that all newly appointed and reappointed members' oaths had been administered prior to the deadline as outlined in statute.

3. Roll Call

PRESENT: Chair Jeffrey Lester, Commissioners Ken Anderson, Tom Doran, Alan Goracke, Terri Homar Ramsammy

ABSENT: Commissioners Jason Halpern, Jason Hartmann, Trace Ludewig, Dick Swanson, Nyle Zikmur

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Cathy Sorensen

4. Approval of Minutes

- 4.1. 2025-164 Approval of Minutes
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

Moved by Commissioner Goracke, seconded by Commissioner Homan, to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2025, meeting as presented.

Commissioner Anderson noted the motion for approval of the minutes did not include the vote. Ms. Sorensen said she would correct that error prior to publishing the minutes.

Motion adopted unanimously.

5. Open Forum for Citizen Input

No one appeared.

6. Old Business

- 6.1.** 2025-169 Review of Proposed Charter Amendment - Council Salaries
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

Discussion was held around the original proposed charter amendment for mayor and council salaries that failed in 2024 and other changes that could be made before bringing this forward again to council for their input as the goal was to have a mechanism in place for regular review and the ability to increase salaries, should the council wish to do so. The commission discussed not wanting to have the responsibility to recommend an increase but create language that provide guidelines for an increase. After final discussion, the consensus was to bring forward the proposed amendment to council at a future workshop then schedule for a public hearing as required for all charter amendments:

Sec. 2.07. Salaries.

The monthly salary of each of the councilmembers and the mayor shall be established by ordinance. The council will review salaries of mayor and councilmembers in June of every odd numbered year and any adjustments should be based on the prior two years of cost of living adjustments consistent with those provided to staff and established by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics and the US Department of Labor. The mayor and councilmembers, in addition to the above salaries, shall be paid a reasonable sum for each day and their reasonable expenses incurred while traveling outside the city on the city's business.

- 6.2.** 2025-175 Review of Proposed Charter Amendment - Council Recall
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

Item will be discussed at the August 12 meeting.

- 6.3.** 2025-176 Review of Proposed Charter Amendment - Ward Redetermination
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

Item will be discussed at the August 12 meeting or November 18 meeting.

7. New Business

- 7.1.** 2025-167 Review Draft Activity Letter to Chief Judge Tenth Judicial District
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

Moved by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Ramsammy, to approve the draft activity letter to the Chief Judge Tenth Judicial District as presented.

Commissioner Anderson suggested adding "as authorized by the Blaine Charter Commission May 13, 2025, meeting" to the signature line.

Motion adopted unanimously.

- 7.2.** 2025-168 Discussion of Other Sections of Charter for Possible Review

Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

These items will be discussed at the August 12 meeting or November 18 meeting.

Commissioner Anderson requested that the Commission review the code of ethics chapter at an upcoming meeting.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Goracke, second by Commissioner Howard, to adjourn the meeting at 6:52PM.

Motion adopted unanimously.



City of Blaine Staff Report

File Number: 2025-145

Agenda Date	Status
August 12, 2025	
In Control	File Type
Charter Commission	Workshop Item

Old Business - Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

Agenda Item # 6.1

Charter Amendment - Councilmember Salary Review

Background

At the July 7 workshop, council reviewed the commission's work regarding City Charter Sec. 2-07. – Salaries states that the monthly salary of each of the councilmembers and mayor shall be established by ordinance. Council had directed the charter commission to annually review surveys of council salaries from comparable/surrounding cities for recommendations on possible adjustments for consideration and any adjustments recommended would be presented to council and, if concurred with, an ordinance amendment would be processed. Pursuant to MN Statute 415.11, no change in salary shall take effect until after the next succeeding municipal election. The last increase to salaries occurred in 2025; prior to that changes last occurred in 2015. The current salary ordinance, adopted February 2024 and effective January 2025, is listed below:

Sec. 2-31. Salaries of mayor and councilmembers.

Salaries of mayor and councilmembers.

Pursuant to the City Charter, section 2.07, and Minn. Stat. § 415.11, as amended, the salary of the mayor shall be increased to \$1,526.25 per month; and the salary of the councilmembers shall be increased to \$1,121.80 per month, effective January 1, 2025.

The charter commission had presented a charter amendment last year that outlined a mechanism for regular review and recommendation of future salary changes that would be consistent with any cost of living salary increases afforded to city staff as outlined below:

Sec. 2.07. Salaries.

The monthly salary of each of the councilmembers and the mayor shall be established by ordinance. Review of salaries shall be conducted in June of every odd numbered year and recommendations for adjustments, if any, be based on the annual cost of living adjustments consistent with staff. The mayor and councilmembers, in addition to the above salaries, shall be paid a reasonable sum for

each day and their reasonable expenses incurred while traveling outside the city on the city's business.

With the amendment failing 6-1 last year because it did not receive a unanimous vote by the council, the commission met on May 20, 2025, and reviewed the amendment language again, and after discussion, is proposing the following amendment instead:

Sec. 2.07. Salaries.

The monthly salary of each of the councilmembers and the mayor shall be established by ordinance. The council will review salaries of mayor and councilmembers in June of every odd numbered year and any adjustments should be based on the prior two years of cost of living adjustments consistent with those provided to staff and established by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics and the US Department of Labor. The mayor and councilmembers, in addition to the above salaries, shall be paid a reasonable sum for each day and their reasonable expenses incurred while traveling outside the city on the city's business.

The intent of this revised amendment is to ensure when reviews occur and that those reviews are based on data provided by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics and the US Department of Labor. As this language was different then what was presented last year, the commission wanted to receive council feedback prior to the required public hearing. The attached minutes provide council feedback on the commission's proposal.

In addition, Commissioner Anderson had created the attached memo to share with the council as part of their workshop discussion but instead is sharing it here for commission review first. He will review the memo and provide further input on his proposal during the meeting.

Staff Recommendation

Council is asked to provide the charter commission with feedback on the proposed amendment. Members of the commission will be in attendance should council have any questions.

Questions for Council

- Does council support the charter amendment as proposed?

Attachment List

1. 07-07-25 Workshop Minutes
2. Commissioner Anderson - Memo



City of Blaine

City Council Workshop

July 7, 2025 | 5:30 PM
Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

MINUTES

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP MEETING

In accordance with the provisions of Section 3.01 of the Blaine City Charter, a Council Workshop meeting is scheduled for the following purpose:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Robertson at 5:30PM.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mayor Tim Sanders (arrived at 5:35PM), Councilmembers Terra Fleming, Chris Ford, Leslie Larson, Chris Massoglia, Tom Newland, and Jess Robertson.

ABSENT: None.

Quorum Present.

ALSO PRESENT: Interim City Manager/Community Development Director Erik Thorvig; Assistant Community Development Director Sheila Sellman; Safety Services Director/Police Chief Brian Podany; Finance Director Jason Zimmerman; Director of Administrative Services Scott Johnson; Deputy Public Works Director Jason Grode; Public Works Supervisor - Water Kristian Gaasland; Director of Engineering Dan Schluender; Community Development Specialist Elizabeth Showalter; City Attorney Eric Larson; Communications Manager Ben Hayle; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

3. New Business

- 3.1.** 2025-145 Charter Amendment - Councilmember Salary Review
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

City Clerk Sorensen stated City Charter Sec. 2-07. – Salaries states that the monthly salary of each of the councilmembers and mayor shall be established by ordinance. Council had

directed the charter commission to annually review surveys of council salaries from comparable/surrounding cities for recommendations on possible adjustments for consideration and any adjustments recommended would be presented to council and, if concurred with, an ordinance amendment would be processed. Pursuant to MN Statute 415.11, no change in salary shall take effect until after the next succeeding municipal election. The last increase to salaries occurred in 2025; prior to that changes last occurred in 2015. The current salary ordinance, adopted February 2024 and effective January 2025, is listed below:

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Ms. Sorensen explained the charter commission had presented a charter amendment last year that outlined a mechanism for regular review and recommendation of future salary changes that would be consistent with any cost of living salary increases afforded to city staff as outlined below:

Sec. 2.07. Salaries.

The monthly salary of each of the councilmembers and the mayor shall be established by ordinance. Review of salaries shall be conducted in June of every odd numbered year and recommendations for adjustments, if any, be based on the annual cost of living adjustments consistent with staff. The mayor and councilmembers, in addition to the above salaries, shall be paid a reasonable sum for each day and their reasonable expenses incurred while traveling outside the city on the city's business.

Ms. Sorensen reported with the amendment failing 6-1 last year because it did not receive a unanimous vote by the council, the commission met on May 20, 2025, and reviewed the amendment language again, and after discussion, is proposing the following amendment instead:

Sec. 2.07. Salaries.

The monthly salary of each of the councilmembers and the mayor shall be established by ordinance. The council will review salaries of mayor and councilmembers in June of every odd numbered year and any adjustments should be based on the prior two years of cost of living adjustments consistent with those provided to staff and established by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics and the US Department of Labor. The mayor and councilmembers, in addition to the above salaries, shall be paid a reasonable sum for each day and their reasonable expenses incurred while traveling outside the city on the city's business.

Ms. Sorensen commented that the intent of this revised amendment is to ensure when reviews occur and that those reviews are based on data provided by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics and the US Department of Labor. As this language was different to what was presented last year, the commission wanted to receive council feedback prior to the required public hearing.

Councilmember Newland asked how the language differed this year from last year. Ms. Sorensen commented the difference was in who would establish the numbers, which would now be the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the US Department of Labor.

Councilmember Newland indicated he supported the language as presented by staff.

Councilmember Robertson reported the majority of the council wanted to move forward with the previous amendment and she supported leaving this in the hands of the charter commission. In addition, she supported more regular reviews of the council pay, versus being done once every ten years. Ms. Sorensen clarified the review would be at staff's directive and not the charter commission's directive and would occur in June of every odd-numbered year.

Councilmember Fleming indicated she supported the proposed language change as it would recognize the council's efforts on behalf of the community.

Councilmember Massoglia shared his preference for last year's draft language and suggested, rather than the council review salaries, that a review occur instead, as it doesn't seem right to have the council review their own salaries.

Council provided feedback that supported the proposed language.

Ms. Sorensen noted the charter commission would be finalizing this language at their August meeting and staff would likely bring the item forward to the council in September.

3.2. 2025-146 Concept Plan for Flowerfield Road
 Sponsors: Sheila Sellman, Assistant Community Development Director

Assistant Community Development Director Sellman stated the applicant is requesting concept plan review for a 32 lot single family subdivision at the northeast corner of Lexington Avenue and Flowerfield Road. Since the project is consistent with the comprehensive plan and has fewer than 50 lots, concept plan review is not required, however, the applicant is requesting this review prior to development of the more detailed plans necessary for a formal application. Stonegate Builders is proposed to construct both product types. Stonegate is a local builder who has not previously built in Blaine and offers a wide range of home designs and materials. Staff reviewed example elevations and floor plans for a villa and a two-story homes. If a formal application is made, staff would craft conditions for consideration to be included in the required CUP to ensure that the homes built are consistent with the examples.

Mark Anther, Fenway Land Group, introduced himself and discussed the Flowerfield Road concept plan in further detail with the council. He explained the site was 30 acres in size with a great deal of wetland along with a regional sewer line. He indicated this created challenges in finding the right product mix that worked with the land. He stated he would be partnering with Stonegate Builders on this project and they have been around for many years. He commented further on the open space and trees that were located on the parcel. He reviewed examples of the products he was proposing to build within this development

and noted he was available for comments or questions.

Councilmember Newland stated he had no problems with the proposed development. He indicated his only concern was with how increased traffic would impact Flowerfield Road, because this was a narrow, rural roadway. He asked if the city had any plans to improve Flowerfield Road given the concerns that have been raised by the neighbors. Director of Engineering Schluender discussed the development that occurred along Flowerfield Road in 2014. He noted Flowerfield Road was a rural roadway section with three foot shoulders.

Councilmember Newland questioned if any improvements were planned for Flowerfield Road in the near future. Mr. Schluender discussed the complexities with upgrading and improving Flowerfield Road noting this would require filling in and purchasing wetland credits.

Councilmember Ford commented he supported the proposed development, but he agreed that the traffic along Flowerfield Road should be considered because this was a narrow roadway. He recommended a pedestrian trail be considered for safety purposes. Mr. Schluender stated staff has requested the developer look at connecting the Ghia Street cul de sac to Lexington Avenue with a trail.

Councilmember Robertson thanked the developer for bringing this development forward for council consideration. She explained she appreciated the elevated design elements. She asked that staff address the overgrown ditch grass and shoulders along Flowerfield Road for safety purposes. She stated this was a unique pocket in Blaine because this project was close to both Circle Pines and Lexington. She asked if it was possible to do a right-in/right-out to Lexington Avenue instead of pouring traffic from this development onto Flowerfield Road. Mr. Schluender said he did not anticipate that Anoka County would approve a right-in/right-out but the developer could make that request.

Councilmember Robertson recommended the developer consider a pedestrian plan in order to keep pedestrians off Flowerfield Road for safety purposes.

Councilmember Larson agreed with Councilmember Robertson's comments. She indicated she appreciated the proposed housing mix and that these units would be Villas, which would be geared towards seniors and empty-nesters.

Councilmember Newland supported the Public Works Department visiting Flowerfield Road in order to cut back the foliage along this roadway because it was so narrow.

Councilmember Ford explained he liked this project but indicated there was no space for pedestrians to walk along this roadway. He agreed the developer would have to consider pedestrian safety within the development plans.

Further discussion ensued regarding the trail segments that were located adjacent to the proposed development.

Councilmember Fleming stated she supported the proposed development and appreciated the unique housing designs being proposed by the developer. She thanked the developer for wanting to invest in Blaine.

Councilmember Larson spoke to a number of property owners already in this area and stated she was uncertain how 30 more housing units would adversely impact traffic, especially given how the new units would be marketed towards seniors.

Councilmember Robertson stated it appears the developer has support for the development from the council and the only concerns were with pedestrian safety along Flowerfield Road and how more trails can be incorporated. She asked that staff visit Flowerfield Road and work to improve driver safety by cutting back the existing overgrown foliage.

Council stressed the need for some type of trail/pedestrian traffic plan should this go forward, as well as potential road improvements to address increased vehicle traffic as Flowerfield Road was already very narrow.

3.3. 2025-147 SBM Fire Department - Quarterly Update
Sponsors: Daniel Retka, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Retka provided the city council with a quarterly update from the SBM Fire Department. He discussed how the staffing changes over the past two years were improving response times for the community. He reported the department had 50 overlapping calls per month and noted this number was rising. He reviewed the upcoming activities the department would be involved in, which included USA Cup and the PGA golf event. He then commented on the need for another station in the northeast corner of Blaine.

Lieutenant Jake Feffer provided a breakdown on Station 1 and commented on the total response area for this station, which included portions of Mounds View. He explained Station 1 was in a great location with great access to highways. He discussed the location of Station 3 and reviewed the response area for this station. He indicated Station 4 was built in 1974 and noted this station was in a decent location. The response zone for Station 4 was further discussed.

Fire Chief Retka commented on the administrative contract that was entered into with Centennial Fire District and discussed the benefits of this contract. He stated his goal would be to bring on Circle Pines and Centerville on a contract basis in the future. Further discussion ensued regarding how gaps would be eliminated if these cities were brought on.

Interim City Manager/Community Development Director Thorvig reported he met with the administrators from Mounds View and Spring Lake Park last week to discuss the future fire station. He indicated the first thing to understand was if this was the preferred location and what the potential costs would be for a new fire station. He commented the cost could be anywhere from \$15 to \$30 million.

Councilmember Newland questioned if Station 4 was still being used. Fire Chief Retka reported two firefighters were on call back to Fire Station 4. He indicated a staff vehicle was at Station 4 for these two individuals.

Councilmember Newland requested further information regarding how the stations were being staffed. Fire Chief Retka discussed how the fire stations were being staffed, noting only Stations 1 and 3 were being staffed overnight. He explained Station 4 did not have any room for expansion, but noted Centennial Station 1 could fill this gap along with a new station in the northeast corner of Blaine.

Councilmember Robertson thanked Fire Chief Retka for providing the council with further information on the mutual aid agreements that were in place. She appreciated the information that was shared on the department's response times, and she understood why there was a need for a fire station in the northeast corner of Blaine. She thanked Fire Chief Retka for being budget conscious.

Councilmember Ford stated he understood the city needed a fire station on the east side of Blaine, but noted he was not convinced the best place for the fire station was at the corner of 125th and Lexington. He reported fire stations were not necessarily built due to the growth in residential housing, rather he recommended the fire department consider call volumes. He indicated there would be fewer fire calls in newer housing developments than older housing developments.

Councilmember Massoglia explained he greatly appreciated SBM's approach when it came to providing fire services. He stated he was frustrated by how it appears SBM's partners were not paying their share. He asked if the contract with Centennial was calculated as if they were part of the JPA and would this be done with Circle Pines and Centerville. Fire Chief Retka described how fees were calculated for Circle Pines and Centerville, noting both of these communities were smaller than Spring Lake Park. He noted fees for these two cities would increase incrementally each year.

Councilmember Massoglia questioned what would be done with Fire Stations 2 and 4. Fire Chief Retka explained Fire Station 2 was still being used to store a command vehicle and for storage for the police department. He indicated there were discussions about selling Fire Station 2 over the next year. He indicated his recommendation would be to sell Fire Station 4 and noted the Centennial School District was interested in purchasing this property. He discussed how the sale of both of these properties would assist with reducing capital and equipment costs for the fire department.

3.4. 2025-148 City Manager Transition Topics

Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, Interim City Manager/Community Development Director

Interim City Manager/Community Development Director Thorvig discussed several key topics regarding his transition into the role of interim city manager with the city council. He explained he appreciated all of the work City Manager Wolfe has done over the past month in order to get him up to speed. He commented on how busy the city was at this time and noted nothing would be put on the back burner, except major policy decisions. He reported the budget would be moving forward in full force along with the well interference project. He asked how the council wanted to move forward with emails from the public.

Councilmember Robertson stated each email response differed on a case-by-case basis.

Councilmember Larson indicated she liked responding to emails and noted she reached out to staff when she needed assistance.

Mayor Sanders stated he responded in a similar manner noting he liked to acknowledge residents that emailed him, but also reached out to staff for assistance.

Councilmember Newland explained he does not always have the answers for the emails he receives and he simply forwards them onto the city manager for a response.

Mr. Thorvig said he would be holding one-on-one meetings with councilmembers sometime in August.

4. Other Business

Councilmember Massoglia explained he would like start seeing credit card statements and employee reimbursements provided to council on a quarterly basis for transparency purposes and noted he would be making a motion to that effect at the council meeting.

5. Adjournment

The workshop was adjourned at 6:58PM.



Signed by

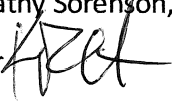
Tim Sanders, Mayor

Signed by

Catherine M. Sorensen, City Clerk

DATE: June 7, 2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members and Cathy Sorenson, City Clerk

FROM: Kenneth R. Anderson, Charter Commission member 

RE: **Revised proposed Charter Amendment for City Council Work Session.**

The language proposed by the Charter Commission for City Council consideration and input is provided below as prepared by the City Clerk. I am offering a suggestion for revision to clarify the source for data referenced to establish cost-of-living adjustments. I did not have an opportunity to comment to the City Clerk and other Charter Commission members prior to this language being forwarded for your consideration; therefore, I am doing so now. Specifically, the U.S. Department of Labor, U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics prepares Consumer Price Index (CPI) data that is often used for purposes of negotiating and setting salaries in collective bargaining agreements. The Charter Commission agreed to use this metric in the proposed language below. Because the language covers a period extending over two years, annual cost-of-living data should be compounded to reflect actual increased costs to the consumer, i.e., in this case, elected official costs of living. Additionally, the reference data should be more specific to avoid confusion as there are many different indices for economic measure.

The appropriate measure I intended and discussed in our Charter Commission discussions is the CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). The CPI-U "measures the change in prices paid for consumers for goods and services" and essentially covers "over 90% of the total U.S. population" living in metropolitan areas, but excludes people living in rural, nonmetropolitan areas (see attached section titled Technical Note for detail). Furthermore, unadjusted data is preferred as it reflects the change in prices that consumers actually pay for goods and services.

For reference and illustration purposes, attached are the data that the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics published on January 15, 2025 for calendar year 2024 CPI-U data, and secondly, information published January 11, 2024 for calendar year 2023 CPI-U data. You will see highlighted in yellow, the percent change in CPI for 2024 was 2.9% and 3.4% for 2023. For example only, using these percent change numbers, the process for calculating changes in the Mayor and Council salaries would be to apply the existing, annual salary figures for both positions by 3.4% to arrive at a total annual salary figure. Using that new figure, you would then multiply that total amount by the second year 2.9% increase to reach a compounded, total salary figure that would be applied to an upcoming odd-year salary increase when due.

SUGGESTED LANGUAGE REVISION AND CLARIFICATION

Based upon the above discussion, I would propose the language be revised and change as follows to clarify the source of CPI changes:

Where the language reads "... established by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics and the US Department of Labor." I would revise to "... established by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and found in annual data of Percent changes in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), Un-adjusted 12-mos. ended December of each respective year."



Economic News Release

Consumer Price Index News Release

Transmission of material in this release is embargoed until
8:30 a.m. (ET) Wednesday, January 15, 2025 USDL-25-0021

Technical information: (202) 691-7000 * cpi_info@bls.gov * www.bls.gov/cpi
 Media contact: (202) 691-5902 * PressOffice@bls.gov

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - DECEMBER 2024

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.4 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis in December, after rising 0.3 percent in November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Over the last 12 months, the all items index increased 2.9 percent before seasonal adjustment.

The index for energy rose 2.6 percent in December, accounting for over forty percent of the monthly all items increase. The gasoline index increased 4.4 percent over the month. The index for food also increased in December, rising 0.3 percent as both the index for food at home and the index for food away from home increased 0.3 percent each.

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.2 percent in December, after increasing 0.3 percent in each of the previous 4 months. Indexes that increased in December include shelter, airline fares, used cars and trucks, new vehicles, motor vehicle insurance, and medical care. The indexes for personal care, communication, and alcoholic beverages were among the few major indexes that decreased over the month.

The all items index rose 2.9 percent for the 12 months ending December, after rising 2.7 percent over the 12 months ending November. The all items less food and energy index rose 3.2 percent over the last 12 months. The energy index decreased 0.5 percent for the 12 months ending December. The food index increased 2.5 percent over the last year.

Table A. Percent changes in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average

	Seasonally adjusted changes from preceding month							Un-adjusted 12-mos. ended Dec. 2024
	Jun. 2024	Jul. 2024	Aug. 2024	Sep. 2024	Oct. 2024	Nov. 2024	Dec. 2024	
All items	-0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	2.9
Food	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	2.5
Food at home	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.3	1.8
Food away from home ⁽¹⁾	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	3.6
Energy	-2.0	0.0	-0.8	-1.9	0.0	0.2	2.6	-0.5
Energy commodities	-3.7	0.1	-0.6	-4.0	-1.0	0.5	4.3	-3.9
Gasoline (all types)	-3.8	0.0	-0.6	-4.1	-0.9	0.6	4.4	-3.4
Fuel oil	-2.4	0.9	-1.9	-6.0	-4.6	0.6	4.4	-13.1
Energy services	-0.1	-0.1	-0.9	0.7	1.0	-0.1	0.8	3.3
Electricity	-0.7	0.1	-0.7	0.7	1.2	-0.4	0.3	2.8
Utility (piped) gas service	2.4	-0.7	-1.9	0.7	0.3	1.0	2.4	4.9
All items less food and energy	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	3.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	-0.1	-0.3	-0.2	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1	-0.5
New vehicles	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.5	-0.4
Used cars and trucks	-1.5	-2.3	-1.0	0.3	2.7	2.0	1.2	-3.3
Apparel	0.1	-0.4	0.3	1.1	-1.5	0.2	0.1	1.2
Medical care commodities ⁽¹⁾	0.2	0.2	-0.2	-0.7	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.5
Services less energy services	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	4.4
Shelter	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	4.6
Transportation services	-0.5	0.4	0.9	1.4	0.4	0.0	0.5	7.3
Medical care services	0.2	-0.3	-0.1	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.2	3.4
Footnotes								
⁽¹⁾ Not seasonally adjusted.								

Food

The index for food increased 0.3 percent in December, after rising 0.4 percent in November. The food at home index also rose 0.3 percent over the month. Four of the six major grocery store food group indexes increased in

December. The index for cereals and bakery products rose 1.2 percent over the month, after falling 1.1 percent in November. The meats, poultry, fish, and eggs index increased 0.6 percent in December, as the eggs index rose 3.2 percent. The index for other food at home rose 0.3 percent over the month and the index for dairy and related products increased 0.2 percent.

The nonalcoholic beverages index fell 0.4 percent in December, after rising 1.5 percent the previous month. The index for fruits and vegetables declined 0.1 percent over the month, after rising 0.2 percent in November.

The food away from home index rose 0.3 percent in December, as it did in November. The index for limited service meals rose 0.4 percent over the month and the index for full service meals rose 0.2 percent.

The index for food at home rose 1.8 percent over the last 12 months. The meats, poultry, fish, and eggs index rose 4.2 percent over the last 12 months and the nonalcoholic beverages index increased 2.3 percent. Over the same period, the index for other food at home rose 0.8 percent and the index for fruits and vegetables increased 1.0 percent. The dairy and related products index increased 1.3 percent over the year and the cereals and bakery products index rose 0.8 percent over the same period.

The food away from home index rose 3.6 percent over the last year. The index for limited service meals increased 3.7 percent over the last 12 months and the index for full service meals rose 3.6 percent over the same period.

Energy

The energy index increased 2.6 percent in December, after rising 0.2 percent in November. The gasoline index increased 4.4 percent over the month. (Before seasonal adjustment, gasoline prices decreased 1.1 percent in December.) The natural gas index rose 2.4 percent over the month and the index for electricity rose 0.3 percent in December.

The energy index decreased 0.5 percent over the past 12 months. The gasoline index fell 3.4 percent over this 12-month span and the fuel oil index fell 13.1 percent over that period. In contrast, the index for electricity increased 2.8 percent over the last 12 months and the index for natural gas rose 4.9 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.2 percent in December, after rising 0.3 percent in each of the 4 preceding months. The shelter index increased 0.3 percent in December, as it did in November. The index for owners' equivalent rent also rose 0.3 percent over the month, as did the index for rent. The lodging away from home index fell 1.0 percent in December, after rising 3.2 percent in November.

The medical care index increased 0.1 percent over the month, after rising 0.3 percent in October and November. The index for physicians' services increased 0.1 percent in December and the index for hospital services rose 0.2 percent over the month. The prescription drugs index was unchanged in December.

The airline fares index rose 3.9 percent in December, after rising 0.4 percent in the previous month. The index for used cars and trucks rose 1.2 percent over the month and the index for new vehicles increased 0.5 percent. Other indexes that increased in December include motor vehicle insurance, recreation, apparel, and education. In contrast, the index for personal care fell 0.2 percent in December after rising 0.4 percent in November. The indexes for communication and alcoholic beverages also declined over the month. The household furnishings and operations index was unchanged in December.

The index for all items less food and energy rose 3.2 percent over the past 12 months. The shelter index increased 4.6 percent over the last year, the smallest 12-month increase since January 2022. Other indexes with notable increases over the last year include motor vehicle insurance (+11.3 percent), medical care (+2.8 percent), education (+4.0 percent), and recreation (+1.1 percent).

Not seasonally adjusted CPI measures

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 2.9 percent over the last 12 months to an index level of 315.605 (1982-84=100). For the month, the index was unchanged prior to seasonal adjustment.

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) increased 2.8 percent over the last 12 months to an index level of 309.067 (1982-84=100). For the month, the index was unchanged prior to seasonal adjustment.

The Chained Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U) increased 2.7 percent over the last 12 months. For the month, the index was unchanged on a not seasonally adjusted basis. Please note that the indexes for the past 10 to 12 months are subject to revision.

The Consumer Price Index for January 2025 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Consumer Price Index End of Year Supplemental Files and Revised Seasonal Adjustment Factors to be Available on February 12, 2025

Each year with the release of CPI data for January, relative importance weights are updated and seasonal adjustment factors are recalculated to reflect price movements from the just-completed calendar year. This routine annual recalculation may result in revisions to seasonally adjusted indexes for the previous 5 years.

Revised seasonal adjustment factors and additional end of year files will be released on February 12, 2025, at 8:30 AM eastern time, in conjunction with the release of CPI data for January 2025. The following files will be available on the CPI supplemental files page, www.bls.gov/web/cpi.suppl.toc.htm:

- * Consumer Price Index Seasonal Adjustment Factors (XLSX)
- * Consumer Price Index Relative Importance (XLSX)
- * Consumer Price Index Revised Seasonally Adjusted Indexes and Factors (XLSX)
- * CPI-U Median Price Change and Median Price Change Standard Errors (XLSX)
- * CPI-U Response Rates (XLSX)
- * Consumer Price Index Components for Seasonal Aggregation to All items (XLSX)
- * Consumer Price Index Series Subject to Intervention Analysis Seasonal Adjustment (XLSX)
- * CPI-U Historical Cost Weights (XLSX)

* CPI-W Historical Cost Weights (XLSX)

With the release of these files, the seasonal factors and selected end of year materials will be available in the API and FTP files. These files will be available for all U.S. city average CPI-U data and a subset of U.S. city average CPI-W data.

In preparation for the upcoming end of year supplemental files and revised seasonal adjustment factors, last year's end of year supplemental files and revised seasonal adjustment factors are now available on the CPI supplemental files page.

BLS will also post last year's seasonal factors and other end of year materials in the API and FTP files in mid- to late-November.

For additional information, contact the CPI Information and Analysis section at cpi_info@bls.gov or (202) 691-7000.

Consumer Price Index Publication Changes to be Implemented on February 12, 2025

With the publication of January 2025 data in February 2025, several indexes and average price series will be discontinued, and one index title will change.

The following CPI indexes will continue to be published at the national level, but will be discontinued for all metropolitan areas, census divisions, and regional size classes:

- * Electricity
- * Utility (piped) gas (often referred to as natural gas)
- * Energy services
- * Fuels and utilities
- * Household energy

The following CPI average price series will continue to be published at the national level, but will be discontinued for all metropolitan areas, census divisions, and regional size classes:

- * Electricity per KWH
- * Utility (piped) gas per therm

The following CPI index will have a title change:

- * Pet food will be changed to pet food and treats

Technical Note

Brief Explanation of the CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the change in prices paid by consumers for goods and services. The CPI reflects spending patterns for each of two population groups: all urban consumers and urban wage earners and clerical workers. The all urban consumer group represents over 90 percent of the total U.S. population. It is based on the expenditures of almost all residents of urban or metropolitan areas, including professionals, the self-employed, the poor, the unemployed, and retired people, as well as urban wage earners and clerical workers. Not included in the CPI are the spending patterns of people living in rural nonmetropolitan areas, farming families, people in the Armed Forces, and those in institutions, such as prisons and mental hospitals. Consumer inflation for all urban consumers is measured by two indexes, namely, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and the Chained Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U). The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) is based on the expenditures of households included in the CPI-U definition that meet two requirements: more than one-half of the household's income must come from clerical or wage occupations, and at least one of the household's earners must have been employed for at least 37 weeks during the previous 12 months. The CPI-W population represents approximately 30 percent of the total U.S. population and is a subset of the CPI-U population.

The CPIs are based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, fuels, transportation, doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Prices are collected each month in 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments (department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments). All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index. Prices of fuels and a few other items are obtained every month in all 75 locations. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the three largest geographic areas and every other month in other areas. Prices of most goods and services are obtained by personal visit, telephone call, web, or app collection by the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are aggregated using weights, which represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. For the CPI-U and CPI-W, separate indexes are also published by size of city, by region of the country, for cross-classifications of regions and population-size classes, and for 23 selected local areas. Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices among cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period. For the C-CPI-U, data are issued only at the national level. The CPI-U and CPI-W are considered final when released, but the C-CPI-U is issued in preliminary form and subject to three subsequent quarterly revisions.

The index measures price change from a designed reference date. For most of the CPI-U and the CPI-W, the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. The reference base for the C-CPI-U is December 1999 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107.

Sampling Error in the CPI

The CPI is a statistical estimate that is subject to sampling error because it is based upon a sample of retail prices and not the complete universe of all prices. BLS calculates and publishes estimates of the 1-month, 2-month, 6-month, and 12-month percent change standard errors annually for the CPI-U. These standard error estimates can be used to construct confidence intervals for hypothesis testing. For example, the estimated standard error of the 1-month percent change is 0.03 percent for the U.S. all items CPI. This means that if we repeatedly sample from the universe of all retail prices using the same methodology, and estimate a percentage change for each sample, then 95 percent of these estimates will be within 0.06 percent of the 1-month percentage change based on all retail prices. For example, for a 1-month change of 0.2 percent in the all items CPI-U, we are 95 percent confident that the actual percent change based on all retail prices would fall between 0.14 and 0.26 percent. For the latest data, including information on how to use the estimates of standard error, see www.bls.gov/cpi/tables/variance-estimates/home.htm.

Calculating Index Changes

Movements of the indexes from 1 month to another are usually expressed as percent changes rather than changes in index points, because index point changes are affected by the level of the index in relation to its base period, while percent changes are not. The following table shows an example of using index values to calculate percent changes:

	Item A	Item B	Item C
Year I	112.500	225.000	110.000
Year II	121.500	243.000	128.000
Change in index points	9.000	18.000	18.000
Percent change	$9.0/112.500 \times 100 = 8.0$	$18.0/225.000 \times 100 = 8.0$	$18.0/110.000 \times 100 = 16.4$

Use of Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) program produces both unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data. Seasonally adjusted data are computed using seasonal factors derived by the X-13ARIMA-SEATS seasonal adjustment method. These factors are updated each February, and the new factors are used to revise the previous 5 years of seasonally adjusted data. The factors are available at www.bls.gov/cpi/tables/seasonal-adjustment/seasonal-factors-2024.xlsx. For more information on data revision scheduling, please see the Factsheet on Seasonal Adjustment at www.bls.gov/cpi/seasonal-adjustment/questions-and-answers.htm and the Timeline of Seasonal Adjustment Methodological Changes at www.bls.gov/cpi/seasonal-adjustment/timeline-seasonal-adjustment-methodology-changes.htm.

How to Use Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

For analyzing short-term price trends in the economy, seasonally adjusted changes are usually preferred since they eliminate the effect of changes that normally occur at the same time and in about the same magnitude every year—such as price movements resulting from weather events, production cycles, model changeovers, holidays, and sales. This allows data users to focus on changes that are not typical for the time of year.

The unadjusted data are of primary interest to consumers concerned about the prices they actually pay. Unadjusted data are also used extensively for escalation purposes. Many collective bargaining contract agreements and pension plans, for example, tie compensation changes to the Consumer Price Index before adjustment for seasonal variation. BLS advises against the use of seasonally adjusted data in escalation agreements because seasonally adjusted series are revised annually for five years.

Intervention Analysis

The Bureau of Labor Statistics uses intervention analysis seasonal adjustment (IASA) for some CPI series. Sometimes extreme values or sharp movements can distort the underlying seasonal pattern of price change. Intervention analysis seasonal adjustment is a process by which the distortions caused by such unusual events are estimated and removed from the data prior to calculation of seasonal factors. The resulting seasonal factors, which more accurately represent the seasonal pattern, are then applied to the unadjusted data.

For example, this procedure was used for the motor fuel series to offset the effects of the 2009 return to normal pricing after the worldwide economic downturn in 2008. Retaining this outlier data during seasonal factor calculation would distort the computation of the seasonal portion of the time series data for motor fuel, so it was estimated and removed from the data prior to seasonal adjustment. Following that, seasonal factors were calculated based on this "prior adjusted" data. These seasonal factors represent a clearer picture of the seasonal pattern in the data. The last step is for motor fuel seasonal factors to be applied to the unadjusted data.

For the seasonal factors introduced for January 2024, BLS adjusted 46 series using intervention analysis seasonal adjustment, including selected food and beverage items, motor fuels and vehicles.

Revision of Seasonally Adjusted Indexes

Seasonally adjusted data, including the U.S. city average all items index levels, are subject to revision for up to 5 years after their original release. Every year, economists in the CPI calculate new seasonal factors for seasonally adjusted series and apply them to the last 5 years of data. Seasonally adjusted indexes beyond the last 5 years of data are considered to be final and not subject to revision. For January 2024, revised seasonal factors and seasonally adjusted indexes for 2019 to 2023 were calculated and published. For series which are directly adjusted using the Census X-13ARIMA-SEATS seasonal adjustment software, the seasonal factors for 2023 will be applied to data for 2024 to produce the seasonally adjusted 2024 indexes. Series which are indirectly seasonally adjusted by summing seasonally adjusted component series have seasonal factors which are derived and are therefore not available in advance.

Determining Seasonal Status

Each year the seasonal status of every series is reevaluated based upon certain statistical criteria.



Economic News Release

Consumer Price Index News Release

Transmission of material in this release is embargoed until
8:30 a.m. (ET) Thursday, January 11, 2024 USDL-24-0019

Technical information: (202) 691-7000 * cpi_info@bls.gov * www.bls.gov/cpi
Media contact: (202) 691-5902 * PressOffice@bls.gov

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - DECEMBER 2023

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.3 percent in December on a seasonally adjusted basis, after rising 0.1 percent in November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Over the last 12 months, the all items index increased 3.4 percent before seasonal adjustment.

The index for shelter continued to rise in December, contributing over half of the monthly all items increase. The energy index rose 0.4 percent over the month as increases in the electricity index and the gasoline index more than offset a decrease in the natural gas index. The food index increased 0.2 percent in December, as it did in November. The index for food at home increased 0.1 percent over the month and the index for food away from home rose 0.3 percent.

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.3 percent in December, the same monthly increase as in November. Indexes which increased in December include shelter, motor vehicle insurance, and medical care. The index for household furnishings and operations and the index for personal care were among those that decreased over the month.

The all items index rose 3.4 percent for the 12 months ending December, a larger increase than the 3.1-percent increase for the 12 months ending November. The all items less food and energy index rose 3.9 percent over the last 12 months, after rising 4.0 percent over the 12 months ending November. The energy index decreased 2.0 percent for the 12 months ending December, while the food index increased 2.7 percent over the last year.

Table A. Percent changes in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average

	Seasonally adjusted changes from preceding month							Un-adjusted 12-mos. ended Dec. 2023
	Jun. 2023	Jul. 2023	Aug. 2023	Sep. 2023	Oct. 2023	Nov. 2023	Dec. 2023	
All items	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.3	3.4
Food	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	2.7
Food at home	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	1.3
Food away from home(1)	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	5.2
Energy	0.6	0.1	5.6	1.5	-2.5	-2.3	0.4	-2.0
Energy commodities	0.8	0.3	10.5	2.3	-4.9	-5.8	-0.1	-2.9
Gasoline (all types)	1.0	0.2	10.6	2.1	-5.0	-6.0	0.2	-1.9
Fuel oil(1)	-0.4	3.0	9.1	8.5	-0.8	-2.7	-5.5	-14.7
Energy services	0.4	-0.1	0.2	0.6	0.5	1.7	0.9	-1.1
Electricity	0.9	-0.7	0.2	1.3	0.3	1.4	1.3	3.3
Utility (piped) gas service	-1.7	2.0	0.1	-1.9	1.2	2.8	-0.4	-13.8
All items less food and energy	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	3.9
Commodities less food and energy commodities	-0.1	-0.3	-0.1	-0.4	-0.1	-0.3	0.0	0.2
New vehicles	0.0	-0.1	0.3	0.3	-0.1	-0.1	0.3	1.0
Used cars and trucks	-0.5	-1.3	-1.2	-2.5	-0.8	1.6	0.5	-1.3
Apparel	0.3	0.0	0.2	-0.8	0.1	-1.3	0.1	1.0
Medical care commodities(1)	0.2	0.5	0.6	-0.3	0.4	0.5	-0.1	4.7
Services less energy services	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.4	5.3
Shelter	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.5	6.2
Transportation services	0.1	0.3	2.0	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.1	9.7
Medical care services	0.0	-0.4	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.7	-0.5

Footnotes

(1) Not seasonally adjusted.



City of Blaine Staff Report

File Number: 2025-175

Agenda Date	Status
August 12, 2025	
In Control	File Type
Charter Commission	Workshop Item

Old Business -

Agenda Item # 6.2

Review of Proposed Charter Amendment - Council Recall

Executive Summary

Background

In 2022 the council directed the charter commission to consider amendments that would provide for a recall process for an elected councilmember. It should be noted that the State's constitution and statute provide for recall of elected state officials but not city officials. The topic was discussed at the 2022 and 2023 commission meetings where commissioners shared input cautioning that reasons for recall did not include those good cause such as health and was against language providing for a recall strictly for political reasons but should address members not being available, dereliction of duty, or criminally based, such as gross misdemeanor or higher. Discussion was held that while charter language sets the parameters for recall ultimately the action was up to the residents to decide and suggested setting the threshold for recall high such as 20% of registered voters. Discussion was held that the recall committee should be larger than five registered voters as well as possibly allowing for a temporary recall. Discussion was also held regarding the potential for lawsuits if the petitions were unfounded and if the councilmember as subject of the recall could appeal the validity of the petition.

The commission reviewed examples from several cities and presented the attached to council during the required public hearing process; the amendment failed 6-1, as charter amendments must be adopted unanimously. The final draft is included here again for any potential changes and possible scheduling for formal consideration by council again. It should be noted that MN Statute 412.02 subd(b) allows cities to declare a vacancy of office if unable/unwilling to serve for a period of 90 days (see attached). Many cities, including Blaine, includes additional language in either charter or city code so any potential recall process ultimately would not have to reference inability or refusal to serve.

Strategic Plan Relationship

Board/Commission Review

Financial Impact

Public Outreach/Input

Staff Recommendation

Staff suggests the commission review the proposed amendment and provide staff direction on next steps.

Attachment List

1. CHAPTER 5. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM AND RECALL - DRAFT
2. February 5, 2024 Council Minutes

CHAPTER 5. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM AND RECALL

Sec. 5.13. Reserved.

Section 5.14. The Recall.

No less than twenty-five (25) registered voters eligible to vote on candidates for that office may form themselves into a committee for the purpose of bringing about the recall of any member of council, which is comprised of a mayor and six (6) councilmembers, as outlined in Sec. 2.03, - Elective Offices, or as amended from time to time. If the committee seeks the recall of a ward councilmember, the registered voters constituting the committee must be from that councilmember's ward. The committee must certify to the city clerk the name of the councilmember whose removal is sought, a statement of the grounds for removal in not more than two hundred and fifty (250) words, and the committee's intention to bring about their recall. A copy of this certificate must be attached to each signature paper and no signature paper may be put into circulation previous to such certification.

The Minnesota Constitution and state court decisions restrict the recall of elected city officials to cases of serious malfeasance during the term of office the performance of the duties of the office. The grounds for recall, as set forth in the recall petition, must be predicated on one (1) or more charges of serious malfeasance during the term of office in the performance of the duties of the office. For this purpose the word "malfeasance" means the performance of an act by a councilmember in their official capacity that is wholly illegal and wrongful.

Section 5.15. Recall Petitions.

The petition for the recall of any councilmember must consist of a certificate identical to that filed with the city clerk together with all the signature papers and affidavits thereto attached. All the signatures need not be on one (1) signature paper, but the circulator of every signature paper must make an affidavit that each signature appended to the paper is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be. Every circulator of a signature paper must be a registered voter eligible to vote on candidates for that office. Each signature paper must be in substantially the following form:

RECALL PETITION

Proposing the recall of _____ from the office as _____ which recall is sought for the reasons set forth in the attached certificate.

Committee

This movement is sponsored by the following committee of registered voters eligible to vote on candidates for that office.

	<u>Legal Signature</u>	<u>Name</u> (print legibly)	<u>Address</u> (print legibly)
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
[listing all members of the committee]			

Instructions to Petition Signers

You are being asked to sign a petition. You must be a resident of, and a registered voter in, the City of Blaine and corresponding ward if the subject of the recall petition is not at large. Every person signing this petition must do so in the presence of the person circulating the petition. It is a criminal offense to sign a name other than your own to the petition or to accept compensation for signing your name to the petition. Pursuant to Section 5.16 of Blaine City Charter, twenty (20) percent of the total number of registered voters eligible to vote on candidates for that office at the last preceding regular municipal election is required to be deemed a sufficient petition, which is [X] signatures.

The undersigned registered voters, all being eligible to vote on candidates for that office, understanding the nature of the charges against the councilmember herein sought to be recalled, desire the holding of a recall election for that purpose.

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Legal Signature</u>	<u>Name</u> (print legibly)	<u>Address</u> (print legibly)
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____

The affidavit of the circulator must be attached at the end of the list of signatures.

Section 5.16. Filing of Petition.

Within thirty (30) days after the filing of the original certificate, the committee must file the completed petition in the office of the city clerk. The city clerk must examine the petition within the next ten (10) working days and if the city clerk and/or city attorney finds it irregular in any way, or finds that the number of signers is less than twenty (20) percent of the total number of registered voters eligible to vote on candidates for that office at the last preceding regular municipal election, the city clerk must so notify one (1) or more members of the committee. The committee shall then be given ten (10) days in which to file additional signature papers and to correct the petition in all other respects, but the committee may not change the statement of the grounds upon which the recall is sought. If

at the end of that time the city clerk and/or city attorney finds the petition still insufficient or irregular, the city clerk must notify all the members of the committee to that effect and file the petition in the city clerk's office. No further action shall be taken thereon.

Section 5.17. Recall Election.

If the petition or amended petition is found sufficient, the city clerk must transmit it to the council without delay, and must also officially notify the person sought to be recalled of the sufficiency of the petition and of the pending action. If the councilmember sought to be recalled does not resign within ten (10) days after having been given such notice, the council shall, at its next meeting occurring more than ten (10) days after the receipt by the council of the recall petition, by resolution, provide for the holding of a special recall election as allowed by statute and election law, as amended from time to time. If the special recall election involves one (1) or more ward councilmembers, the recall election must be conducted only within the wards of the affected councilmembers. If it involves a councilmember who is elected at large, the election must be a citywide election.

Section 5.18. Procedure at Recall Election.

The city clerk must include with the published notice of the election the statement of the grounds for recall and also, in not more than five hundred (500) words, the response of the councilmember concerned in justification of their course in office. The election must be conducted in accordance with statute and election law, as amended from time to time.

Section 5.19. Form of Recall Ballot.

The form of the ballot at such election shall be: "Shall _____ be recalled and thereby removed from office?" The name of the councilmember whose recall is sought and their office shall be inserted in the blank. The voters shall be permitted to vote separately "yes" or "no" upon this question. If a majority of those voting on the question of recall vote in favor of recall, the official shall be thereby removed from office, effective as allowed by statute and election law, as amended from time to time.

Section 5.20. Procedure to Fill Vacancy.

In the event that a councilmember is recalled by the voters or resigns after a petition has been filed for their recall, the vacancy must be filled pursuant to Sec. 20.5 – Vacancies in the council.

Section 5.21. Term.

The term of the candidate selected by the voters at the special election to fill the unexpired term shall start as soon as the certified results have been canvassed by the council and filed with the city clerk and the person has been duly qualified for office.

Section 5.22. Offenses; penalty.

It is unlawful for a person to:

- a. Sign a name other than that person's own name to an initiative, referendum, or recall petition;
- b. Circulate an initiative, referendum, or recall petition without required attachments;
- c. Circulate an initiative, referendum, or recall petition when unqualified to do so;
- d. Sign an initiative, referendum, or recall petition when that person knows they are not qualified to do so;
- e. Make a false affidavit in connection with an initiative, referendum, or recall petition;
- f. Pay or offer to pay a person, or receive payment or agree to receive payment, for signing an initiative, referendum, or recall petition;
- g. Pay or offer to pay a person, or receive payment or agree to receive payment, on a basis related to the number of signatures obtained for circulating an initiative, referendum, or recall petition. This subsection does not prohibit the payment of salary and expenses for circulation of the petition on a basis not related to the number of signatures obtained, as long as the circulators fully disclose all contributions received to the city clerk upon submission of the petitions.

A violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable in accordance with state law.

Sec. 2.05. Vacancies in the council.

A vacancy in the council shall exist in case of:

- (1) The failure of any person elected thereto to qualify on or before the date of the second regular meeting of the new council; or
- (2) The death, resignation, removal from office, removal from the city, continuous absence of any councilmember from the city for more than three (3) months; or
- (3) The failure of any councilmember without good cause to perform any of the duties of membership in the council for a period of two (2) months; or
- (4) The conviction of any such person of a crime for which a sentence of imprisonment for more than one year may be imposed, whether before or after such person's qualification.

If a vacancy on the council is for a period of more than twelve (12) months, the council shall by resolution declare the vacancy to exist and shall by resolution call for a special election as provided in this section.

If a vacancy on the council is for a period of less than twelve (12) months, the council shall by resolution declare that the vacancy exists. Within the next forty-five (45) days, the council shall by resolution appoint an eligible person to the existing vacancy. The appointee shall serve until January 1 following the next regular municipal election, or until their successor is elected and qualified. ~~At the next regular municipal election, the office will be filled for the unexpired term.~~

The council may by resolution waive its right to appoint to fill a vacancy and may call a special election to be held as soon as legally permissible. If a vacancy on the council is not filled by appointment within the forty-five (45) days following the declaration of the vacancy, the council shall call a special election as provided in this section.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, any vacancy resulting from a recall election or from a resignation following the filing of a recall petition shall be filled in the manner provided above.

Northwest Area Street Reconstruction Improvement Project, Improvement Project No. 24-05

Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

Mr. Schluender stated on August 7, 2023 Council initiated the 2024 Northwest Area Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project No. 24-05 with Resolution No. 23-124. At the August 7, 2023 Council meeting WSB, which is one of the engineering firms in the pre-approved consultant pool approved by Council on August 2, 2021, was awarded a contract to prepare preliminary design and a feasibility report. At that time it was stated that after completion of the feasibility report and upon ordering the improvements, a contract for final design and construction services would be negotiated with WSB. The Engineering Department recently requested and received a proposal for final design and construction services including construction materials testing for the 2024 Northwest Area Street Reconstructions project from WSB in the amount of \$273,925.00. Staff has reviewed the proposal and determined that the fees are justified and reasonable. City council is also asked to approve a 10% contingency to bring the total project budget to \$301,317.50. This project will be funded through proposed project assessments, Pavement Management Program funds, Storm Drainage funds, and Public Utility funds.

Moved by Councilmember Fleming, seconded by Councilmember Massoglia, to Authorize the Mayor and City Manager to Enter into a Contract with WSB for Professional Design and Construction Services for the 2024 Northwest Area Street Reconstruction Improvement Project, Improvement Project No. 24-05.

Motion adopted unanimously.

- 11.3. RES 24-30** Resolution Accepting a Bid from Corval Constructors, Inc. in the Amount of \$675,500.00 for the Water Treatment Plant 1 Filter & Piping Upgrades, Improvement Project No. 23-21.

Sponsors: Nick Fleischhacker, Public Works Director

Public Works Director Fleischhacker stated council is requested to approve a contract with Corval Constructors, Inc for the construction of the Water Treatment Plant No. 1 Filter & Piping Upgrades, Improvement Project No. 23-21 in the amount of \$675,500.00.

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Massoglia, to adopt a Resolution Accepting a Bid from Corval Constructors, Inc. in the Amount of \$675,500.00 for the Water Treatment Plant 1 Filter & Piping Upgrades, Improvement Project No. 23-21.

Motion adopted unanimously.

- 11.4. ORD 24-2540** Amend City Charter Chapter 5. Initiative and Referendum and Recall
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

City Clerk Sorensen stated in 2022 the council directed the charter commission to consider a

charter amendment that would provide for a recall process for an elected mayor or councilmember. It should be noted that Minnesota's constitution and statute provide for recall of elected state officials but not city officials therefore any recall process would require a charter amendment. The topic was discussed at the 2022 and 2023 commission meetings where commissioners discussed reasons where a recall would be allowed, size of the recall committee, and an appropriate threshold required of registered voters on a petition that would trigger a recall election. They reviewed several cities' examples and the proposed ordinance being presented is based on the City of Richfield's charter with input from city council regarding restricting reasons for recall to serious cases of malfeasance during the term of office in the performance of the duties of the office. It was noted the first reading and public hearing were held on January 17 with no comments received. It was noted this motion requires unanimous approval (7-0) from the city council in order to be adopted.

Moved by Councilmember Newland, seconded by Councilmember Larson, to adopt Ordinance No. 24-2540, Amending City Charter Chapter 5. Initiative and Referendum and Recall.

Councilmember Saroya asked what changes were made to this portion of charter from the original language. Ms. Sorensen explained the draft before the council was based on the City of Richfield's charter. She reported after looking at several different cities, the Charter Commission recommended the draft language move forward but lowering the threshold for required number of voters on a recall petition as well as lowering the number of petition committee members. She indicated the reasons for a recall were changed from serious cases of malfeasance and nonfeasance in the performance of duties to only malfeasance.

Councilmember Saroya expressed concerns with the fact a city councilmember could not be recalled if they commit a gross misdemeanor crime in their personal capacity. Ms. Sorensen indicated a councilmember could only be recalled if the crime was in relation to their duties of office. She reported this would be determined on a case by case basis by the city clerk and city attorney.

She explained she would be voting against this charter amendment. She stated she wanted residents to have the right to go through the recall process, even if the crime occurs in an elected official's personal capacity.

Mayor Sanders requested staff bring this item back to the Charter Commission for further consideration.

Councilmember Massoglia stated the reason nonfeasance was eliminated was to avoid political theater. He explained the city council wanted recall process put in place and this charter amendment would create that process. He encouraged the Charter Commission to limit the scope for this process and supported recalls being limited to serious malfeasance.

Councilmember Saroya explained she would like councilmembers who commit a gross misdemeanor such as fraud to be included in reasons for a recall petition.

Motion failed 6-1 (Councilmember Saroya opposed).

11.5. ORD 24-2539 Amend City Charter Sec. 2.07 Salaries

Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

Ms. Sorensen stated the council requested the charter commission annually review council salary data and make recommendations for possible increases. After reviewing salary data and the council's current salary which was last increased in 2015, the charter commission recommended a charter amendment that would provide regular review of salary data and recommendations based on annual cost of living increases provided to city staff. The proposed amendment only amends the process in which to review council salaries. Actual adjustments of the salaries are determined via an ordinance that requires approval by a majority of the city council. The proposed amendment also removes reference to reimbursement for reasonable expenses as the commission felt this was out of scope of salary language and is already addressed in council policy. It was noted the first reading and public hearing were held on January 17 with no comments received. Staff explained this motion requires unanimous approval (7-0) from the city council in order to be adopted.

Moved by Councilmember Newland, seconded by Councilmember Massoglia, to adopt Ordinance No. 24-2539, Amending City Charter Sec. 2.07 Salaries.

Councilmember Saroya shared concerns about not wanting to increase salaries as officials are elected to serve. She did not feel comfortable raising salaries when there was no mechanism in place to determine how many hours councilmembers put in.

Councilmember Robertson explained the council was paid \$10,000 per year and noted many of the councilmembers have full time jobs. She reported this was her sixth year on the council. She understood this was a difficult topic to discuss and she understood she was a public servant. She asked staff when was the last time the council received a pay increase. Ms. Sorensen stated the council's last pay increase occurred in 2015. She clarified that the ordinance before the council would allow for an automatic review by the Charter Commission of the council's wages in June of every year and a recommendation would be made by the Charter Commission to the city council. She expressed frustration with the fact this item had been reviewed by council three different times at worksession and believed there was consensus and now it would not be moving forward.

Councilmember Fleming urged the council to support having a mechanism in place that would allow the Charter Commission to review the Council's salary each year. She believed it would be a disservice to not have this mechanism in place going forward. She noted the Council did not have to say yes to each pay raise, but at least there would be a consideration on a yearly basis.

Councilmember Saroya indicated she shared her concerns at the worksession meeting noting this was not supposed to be a full time job. She recommended this topic be revisited, stating she was putting in nearly 40 hours per week in this position. She was of the opinion this position was being done for public service and not compensation. She supported having a mechanism in place, but believed this was not the right one.

Motion failed 6-1 (Councilmember Saroya opposed).

11.6. ORD 24-2541 Amend Sec. 2-31. - Salaries of Mayor and Councilmembers

Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

Ms. Sorensen stated the council requested the charter commission annually review council salary data and make recommendations for possible increases. After reviewing salary data and the council's current salary which was last increased in 2015, the charter commission is recommending the following salary increases for both mayor and councilmembers based on cost of living increases over the past 10 years provided city staff and comparisons to other cities of similar size:

Mayor

- \$18,315.03/yr - currently \$14,313.60/yr
- \$1,526.25/mo - currently \$1,192.80/mo

Councilmembers

- \$13,461.54/yr - currently \$10,500/yr
- \$1,121.80/mo - currently \$875.00

Moved by Councilmember Newland, seconded by Councilmember Larson, to adopt Ordinance No. 24-2541, Amending Section 2-31. - Salaries of Mayor and Councilmembers.

Councilmember Larson stated she believed the proposed pay increases were extremely fair. She understood this pay was not for a full time position, but also noted that costs were on the rise.

Councilmember Saroya indicated she did not feel right raising salaries of city councilmembers.

Councilmember Fleming questioned if this item could be brought back to the Charter Commission for further action. City Attorney Sandstrom advised this was an ordinance amendment and does not require a unanimous vote. He explained per State Statute, any changes of salaries can only go into effect after an election, which meant these changes would go into effect January of 2025.

Motion carried 6-1 (Councilmember Saroya opposed).

12. Other Business

None.

13. Adjournment



City of Blaine Staff Report

File Number: 2025-176

Agenda Date	Status
August 12, 2025	
In Control	File Type
Charter Commission	Workshop Item

Old Business -

Agenda Item # 6.3

Review of Proposed Charter Amendment - Ward Redetermination

Executive Summary

Background

As part of the 2022 redistricting process, council was supportive of the charter commission's recommendation to review potential amendments that would allow for the possibility of future ward restructuring as the city reaches full development. The commission's reasons for possible restructuring included five or six smaller wards that could potentially provide more neighborhood-based representation as opposed to the current three-ward structure. Factors used to determine both wards and precincts include:

- 2020 census population
- projected population growth
- registered voters and estimated voters
- wards that are bounded by precinct lines, compact in area, and composed of contiguous territory
- wards that are as equal in population as practicable within the required 5% population threshold
- polling place management

Staff presented the following additional language to charter that, upon review and consensus by council, would direct the charter commission to review both ward boundaries and number of council election wards for potential changes:

Sec. 26-2. Redetermination of Ward Boundaries.

Pursuant to City Charter [Sec. 2.03\(a\). - Wards](#), the City Council shall re-determine appropriate ward boundaries in years between the taking of a Federal decennial census whenever the Council finds that a deviation of more than five percent exists in the populations of the largest and smallest wards. For the purposes of this section, the Council, in making its findings as to population, shall take into consideration changes in numbers of households since the last decennial census and household size

in areas where changes have occurred as determined by the school district and as outlined in the Metropolitan Council's annual preliminary population and household estimates released in April of each year pursuant to MN Statute 473.24. If after review of the findings the Council determines changes to the number of council election wards should be changed in addition to ward boundaries, the Council shall direct the Charter Commission to review the findings for recommendation to the Council for any appropriate Charter amendments.

The intent was that should the commission determine an increase in the number of wards was appropriate, a recommendation would be made to the council for consideration of any required charter amendments. The commission discussed this potential amendment with council at workshop in 2023 but there was no consensus at the time to continue moving this language forward, outside of continuing discussions as part of the upcoming comprehensive plan update. Should the commission wish to pursue the topic again, staff would suggest scheduling a joint workshop with council to further review.

Strategic Plan Relationship

Board/Commission Review

Financial Impact

Public Outreach/Input

Staff Recommendation

Staff suggests the commission review and discuss the proposed language and provide staff direction on next steps.

Attachment List

None



City of Blaine

Staff Report

File Number: 2025-168

Agenda Date	Status
August 12, 2025	
In Control	File Type
Charter Commission	Report

Old Business -

Agenda Item # 6.4

Discussion of Other Sections of Charter for Possible Review

Executive Summary

Background

Staff is suggesting the commission consider amending Sec. 6.05 - Purchases and Contracts to clarify which contracts require mayor signature. Current and possible amended language is below:

Sec. 6.05. Purchases and contracts.

The city manager shall be the chief purchasing agent of the city. Contracts for the sale or the purchase of supplies, materials, equipment or the rental thereof, or the construction, alteration, repair or maintenance of real or personal property shall be made in accordance with the Uniform Municipal Contracting Law, Minn. Stat. § 471.345, as amended. If the amount of the contract is estimated to be fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) or less, the contract may be made by the city manager. All other purchases and all other contracts shall be submitted to the council for approval. All contracts, bonds and instruments of any kind submitted to the council for approval to which the city is a party shall be signed by the mayor and the city manager on behalf of the city and shall be executed in the name of the city.

(Ord. No. 356, 6-6-1974; Ord. No. 676, 2-21-1980; Ord. No. 84-818, 3-15-1984; Ord. No. 99-1800, 8-19-1999; Ord. No. 15-2313, 6-4-2015; Ord. No. 19-2427, 6-17-2019)

Strategic Plan Relationship

Board/Commission Review

Financial Impact

Public Outreach/Input

Staff Recommendation

The Commission is asked to review and discuss the proposed clarifying amendment.

Attachment List

None