



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 Homan, Jason Howard, Abdi Hussein, Ayman Ali Khan, Arman Tagarro, Ashton Ramsammy

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

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.