

Minneapolis Charter Commission Minutes

June 1, 2016 - 4:00 p.m.

Room 317 City Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Members Present: Commissioners Barry Clegg (Chair), Todd Ferrara, Jill Garcia, DJ Heinle, Andrew Kozak, Matt Perry, Jan Sandberg, Lyall Schwarzkopf, Aaron Street

Members Absent: Commissioners Dan Cohen, Barbara Lickness, Jana Metge, Toni Newborn, Jeffrey Peltola, Andrea Rubenstein

1. Roll Call

Chair Clegg called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m., roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

2. Adopt Agenda

On motion by Perry, seconded, the agenda was adopted.

3. Approve minutes of regular meeting of May 4, 2016

On motion by Heinle, seconded, the minutes were approved, with Commissioner Perry abstaining.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair noted the proposed charter amendment related to existing civil service provisions requiring a service eligibility register, commonly referred to as the "rule of three," which was considered and forwarded with a recommendation of approval at the last regular meeting, had been submitted to the Minneapolis City Council and was subject to a public hearing set for Wednesday, July 20, 2016, at 10 a.m. before the City Council's Committee of the Whole.

Discussion

5. Citizen Petition Amendments

Possible receipt and action on the following two proposed amendments to be submitted by petition:

1. Minimum wage amendment
2. Police professional liability self-insurance amendment

The Chair informed Commissioners the Committee for Professional Policing, which was carrying the petition related to the amendment requiring police officers to carry professional liability self-insurance, would be presented to the City Clerk at 11 a.m. on Thursday, June 2, 2016. There was no known or anticipated timeline related to the presentation of the petition on increasing the minimum wage. The Chair indicated that, as set forth under Minnesota Statutes, Section 410.12, subd. 3, the duty of the Charter Commission was ministerial in that it was limited to receiving the petition for a charter amendment and to transmit that petition to the City Council. Once a petition is so submitted, the City has 10 days to validate the sufficiency of the petition; if determined to be a valid petition satisfying statutory requirements, then the City Council could proceed to submit the petition to the electorate in the form of a ballot question.

The Chair indicated a special meeting might be required to formally receive the petition(s). He would work with staff to determine, first, if a special meeting was necessary and, second, to identify a potential date and time when a quorum could be achieved if a special meeting was required.

6. Plain Language Charter revisions

Information-only item outlining possible technical corrections to the Plain Language Charter Amendment by Ordinance

The Chair presented a packet of technical amendments which were recommended by the City Attorney's Office to address some minor issues in the plain-language revision of the city charter that had been adopted by voters in the November 2013 general election. Being technical and non-substantive in nature, he indicated it was hoped all of the proposed amendments could be enacted by ordinance, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 410.12, subd. 7. Commissioners were requested to review the packet prior to the next regular meeting on Wednesday, July 13, 2016, at which time the floor would be open to discussion about those proposals. Meantime, questions or concerns about any of the proposals could be directed to staff, with a copy to the Chair.

Public Commentary

Dave Bicking, 4200 Cedar Ave, questioned the process for submitting, transmitting, and validating citizen petitions for proposed charter amendments, noting some discrepancies between statutory provisions, state rules and regulations, and information posted on the City's website. In response, the Chair indicated that the Charter Commission would comply with all legal requirements, consulting with legal counsel to ensure the process satisfied what was legally required for the process of petitioning an amendment to the city charter.

Casey Joe Carl, Minneapolis City Clerk, announced that Commissioner Schwarzkopf, former City Clerk and City Coordinator for the City of Minneapolis [February 1972 – December 1990], had been recognized by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) at its 70th conference in Omaha, Nebraska, with an honorary lifetime membership for his many contributions to the profession. Most especially, this included his leadership in establishing the IIMC educational foundation, a nonprofit affiliate providing fundraising and financial support for professional development, education and training, scholarships, and related services for municipal clerks from around the world. Commissioner Schwarzkopf served as president of the IIMC in 1983-84, and has remained an active, contributing member in his retirement.

On motion by Sandberg, seconded, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Submitted by Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk