

MINUTES
WEST ST. PAUL CHARTER COMMISSION
TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2018
5:30 P.M.
MUNICIPAL CENTER
ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Mark Tessmer, Commissioners Aaron Van Moorlehem, Doug Fromm, Tim Valento, Tim Haubrich, Wendy DeVore

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim McKie

OTHERS PRESENT: Council Liaison Ed Iago, City Attorney Kori Land, City Manager Ryan Schroeder

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tessmer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

3. ADOPT AGENDA

Chair Tessmer requested adding approval of the July 25, 2017 minutes.

Motion by Haubrich/Valento to adopt the agenda as amended. All ayes.

4. Adopt Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of July 25, 2017 Meeting

Motion by Fromm/Van Moorlehem to approve the minutes as amended. All ayes.

5. New Business

A. Interviews

Interviews were conducted of the following applicants to fill the Charter Commission vacancies:

- 1) Andrea Friesen
- 2) Marv Karth
- 3) David Meisinger
- 4) James Probst
- 5) Thomas Vavreck
- 6) Karen Vavreck
- 7) Matt Schempp

B. Bylaws Amendment

Attorney Land outlined the changes to the Bylaws and how they differ from the current Bylaws.

There was discussion on how the appointment process could be articulated so that it is fair for the Council and the Commission. There is concern that the Council is not bound by the Bylaws so they have no requirement to comply with the process. Van Moorlehem would like to only worry about what the Charter Commission will do and he would like to see a recommendation going to the Council for a period of time (45 or 60 days) and if no movement is made by the Council to appoint, then the Charter Commission will automatically submit the names to the Chief Judge.

Attorney Land confirmed that state law allows recommendations of appointments to be made by either the City Council, the Charter Commission or both.

Commissioner Haubrich would like the Charter Commission to submit the names to the Chief Judge without the Council's approval. *Motion by Valento/Haubrich to approve an appointment process whereby the Charter Commission considers applications and makes recommendations for appointment directly to the Chief Judge.* All ayes.

Van Moorlehem does not want to see a shortened time frame for notice of a meetings. He does not want to have a provision to suspend the bylaws. Would like to see a redline of the existing Bylaws versus the proposed Bylaws and discuss it at a future meeting with the 4 new members being present. Fromm agrees that we need more time to digest the bylaw changes and include the new members.

Haubrich does not agree that there is a need to wait for the new members. Valento agrees that there is no reason to prolong it, however, would like to see the 8 days' notice of meetings retained.

Tessmer agreed that there is no urgency to change the Bylaws.

Motion by Tessmer/Van Moorlehem to continue the Bylaws discussion to the next meeting, with direction to Attorney Land to retain the 8 days' notice provision and provide a redline showing the changes from the existing Bylaws to the new Bylaws. 5-1 (Haubrich)

Attorney Land reviewed the Committee Members' Expectations document. Van Moorlehem disagrees with the document since there is language that is objectionable and clearly does not apply to the Charter Commission. He suggested we look to the LMC to see if they have a document for respectful conduct of councils, public bodies, volunteers, etc. The recommendation was made to continue the discussion to the next meeting and ask the members to come back with suggestions.

C. Council Salary Review

Attorney Land explained that the Charter Commission has been charged with reviewing the Council's salaries in even-numbered years.

Chair Tessmer would like to see a 5% increase in Mayor and Council salaries based on the 2018 general employee increase.

Motion by Valento/Haubrich to increase the Mayor and Council's salaries by 5%. All ayes.

6. **Old Business**

A. Filling Vacancies

Tessmer indicated his desire to approve the names that were previously adopted in 2017: K. Vavreck, Friesen, Probst, Schempp.

Motion by Valento, Haubrich to move the slate of candidates that were approved in 2017 and immediately submit those names to the Chief Judge. All ayes.

B. 2017 Annual Report

Motion by Van Moorlehem/Fromm to approve the Annual Report and authorize its execution and submission to the Chief Judge. All ayes

7. **Set Next Meeting Date**

The Commission generally discussed scheduling an orientation and while all commissioners would be invited to attend, to make sure the new members can attend. The Commission was able to schedule its next business meeting for September 18, 2018.

8. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Van Moorlehem/Haubrich. All Ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.