

Charter Commission, City of Plattsburgh  
Notes: 3.2.26

Present: Jim, Theresa, Paula, Tim, Michele, Cynthia, Ciara, Sue, Jeff, Lynn, Rod

Excused absence: Michelle, Anna

Unexcused absence: Forrest, Rick, Hillary

Also Present: Mayor Hughes

Rod called the meeting to order 6:01pm.

Attendance was taken.

Minutes:

Anna asked for an amendment – she was listed as present but she had been excused.

Motion to accept as amended: Lynn

Second: Tim

No discussion – unanimous

Public Comments:

Scott Beebie asked the Commission to consider keeping elections on the same cycle as in the present charter. He had researched the issue with the Board of Elections and found there would not be substantial cost savings and also felt “if it ain’t broke don’t fix it” applies.

New Business:

Using the May 19, 2025 Report to the Mayor

C3-9 Prohibitions

Wording in report approved unanimously

C3-8G Common Council five-year plan

After discussion Ciara and Anna were asked to submit wording for the plan’s reporting and review:

Currently:

The plan's progress should be reviewed periodically, and revised annually, by July 1<sup>st</sup> to incorporate any necessary changes.

Submitted:

The plan shall be publicly noted and made available for review. Progress on the plan shall be reviewed periodically and formally reviewed and revised annually, not later than July 1<sup>st</sup>, to incorporate any necessary updates and improvements.

Submitted by Paula:

Annually by July 1<sup>st</sup>, in line with budget preparations, the plan should be reviewed, evaluated and updated. Progress should be reported to the Mayor, Council and shared with the general public.

To be voted on at next meeting.

C6-4 Common Council action on budget

There was some discussion on the date of the adoption of the budget. December 15<sup>th</sup> was voted on:

Approve: 8

No: 2

The wording of C6-4 will stay the same as in the Report

C6-1 Charter revision Budget Message

There was some discussion on the wording of this section. It will be further discussed and voted on at next meeting due to time constraints.

C2-3 City elections; term limits

Section B:

Changes submitted were adopted unanimously

## C2-1 Elected officials; terms

A chart showing changes to elections if Councilors are given four year terms was submitted by Rod with some tweaks by Jeff. There was an extended discussion. There was not support on the Commission to change the schedule that is in place now.

Rod asked commissioners to go back to the current table, think about each alternative, and be ready at vote at the next meeting.

## Old Business

Rod then reminded the commission that a final draft needs to be sent to the City Attorney for his review by July in order to submit to the Board of Elections in August. It was agreed we need to extend the time spent at meetings from one to one and a half hours. From now on the meetings will be from 6 to 7:30 pm.

The goal for the next meeting is to look at Article IV in addition to voting on those parts of Articles II and III that are not done.

Lynn told the Commission about a survey done by the 2025 Commission on city services. There was a promise to the public that the results would be available for review. Anna volunteered to help with publicizing those once they have been reviewed by this commission. Lynn will bring the data to the next meeting.

At 7:20 pm the Commission adjourned. Motion: Ciara Second: Paula – unanimous.

Submitted by, Theresa Bennett