

**City of Moorhead
Charter Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2012 at 7:30 AM
City Hall Boardroom**

Roll call of the members was made as follows:

Board Member (At Large):	James Danielson	Present
Board Member (At Large):	Eileen Hastad	Present
Board Member (At Large):	Roger Buscher	Present
Board Member (At Large):	Kenneth Tangen	Present
Board Member (At Large):	Russell Hanson	Present
Board Member (Ward 1):	Darvin Landa	Present
Board Member (Ward 1):	VACANT	N/A
Board Member (Ward 2):	Ronald Hagemann	Absent
Board Member (Ward 2):	Travis Reimche	Present
Board Member (Ward 3):	Douglas Fagerlie	Present until 8:04 a.m.
Board Member (Ward 3):	Thomas Krabbenhoft	Present
Board Member (Ward 4):	Richard Bolton	Absent
Board Member (Ward 4):	Yoke-Sim Gunaratne	Present at 7:40 a.m.

Charter Commission Meeting

1. [Call to Order](#)

Minutes: Chair Danielson called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

Minutes: Roll call of the Commission members was noted.

3. Approval of Minutes

A. [May 9, 2012](#)

Motion made to Approve made by Krabbenhoft and seconded by Hanson

Approve minutes of May 9, 2012

Motion Passed by unanimous vote

4. [Reports of the Chair, Officers, Commissions and Committees](#)

Minutes: No reports were presented.

5. [Public Comment](#)

Minutes: Bill Schwant, General Manager of Moorhead Public Service (MPS) noted that the MPS Water Rate Study has been completed. The study concludes that the actual cost per fire hydrant is \$350. The City is currently charged \$40 per hydrant. The study also concludes that there is some inequity between customer classes. The study provides recommendations on portioning hydrant costs more equitably and how hydrant rate increases can be phased into the City's current fire protection fees.

6. Unfinished Business

A. [Update on Charter Commission Recommendation to Council: Hydrant Fees](#)

Minutes: It was noted that there are plans for staff of Moorhead Public Service and the City of Moorhead to have a future discussion of proposed rate recommendations as outlined in the MPS Water Rate Study.

B. [Update on Charter Commission Recommendation to Council: Even Year City Election](#)

Minutes: It was noted that first reading of the proposed Charter Amendment relating to General Elections was held at the June 25, 2012 City Council meeting. The motion failed by a vote of 1-7.

C. [City Emergency Operations Catastrophe and Succession Plan](#)

Minutes: John Shockley, City Attorney, provided a brief summary on Continuity of Local Government. State statutes provide cities with the authority to enact continuity of government ordinances or resolutions. It is a policy issue regarding whether the charter should contain such a provision or if it should be done by ordinance or resolution.

Charter Commission Members noted the following:

- There is interest in having the Council determine a succession plan by ordinance or resolution, not by charter.
- A clause in the charter could provide some guidance to survivors on the issue.
- The Council has not discussed provisions for continuity of government.
- There are already provisions in place to operate if the mayor and/or any Council members are surviving.

The City Attorney was directed to provide a draft ordinance for consideration at the next meeting.

D. [Voting Provisions on Issues Related to Expenditures](#)

Minutes: John Shockley, City Attorney, provided two draft ordinances based on previous Commission direction:

1. An Ordinance to Amend and Reenact Sections 2.07, 3.03, and 3.04 of the Charter of the City of Moorhead Relating to Authority for the Mayor to Vote and Ordinances and Resolutions

This ordinance provides for mayor voting in three sections and eliminates voting in the case of a tie. Simply adding a voting mayor would not eliminate supermajority voting requirements. To pass issues related to expenditures with the Mayor voting, a total of seven votes would be required.

Charter Commission Members noted the following:

- There is interest in favor of Mayoral voting as an elected representative of all Moorhead residents.
- Mayoral voting will impact the Council dynamic.

City staff was directed to provide information on provisions related to Mayoral voting in comparable charter cities.

2. An Ordinance to Amend and Reenact Section 3.04 of the Charter of the City of Moorhead Relating to Ordinances and Resolutions

This ordinance provides for a majority vote of Council members for all ordinances and resolutions. With this change, supermajority voting requirements on issues related to expenditures would be eliminated except for those required by State law.

Charter Commission Members noted the following:

- There is interest in having this provision go forward to Council as a recommendation.
- Supermajority voting requirements are in place to protect minority rights.

Motion made to Approve made by Tangen and seconded by Gunaratne
Motion to Approve An Ordinance to Amend and Reenact Section 3.04 of the Charter of the City of Moorhead Relating to Ordinances and Resolutions

Motion Passed

For: 5; Against: 4; Absent: 3; Vacant Position: 1

7. [New Business](#)

Minutes: Jill Wenger announced that a new City Clerk has been hired and will soon assume staff responsibilities related to the Charter Commission.

8. Adjourn

A. [Establish Next Commission Meeting Date](#)

Motion made to Approve made by Hanson and seconded by Hastad
Motion to Establish December 5, 2012 as the Next Commission Meeting Date

Motion Passed by unanimous vote

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted by:
Jill Wenger, Assistant City Manager*