

**FERGUS FALLS CHARTER COMMISSION
2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

To: Seventh Judicial District Court Judge
From: Mark Hovland, Chair of the Fergus Falls Charter Commission

Commission Activities

The Fergus Falls Charter Commission met one (1) time in 2020 on the following dates: September 15, 2020.
Items discussed/reviewed included:

- **Charter Section 4.01. COUNCIL MEETINGS.** In regard to the authorization of the mayor or three members of the council to call a special meeting or a special emergency meeting, and the public notice required for either. Addition discussion considered the need for planning for continuity of city governance if a catastrophic event incapacitated the sitting council.
- **Charter Section 12.05. SALE OF REAL PROPERTY.** Considered if the Charter’s requirement for the City to allow at least ten (10) days to lapse between introducing a resolution authorizing the sale of real property and the final adoption of such a resolution should also apply to the Fergus Falls Port Authority. Several points were discussed pertaining to the legal separation between the city and the port authority, and the city charter’s standing to direct the policies of the port authority. Members concluded this issue is addressed in MN statute Chapter 469, and no action was needed to address within the charter.
- **Charter Section 2.02 POWERS AND DUTIES.** A commissioner was approached by multiple city employees who said they felt individual city council members were exerting pressure on employees outside the restrictions set in Charter Section 2.02 POWERS AND DUTIES, “...no member of the council shall exercise, or seek to exercise, individual authority in any matter or over any City employee, department or organizational structure other than such as is specifically granted by this Charter or by statute. The Council, as a body, in a meeting at which a quorum is present, shall exercise the exclusive legislative authority of the City and determine matters of policy.” It was decided that the Secretary should report the complaint to the city attorney to address in his role of advising the Council.
- **The following terms expire in 2020:** Tim Brennan, Mary Jo Igelstad, Gary Nelson, Virginia Portmann, Dave Prazak, Daryl Synstelien, JoEllen Thacker.
- **Resignation.** Nicole Hansen resigned from the commission due to relocating outside city limits.
- **Eight Individuals recommended for appointment to the Charter Commission.** Five current members whose terms are expiring in 2020 and are recommended for re-appointment: Tim Brennan, Mary Jo Igelstad, Gary Nelson, Dave Prazak, JoEllen Thacker. Three additional individuals are recommended for appointment: Sarah Duffy, Dick Felstul, Desta Hunt (Desta Hunt would fulfill the remainder of Nicole Hansen’s term (Nicole Hansen resigned after moving out of the city).

2020 Meeting Attendance:

Member	09/15/20
Tim Brennan	Present
Richard Edinger	Present
Dan Edwards	Absent/Excused
Nicole Hansen	Absent/Excused
Mark Hovland	Present
Gordon Hydukovich	Present
Mary Jo Igelstad	Absent/Excused

Member	09/15/20
Gary Nelson	Present
Virginia Portmann	Absent/Excused
Dave Prazak	Present
Kris Svingen	Absent/Excused
Daryl Synstelien	Present
JoEllen Thacker	Absent/Excused
John Wagner	Present

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Election of Officers for 2021

An election of officers was held at the Annual Meeting on September 15, 2020 with the following results:

- Chair – Mark Hovland
- Vice Chair – Gary Nelson
- Secretary – Tim Brennan

The following terms will expire on December 31, 2022: Richard Edinger, Dan Edwards, Mark Hovland, Gordon Hydukovich, R. Kristian Svingen, John Wagner.

Scheduled Meetings:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2021 at 7:00 a.m. The 2021 Annual Meeting was set for September 14, 2021.