

FERGUS FALLS CHARTER COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, July 9, 2024

Call to order: Chairperson Mark Hovland called the meeting to order at 7:00 am. A quorum was established.

Attendance:

Present: Mark Hovland, Tim Brennan, Chuck Hanson, JoEllen Thacker, Desta Hunt, Duane Henry, Dave Prazak, Kris Svingen, Dick Felstul, Al Frank, Gary Nelson, Sarah Duffy

Excused: Mary Jo Igelstad

Absent: Eric Shelstad

Adoption of Agenda: Hunt made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Thacker. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: There was a motion by Felstul to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2024 meeting, seconded by Thacker. Motion carried.

Public Comment: two persons from the public were in attendance but declined to address the commission at this time.

Business

A recent resignation in Ward 3 created a vacancy on the City Council. The Council asked the Charter Commission to review Charter Section 2.04 along with the Council's policy and process for filling such a vacancy that was adopted on August 7, 2017.

After discussion among commission members and input from citizens in attendance, Hanson made a motion that no action be taken by the Charter Commission and to inform the City Council that there is a policy and process in place and the council should follow it forthwith. Motion was seconded by Nelson and carried.

In anticipation of future discussions Hovland distributed packets, provided by City Attorney Nycklemoe. This information references policies that have been adopted by other cities. A question came up regarding the 5 vote requirement needed to seat a Council person. Hovland will check with Nycklemoe to see if a "majority vote" could be adopted for filling a vacancy on the council.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was set as the Annual Meeting for September 10, 2024. Frank asked that the topic of the City Council Public Forum be placed on the agenda for that meeting.

Adjournment. There was a motion to adjourn by Hanson, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Tim Brennan, Secretary**