

**City of Excelsior
Charter Commission**

Minutes

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Crow called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Charter Members present: Vice Chair Crow, Bolles, Brokaw, Caron, Harrod, Hartwich, Leafer, Thompson, and Wilson present at 6:23 p.m.

Charter Members absent: Finch, Fulkerson, Nuese-Marine, Mueller, and Norman.

Also Present: City Manager Kristi Luger and Finance Director Joan Carlson

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Caron moved to insert into New Business some information from the City Council.
Motion passed 9/0.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEB. 9, 2011

Bolles moved to approve. Caron seconded. Motion passed 6/0 with Commissioners Leafer, Hartwich, and Brokaw abstaining.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Bowers, 194 West Lake Street, addressed the Commission to bring attention to the fact that his written comments were not included in the minutes of the previous meeting as requested.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Excelsior City Staff members Kristi Luger and Joan Carlson presented the remainder of their presentation on the Financial Management Plan for the City.

There was discussion among the Commission, City Staff, and Mr. Bowers about the budget used by the City in comparison to a model used as an example from the City of Mounds View.

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If the City of Excelsior was interested in implementing a similar budget plan to the City of Mounds View a one year time line would reasonable considering Excelsior's plan already includes several of the Mounds View model characteristics.

Vice Chair Crow provided documentation of the State Statute regarding Charter Guidelines as requested to support her previous comments about the steps the Charter Commission can take regarding the petition that is before the Charter Commission.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chair Crow requested City Staff to present to the Commission the steps used to bond a project.

Commissioner Brokaw moved that the Chair or Vice Chair contact the City of Lino Lakes staff to ask how the bonding section in their charter is working for them.

Commissioner Wilson made a friendly amendment that at least two Commissioners be available to talk to the City of Lino Lakes staff.

Caron also through friendly amendment suggested the Chair and Vice Chair be present to speak with the City of Mounds View staff. Harrod seconded.

Vice Chair Crow asked Brokaw if she would be the second Commissioner present. Brokaw agreed. Motion passed 9/0.

Caron informed the Commission that the City Council intends to start publishing a recap of the actions taken at their meetings as increased transparency to the residents of Excelsior.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is set for March 17, 2011.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Brokaw moved to adjourn, Thompson seconded. Motion passed 9/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannie Thompson
Secretary

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

To Excelsior Charter Commissioners
From: Lucille Crow, Vice-Chair Charter Commission

Edward Cadman, Attorney
Research Department
League of MN Cities
St. Paul MN

(651) 281-1229

Minnesota Statutes 410.05 Subdivision 4

Commission meetings.

The charter commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year, and upon presentation of a petition signed by at least ten percent of the number of voters of the municipality, as shown by the returns of the last annual municipal election, or upon resolution approved by a majority of the governing body of the city requesting the commission to convene, the commission shall meet to consider the proposals set forth in such petition or resolution.

This material is available via Google: Minnesota Statutes 410.05

If a resident wishes to present a proposed amendment to the city's charter and put it to a city wide vote, signatures of 5 % of the total votes cast at the last state-wide general election is required.

The League of Minnesota Cities is aware of only two cities in Minnesota that have financial limitations in their City Charters. These two are Fridley and Mounds View.

Mr. Cadman agreed the language of a petition is 'fixed language and is what the voters' signatures supported. If a petition language is altered or revised, voters' signatures must be solicited with the revised language.