

MINUTES OF MEETING  
2026 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION  
June 3, 2026

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Members Present: Chris Aiola, Andy Bemer, Elizabeth Gerstenhaber, Collen Hauer, Dr. Al Melton, Michael O'Donnell, and Peter Sullivan Jr.

Members Absent: Chris Klym and Pat Roberts

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Chairman Bemer opened the meeting at 6:00 PM and acknowledged that Charter Member Roberts and Klym would be absent from tonight's meeting. Chairman Bemer acknowledged that there is quorum for the meeting and then asked the other members if they had any thoughts or concerns on the minutes from last week. No members asked any questions and the minutes stand as presented.

Chairman Bemer then focused on the remaining articles to be voted on for city council consideration. He then asked Secretary Greco to review each article for the committee and then would take a vote on whether or not to advance them. Secretary Greco began the review with the first article on the review list and told the committee that it has been voted on already and passed. The second article on the list is **Article II – Mayor, Section 2, Qualifications** and needs a vote tonight Secretary Greco stated and it concerns the qualifications to be mayor. He stated that he did speak with the Board of Elections regarding the proposed new language regarding outside employment of a mayor and he advised the committee that with the language that is provided in the removal section of the mayor, the Board of Elections stated that there is enough language there to deal with this issue. Chairman Bemer then asked to discuss this issue with the other members and then suggested that the commission table this article for now and then come back to it later this evening because this article may be removed for consideration.

Secretary Greco then moved to the next article which is **Article II Mayor, Section 3, Removal** which dealt with removal language of the mayor. He stated he inserted the removal language from a neighboring city's charter as instructed by the commission. There was discussion then regarding how many articles and the changes that have been proposed would appear as one item on the ballot for the public to consider. With that then the focus turn to **Article IX – Nominations and Elections** with focus on the language before the vote. Charter Member then gave a summary of the article with the new language regarding non-partisan elections. Topics included adding language to end of section 1 of the article and amending the title of section 2. as well. Charter Member Hauer did clarify if that Section 4 and Section 5 of this article is deleted if the new language is adopted. Secretary Greco stated they would be deleted considering they would be obsolete. Chairman Bemer then asked the commission if there were any objections to this language for this article and there were no objections. The commission then voted on the article with the proposed language to send to council for a public vote. The following vote was:

Hauer – No, Sullivan – Yes, O'Donnell – Yes, Bemer – Yes, Gerstenhaber – Yes, Aiola – Yes, and Melton – No. Motion passes.

Charter Member Gerstenhaber then asked the other members what their motivations were regarding their vote for this particular article. The various members gave their opinions and points of view as to way they voted the way they did.

Chairman Bemer then ended that discussion and return to the list of articles yet to be voted on. He asked Charter Member O'Donnell if he had any concerns regarding the qualifications article or the removal article of the mayor and he did not. He stated that is was just not high on his list of ballot initiatives to send to the public is all. With that Chairman Bemer asked the commission to vote on **Article II Mayor, Section 3, Removal** and the new language that was added to help define the removal process. The commission then voted on the article with the proposed language to send to council for a public vote. The following vote was:

Hauer – Yes, Sullivan – No, O'Donnell – No, Bemer – Yes, Gerstenhaber – No, Aiola – Yes, and Melton – Yes. Motion passes.

The next article to vote on was **Article IV – Administrative Departments – Section 2. Law** and the newly proposed removal language. The commission then voted on the article with the proposed language to send to council for a public vote. The following vote was:

Hauer – Yes, Sullivan – No, O'Donnell – No, Bemer – Yes, Gerstenhaber – No, Aiola – Yes, and Melton – Yes. Motion passes.

Chairman Bemer then asked Secretary Greco for a summary of what articles have passed and what remain to be voted on. Member O'Donnell then pointed out that the mayor's term is one vote going to the public and the removal language is another vote going to the public. The commission then discussed that sending the length of term for the law director and removal language together would not make sense and it should be two new sections with two separate votes. Chairman Bemer asked the commission that that is something they wanted and they agreed. This would be a grammatical edit and not vote would be needed to create a sub section under Section 2 of this article.

The final discussion then focused on the final article under consideration. Discussion then focused on the importance of adding the proposed language regarding this issue of additional employment. Chairman Bemer then asked for a motion to delete this article from consideration. It was seconded. Discussion continued about weaving the secondary employment issue into another article and then it focused on how the Board of Elections saw no need for additional language for this topic. The commission then voted on the article with the proposed language to send to council for a public vote. The following vote was:

Hauer – Yes, Sullivan – Yes, O'Donnell – Yes, Bemer – Yes, Gerstenhaber – Yes, Aiola – Yes, and Melton – Yes. Motion passes.

Secretary Greco then gave a final summary and the total number of ballot issues to be sent to the public was seven.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.