

# City of Plattsburgh

## Charter Commission 2026



Notes: 7.7.26

- Rod called the meeting to order 6:00pm.
- Attendance was taken.
  - Present: Jim, Theresa, Paula, Tim, Forrest, Michele, Ciara, Sue, Rick, Lynn, Rod
  - Excused absence: Cynthia, Anna
  - Unexcused absence: Hillary
  - Also Present: Mayor Hughes, Justin Meyers
- Minutes:
  - Motion to accept: Lynn
  - Second: Anna
  - No discussion – unanimous
- Public Comments:
  - None
- New Business:
  - C5.2 F
  - C5.4 7 Revised wording accepted unanimously
  - C6.1 & 2 Revised wording accepted unanimously
  - Rod reminded the Commissioners they had been sent the revised wording worked on by Paula, Theresa and himself after the June meeting. He had received no changes so asked if they were ready to approved the proposed Charter.
  - Justin expressed his areas of concern: section C3.10.2
    - When a Public Hearing is held there are several steps that need to be taken by regulation. He feels this is not needed for most variances.
    - There was much discussion on this as the Commissioners felt they want the Charter to reflect the goal of transparency in City Government actions. Ciara volunteered the following change in wording:
    - The Common Council ~~may, in its discretion~~ **shall** conduct public outreach ~~and hold a public hearing to gather community input regarding an proposed ordinance whenever~~ it determines that **such public** input would assist in its consideration of the proposal.
      - Motion for wording as amended – Tim
      - Second – Jim
      - Unanimous

- C.3 5 B
  - The commissioners were unanimous that: 1) Counselors need to include any raises in their proposed budget and 2) Counselors need to vote for any proposed raises publicly. There was consensus that this was clear in the proposed language, however because of the wording in the 2015 Charter, an exception needed to be made for an raises approved for 2027.
  - After discussion the following wording was proposed:
  - B. This provision will take effect for the 2027 fiscal year.
    - Motion: Michele
    - Second: Tim
    - Unanimous
- A motion was made to approve the Charter as amended subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. Rod and Theresa, with help from Paula if needed will produce a draft to be reviewed by Justin.
  - Motion: Jim
  - Second: Lynn
  - Unanimous
- Old Business
  - Lynn reminded the commissioners that although they have talked about a plan to educated voters about the proposed charter, no plan has been made. Michele and Ciara agreed to produce a one or two page fact sheet to be put on the City website and distributed to voters. Lynn and Theresa agreed to draft a PR plan to get the information to voters. There will be reports to the commission about these efforts at the next meeting.
- It was decided to hold the next commission on the already scheduled date of August 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.
- At 7:44 pm the Commission adjourned. Motion: Sue Second: Paula – unanimous.

Submitted by, Theresa Bennett