

City of Plattsburgh  
Charter Commission 2026



Notes: 6.2.26

Present: Jim, Theresa, Paula, Tim, Michele, Cynthia (6:08pm), Anna, Ciara, Sue, Lynn (6:02pm), Rod

Unexcused absence: Forrest, Rick

Also Present: Mayor Hughes, Justin Meyers

Rod called the meeting to order 6:00pm.

Attendance was taken.

Rod shared a schedule he hopes can be followed for this and the two upcoming meetings before the charter to be voted on is submitted.

Minutes:

Jim asked for an amendment – in section C.3-8 it had been decided that each time the word “should” was included it would be changed to “shall”. After some discussion it was agreed this should be the case for the whole charter. Jim was asked to go through the document and identify those changes.

Motion to accept as amended: Michelle

Second: Sue

No discussion – unanimous

Public Comments:

Ira Barbell asked that the commission keep a goal of increased public engagement in mind as revisions are proposed.

## New Business:

Using a document created by Rod that included possible charter revisions the commission went over each amended section:

C2.1 C

Revised wording approved unanimously

C2.3 1

Revised wording approved unanimously

C2.8 4

Revised wording approved unanimously

C2.13

Revised wording approved unanimously

C3.5

Revised wording approved unanimously

C3.9 13

Revised wording approved unanimously

C3.10 2

Revised wording approved unanimously

C4.2

Revised wording approved unanimously

C5.1 B

"consent" changed to "approval"; "department" added between "of" and "head"

Revised wording approved unanimously

C5.2

Add F: Emergency Disaster Relief Services Commission

Revised wording approved unanimously

C5.3

No changes to list of departments

C6.1

After a long discussion two groups were asked to submit wording changes and they will be reviewed at the next meeting

C6.4 C

Revised wording approved unanimously

C7.1

Revised wording approved unanimously

Paula raised two issues she wants addressed in the new charter:

Ward Revisions:

She was assured that any redrawing of wards is done by a non-partisan commission after each national census. It is not a political process.

Term limits:

She said after hearing Jeff's concerns about preserving institutional knowledge and experience and commissioner's concerns about long commitments to positions, she was proposing a change to C2.3. "No person shall be eligible to be elected Councilor if on Election day he or she shall have served **three** consecutive full terms as Councilor of the City of Plattsburgh at the end of the then current term."

Revised wording approved unanimously

Old Business

Rod then reminded the commission that a final draft needs to be sent to the City Attorney for his review by July in order to submit to the Board of Elections in August. Because there were still some revisions that had not been approved a copy of those potential revisions will be sent to commissioners via email for their review. These changes will potentially be voted on by email so that the revised charter can be sent to Justin for review.

At 7:40 pm the Commission adjourned. Motion: Tim Second: Cynthia – unanimous.

Submitted by, Theresa Bennett