

**MINUTES OF THE
WHITE BEAR LAKE CHARTER COMMISSION
JANUARY 12, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

In accordance with published notice, a meeting of the White Bear Lake Charter Commission was called to order by Vice Chairman Aune at 7:00 p.m. in White Bear Lake City Hall Council Chambers.

At roll call the following members were present: Mike Amundsen, Marc Aune, Jim Berry, Heidi Schmidt Boyd, Scott Costello, Dale Grambush, Dillon Lang, Darryl LeMire and Mark Sather. James Patrick Barone, Scott Bill and Tim Geck were excused. A quorum was declared.

Newly appointed member Darryl LeMire was introduced and welcomed to the Commission.

Staff present included City Manager Lindy Crawford and Assistant City Manager Rick Juba.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Member **Costello**, seconded by Member **Amundsen**, to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 10, 2021 with a correction to the header noting the date of November 10, 2021.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Member **Amundsen**, seconded by Member **Schmidt-Boyd** to approve the agenda as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Charter Amendment proposed Resolution No. 22-1

At the request of Vice Chair Aune, Member Sather, on behalf of a special committee comprised of Members Aune, Costello and Sather, presented a proposed draft resolution entitled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE WHITE BEAR LAKE CHARTER COMMISSION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT OF SECTIONS 2.02, 4.04, 4.12, 4.13, 4.14, 4.17 AND 4.26 OF THE CITY CHARTER". He then reviewed the task assigned to the committee and explained the rationale for the various amendments to the Charter recommended by the Committee. He noted that the proposed changes, while mostly grammatical, are substantive and intended to rephrase existing language adding clarity and confirming current practice. They also include deletion of superfluous gender specific terms and certain obsolete statutory references. He summarized the proposed amendments.

Member Costello offered an additional amendment to Section 4.12 deleting reference to an annual municipal election and monthly City Council meetings.

It was moved by **Member Sather**, seconded by **Member Amundsen** to approve the proposed resolution with the amendment offered by Member Costello.

During discussion of the motion it was the consensus of the Commission to further amend the draft by specifying Chapter 205 in the adoption by reference of the statutory Uniform Municipal Election Law and to delete a proposed change to Section 5.16 of the Charter.

Upon completion of discussion, Vice Chair Aune called for a vote on the motion to adopt Resolution No. 22-1 as amended. Upon roll call vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

Vice Chair Aune directed that the resolution be forwarded to the City Council.

It was moved by **Member Amundsen**, seconded by **Member LeMire**, to recess the Charter Commission meeting and convene the City's Redistricting Commission in accordance with Chapter III of the City Charter.

The motion carried unanimously.

A. Redistricting

1) Municipal Redistricting Roles and Responsibilities
<https://ossmedia.sos.state.mn.us/redistricting/municipal-redistricting/index.html#/>

2) Ward Maps with current populations

Acting as Chair of the Redistricting Commission, Member Aune called the Commission Member's attention to maps provided by City staff illustrating existing ward boundaries and the population of each ward based on 2010 and 2020 US Census estimates. It was observed that if the 2020 Ward population estimates were averaged, the total estimated population of each Ward varied less than 2.5 percent (+/-) from the average.

There was discussion of the need to defer proposed changes in Ward boundaries until legislative district boundaries are determined and as many as five different plans for legislative districts are currently awaiting judicial review and action. Members expressed the advantage of keeping the same municipal Ward boundaries to avoid voter confusion but also discussed the need to address Charter Section 3.03 (2) requirements that all districts shall contain, "as nearly as possible", the same number of residents. Member Sather explained he is awaiting responses from the MN Secretary of State's Office and the League of Minnesota Cities regarding whether there are legal rulings

establishing a precedent for that definition. It was the consensus of the Commission that the question should be presented to the City Attorney and that the Commission should await a decision of legislative district boundaries before further action.

It was moved by **Member Amundsen**, seconded by **Member Berry** to continue further discussion to a later date. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

It was motioned by **Member Lang**, seconded by **Member Berry** to schedule the next meeting of the Redistricting Commission on March 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

It was moved by **Member Amundsen**, seconded by **Member Aune** to adjourn the meeting of the Redistricting Commission and reconvene the Charter Commission. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled

6. OPEN DISCUSSION

Vice Chair Aune asked members to contact him, the Chair or the Secretary if they desired further information prior to the next meeting of the Redistricting Commission.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, it was moved by **Member Amundsen**, seconded by **Member Berry**, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Tim Geck, Chair

ATTEST:

Mark Sather, Secretary