FE RGUS FALLS CHARTER COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes, September 10, 2019

Attendance:

Present: JoEllen Thacker, Mark Hovland, Dave Prazak, Nicole Hansen, Kris Svingen, John Wagner, Gordon Hydukovich, Tim Brennan, Mary Jo Igelstad, Gary Nelson, Virginia Portman, Daryl Synstelien, City Attorney Rolf Nyklemoe

Absent/Excused: Richard Edinger, Dan Edwards

Absent/Unexecused:

Call to order: Chair JoEllen Thacker called the meeting to order at 7:00 am.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted by consensus.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the April 9, 2019 meeting were approved, with the corrected spelling of Commissioner Portmann’s name.

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

Business

1. Election of Officers for 2020
   a. MMSC to elect Mark Hovland as 2020 Chair
   b. MMSC to elect Tim Brennan as 2020 Vice Chair
   c. MMSC to elect Daryl Synstelien as 2020 Secretary

2. Code of Ethics in City Government. At the April 9, 2019 meeting the commission passed a motion “To ask the city attorney to determine if MN statute determines whether the charter may speak to ethics in city operations, and/or if that issue is addressed in any other manner, and to make any recommendations on this issue for the Charter Commission.”

   City Attorney Rolf Nycklemoe gave a lengthy report on the current status of Charter, City Code, and MN Statutes which speak to ethics in city government. In Section 12.03, the Fergus Falls City Charter requires the City Council to adopt a Code of Ethics ordinance. That comprehensive ordinance was adopted into city code as Section 2.90, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENSES.

   After discussion it was determined that no further action was to be taken at this time to revise the charter. The Commission decided to encourage the City Council to review the current Code of Ethics ordinance. MMSC: (Motion - Mary Jo Igelstad, 2nd – Gordon Hydukovich) “To direct the City Attorney to suggest to the City Council that they review city code 2.90.”

   On the next occasion that the Commission undertakes a thorough review of the charter, the members may consider revision to Section 12.03 to provide clarity and guidance for the Council’s action in regard to government officials who violate the Code of Ethics ordinance, 2.90.

3. Commission Chair to Address the City Council. The City Attorney was asked to request a place on the City Council’s meeting agenda this fall to provide opportunity for the Commission Chair to communicate with the Council in regard to the on-going work of the Commission.

4. Commissioner Terms Expiring at the end of 2020. The following terms will expire in 2020: Tim Brennan, Mary Jo Igelstad, Gary Nelson, Virginia Portmann, Dave Prazak,
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Daryl Synstelien, JoEllen Thacker.
City Attorney Rolf Nyklemoe advised the Commission to submit names for recommendation to appointment or reappointment no later than early October, 2020.

Next Meeting Date Set. MMSC: (Motion – Mark Hovland, 2nd – Gordon Hydukovich) “To establish the next meeting of the Fergus Falls Charter Commission on April 14, 2020, at 7:00 a.m.”

2020 Annual Meeting Date Set: MMSC: (Motion – Mark Hovland, 2nd – Mary Jo Igelstad) “To establish the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Fergus Falls Charter Commission on September 15, 2020, at 7:00 a.m.”

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Daryl Synstelien, Secretary