# MINUTES
# CHARTER COMMISSION

City Council Chambers
October 9, 2024
5:00 p.m.

## I. ROLL CALL

Present: Greene, Hobbs, LaFontaine, Moriarty, Ness, Stolee,

Absent: Anderson, Gardner Lyttle, Stauber,

## II. ACCEPTANCE OF REQUESTED EXCUSED ABSENCES

- Commissioner Stauber, January 10, 2024;
- Commissioner Ness, January 10, 2024;
- Commissioner Greene, April 10, 2024;
- Commissioner Stauber, April 10, 2024;
- Commissioner Stauber, October 9, 2024;
- Commissioner Anderson, October 9, 2024;
- Commissioner Lyttle, October 9, 2024.

## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 11, 2023

* Meetings were not held on January 10, April 10, or July 10, 2024, due to a lack of quorum

*A motion to approve the October 11, 2023, minutes was made by Commissioner Hobbs and seconded by Commissioner Moriarty. The motion passed unanimously.*

## IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Technical changes:
   - *Passed by the City Council on September 21, 2023;*
   - *Changes effective after 90 days (December 20, 2023);*

B. Municipal elections (section 39 repeal):
   - *Passed by the City Council on November 20, 2023;*
   - *Changes effective after 90 days (February 20, 2024)*

C. Interim Mayor Appointments:
   - *A media inquiry was received questioning whether Mayor Reinert's role with the U.S. Navy Reserves conflicts with Section 3 of the City*

*Charter, and whether the appointment of Councilor Forsman has been carried out in compliance with the requirements of the City Charter.*

## V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. Election of President; *Commissioner Greene nominated Commissioner Stolee to serve a second year as Commission President. Commissioner Hobbs motioned to accept the nomination and was seconded by Commissioner Greene. The motion passed unanimously.*

B. Election of Vice President; *Commissioner Stolee nominated Commissioner Lafontaine to serve as Commission Vice President. Commissioner Hobbs motioned to accept the nomination and was seconded by Commissioner Greene. The motion passed unanimously.*

## VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Taskforce-Recommended Revisions: The resolution creating the City of Duluth "Ordinance Modernization Taskforce" expired on December 31, 2023. Accordingly, the taskforce has ceased to exist, but the question remains as to how (or if) the Charter Commission wishes to proceed with proposed changes.

Odd-Year Elections: The City of Duluth remains one of a handful of cities in the state that does not hold municipal elections alongside statewide elections every two years. The question has been posed whether the City should reconsider this system.

Charter Commission Membership: A perennial issue facing the City of Duluth is the challenge of recruiting members for City boards and commissions. The Charter Commission has been no exception and the question has been posed whether the size of the Commission should be reconsidered.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned: 5:48