

# City of Plattsburgh Charter Commission 2026



Notes: 3.3.26

Present: Jim (6:06pm), Theresa, Tim, Forrest, Michele, Cynthia, Anna, Ciara, Sue, Jeff, Rick, Lynn, Rod, Hillary

Excused absence: Michelle

Also Present: Mayor Hughes, Justin Meyers

Rod called the meeting to order 6:01pm.

Attendance was taken.

Minutes:

Motion to accept: Hillary

Second: Sue

No discussion – unanimous

Review of Article II of the Charter

Article C2-1

Jeff proposed we change Councilors to four year terms. His reasons were: eliminating the costs of off year elections and there is a marked decline in voter participation in off years.

After some discussion there was a consensus on the commission that this would be a good idea. It was requested that Jeff put together a transition plan to accommodate changing the schedule currently in the Charter.

Article C2-3

B. Term limits:

No person shall be eligible to be elected Mayor if on Election Day he or she shall have

served ~~eight consecutive years~~ **two consecutive full terms** as Mayor of the City of Plattsburgh. No person shall be eligible to be elected Councilor if on Election Day he or she shall have served ~~eight consecutive years~~ **two consecutive full terms** as Councilor of the City of Plattsburgh.

The new wording was accepted. There was a discussion about how long someone needs to be off the Council before they are permitted to serve again – either by being elected or appointed to serve out another's term. After some discussion there was no agreement reached. Both a two year period and a full election cycle were proposed.

C2-8 Vacancies; forfeiture of office; filling of vacancies.

B. 4

Fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Common Council without being excused by the Council.

Justin sent the Poughkeepsie charter language on this issue to the commissioners before the meeting. Although the commissioners were in general agreement that the language was generally applicable to the Plattsburgh charter. They also wanted the wording to include due process for removal. Currently this language is included in C2-10.

C2-15 Councilor Orientation/Training

A review of the proposed language on this elicited a discussion on this issue. The consensus of the commissioners was that the orientation should be required and consistent.

Because the meeting was running overtime, Rod asked everyone to look at all sections in C3 for the next meeting, particularly the salary structure and he proposed tying that to the salaries of the County Legislature. He presented a chart using percentages of the legislator's salaries for the councilors.

There was a discussion about the salary structure. Questions asked included who decides salary structure and what would it be tied to. Also asked was could it be tied to meeting attendance. The commissioners asked that a job description be created for councilors including the meeting schedule, minimum number of meetings to be attended.

At 7:26 pm the Commission adjourned. Motion: Hillary Second: Sue – unanimous.

Submitted by, Theresa Bennett