

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS  
ST. FRANCIS MN  
ANOKA COUNTY

CHARTER COMMISSION MINUTES

APRIL 27, 2017

1. **Call to Order:** The Charter Commission meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Randy Dressen.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were Randy Dressen, Gary Zimmerman, Steve Feldman, Steve Kane, Tim Brown. Rich Skordahl absent. Malcolm Beck arrived at 5:33 pm.

Also present City Clerk Barb Held.

3. **Approve Minutes of January 26, 2017: Motion by Brown second Kane to approve the January 26, 2017 Charter Commission Minutes.**  
Motion carried unanimously.

4. **City Attorney's Memorandum – Potential City Charter Amendment to allow St. Francis Paid Per Call fire fighters to Serve on the City Council:**

Dressen stated we heard from Mr. Bauer at the last meeting. The commission received from the City Attorney's office a memorandum on the follow up research on the potential City Chart Amendment. Currently the City Charter reads:

*Section 2.04 Incompatible Offices. No member of the Council shall hold any paid appointive office or paid employment for the City other than that to which the member was elected, although the member may be appointed to the office of Mayor in case of a vacancy.*

The Attorney's office examined the charter provisions of approximately sixty random city charters to obtain a representative survey. In the memo is noted the clear "majority rule" for Minnesota home rule charter cities to include language that would work to prohibit a member of the Fire Department from serving on the City Council. These cities primarily mirror the current language of the St. Francis City Charter including the provision cities "not any" other appointed office or employment with the City.

Two cities have affirmatively amended their city charters to specifically allow firefighters to serve in an employment capacity as such in addition to serving on the City Council as an elected official. This has occurred in the

City of Ham Lake (“except the Fire Department”), and the City of Hastings (“except volunteer fire men”).

Discussion was held on potential conflict of interest, pension, pay per call, knowing this was in the Charter when Bauer ran for office, and not associating people with amendments. It was also noted how would or could you regulate the number of fire fighters on the commission if you move forward with the amendment.

Motion by Beck second Kane not to move forward with an amendment to the City Charter allowing fire fighters to serve on the city council. Motion carried 5-1. Feldman voting nay.

5. **Other Items of Discussion**

None

6. **Adjournment:** Motion by Beck second Feldman to adjourn the Charter Commission meeting at 5:46 pm. Motion carried 5-0.

---

Barbara I. Held, City Clerk