



City of Northfield

Meeting Minutes - Draft Charter Commission

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
northfieldmn.gov

Thursday, November 13, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Heisler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: 6 - Commissioner Scott Jensen, Commissioner Jack Hoschouer, Commissioner James Prichard, Vice Chair Scott Oney, Chair Lance Heisler and Commissioner Amy Gernon

Absent: 1 - Commissioner C C Linstroth

Also present: Ben Martig, City Administrator; Matt Bailey, Meeting Associate

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. [25-601](#) Approval of November 13, 2025 Meeting Agenda.

No vote was taken on approval of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. [25-602](#) Approval of September 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Prichard, to approve the Motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Commissioner Jensen, Commissioner Hoschouer, Commissioner Prichard, Vice Chair Oney, Chair Heisler and Commissioner Gernon

Enactment No: M2025-144

COMMISSION ABSENCES

3. [25-603](#) Excuse meeting absences.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hoschouer, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, to approve the excused absence of Commissioner Linstroth. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Commissioner Jensen, Commissioner Hoschouer, Commissioner Prichard, Vice Chair Oney, Chair Heisler and Commissioner Gernon

Enactment No: M2025-145

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

OLD BUSINESS**4. 25-604****Discussion on Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 4.1.**

Chairman Heisler noted that City Adminstrator Martig is standing in as the technical advisor. Commissioner Oney, who was presiding at the meeting, wanted to disallow comments that Mr. Martig wanted to make as the time for public comment had passed. Commissioner Hoschouer objected to Commissioner Oney's characterization of Mr Martig' s role and inappropriately interjected. Commissioner Oney stated that he chose to continue the meeting and ignore Hoschouer' s interjection. Commissioner Hoschouer declined to comment further.

Proposed Amendment to Section 4.1 of the Charter. Chairman Heisler noted that Commissioner Gernon had suggested that it is an issue that could be better taken up by the Commission as a whole.

Commissioner Oney questioned whether it is really necessary to make a change as it has worked well for many years. He said that when the Council or City Staff "messes up" the tendency is to pass the issue to the Charter Commission to fix. Section 4.1 is, he said, straightforward and clear.

Chairman Heisler said that the issue of Section 4.1 may not need a fix, but it is an issue worthy of discussion.

Commissioner Prichard agreed with Heisler. He said that there could always be things that might be improved. It is difficult to determine how the Charter applies in a case that has not Chairman Heisler noted that City Adminstrator Martig is standing in as the technical advisor. Commissioner Oney, who was presiding at the meeting, wanted to disallow comments that Mr. Martig wanted to make as the time for public comment had passed. Commissioner Hoschouer objected to Commissioner Oney's characterization of Mr Martig' s role and inappropriately interjected. Commissioner Oney stated that he chose to continue the meeting and ignore Hoschouer' s interjection. Commissioner Hoschouer declined to comment further.

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NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Prichard, to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Commissioner Jensen, Commissioner Hoschouer, Commissioner Prichard, Vice Chair Oney, Chair Heisler and Commissioner Gernon