

May 10, 2011

The Honorable Timothy P. Bloomquist
Chief Judge Tenth Judicial District
Kanabec County Court House
18 N. Vine Street
Mora, MN 55051

Re: City of Ramsey, Anoka County, Minnesota, Charter Commission Annual Report

Dear Judge Bloomquist:

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes 410.05, the following is an annual report reflecting the activities of the City of Ramsey Charter Commission during the year 2010.

Members of the Charter Commission for 2010 were as follows: Susan Anderson (newly appointed) Benjamin Deemer (reappointed to a four-year term), Terri Cleveland (reappointed to a four-year term), Joseph Field, Frank Frederick, Harry Niska, Marilyn (Moe) Shea, and Cindy Sherman.

The Charter Commission met on March 29, 2010. Oaths of Office were previously issued to Commissioners Deemer, Cleveland and Anderson. The Commission discussed Chapter 2 of the Charter relating to the City's form of government. It was noted that this had been a discussion since 2002, however, had not been discussed since 2008 as an ordinance had been passed in December 2006 that would change the City's form of government to a Council-Manager Plan effective January 1, 2011. The City Attorney reported to the Charter Commission that the current Mayor and Council had indicated the desire to have the City's form of government to remain as is and not be changed to the Council Manager form. The Council had introduced an ordinance to amend the Charter to keep the form of government as is (Council-Administrator). He noted that this particular ordinance did not have a unanimous vote and it may be put forward to the voters to make the decision. The current Mayor and Council felt that this was a significant enough change that it should have been brought to the voters before and since it was not, it should now be put out to the voters before the amendment takes place. The

Attorney noted that after review of the ordinance, the Charter Commission may approve, reject, or suggest a substitution language; however, they could not stop the process. A very lengthy discussion ensued but the Commission tabled action on this subject to a meeting in May. The Charter then discussed amending Section 4.1.1 titled Primary Elections. The Charter read as follows: “On the first Tuesday after the second Monday in September in advance of the regular municipal election, there shall be a primary election . . . With the new bill passing that the primary election will be held in August, an amendment to the Charter language was necessary. The Commission approved the language as laid out by the attorney and recommended an ordinance be brought forward to the Council to be passed by a unanimous vote. (Such ordinance was passed unanimously by the City Council.)

The Charter Commission met on May 5, 2010, and continued discussion of the amendment to Chapter 2 of the Charter relating to the City’s Form of Government. Following discussion, the Commission voted to reject the ordinance as presented by the City Council and recommended that the Charter be amended so the City Manager form of government does not give the City Manager the authority to hire and fire department heads and leave that power with the City Council. (As an aside, the question went before the voters in the 2010 General Election and the voters chose to have the form of government remain Council-Administrator.)

Late in year 2010, the Commission received resignations from Commissioners Cleveland and Frederick.

Very truly yours,

On behalf of the Ramsey City Charter

Jo Ann M. Thieling, CMC
City Clerk

/jmt