

**CHARTER COMMISSION
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Charter Commission conducted a regular meeting on Wednesday, July 17, 2025, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Joseph Field
 Commissioner Ben Deemer
 Commissioner Joshua Fuhreck
 Commissioner Victor Jumah
 Commissioner Jennifer Leistico
 Commissioner Brian Mess
 Commissioner Amy Rusert

Members Absent: Commissioner Laura Moore
 Commissioner David May

Also Present: City Clerk Katie Schmidt
 City Administrator Brian Hagen
 City Attorney Fritz Knaak

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Field called the regular meeting of the Charter Commission to order at 6:00 p.m.

Chairperson Field welcomed new member Brian Mess.

CITIZEN INPUT

None.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Deemer, seconded by Commissioner Rusert, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Field, Commissioners Deemer, Rusert, Fuhreck, Jumah, Leistico, and Mess. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioners May and Moore.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Fuhreck, seconded by Commissioner Deemer, to approve the following meeting minutes as presented:

1) Regular Charter Commission Meeting dated December 18, 2025

Motion Carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Field, Commissioners Fuhreck, Deemer, Jumah, Leistico, and Rusert. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioners May and Moore. Abstained: Commissioner Mess.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.1 Approve Year-End Activity Letter to Chief Judge for Year 2024

Chairperson Field noted that the draft letter was included in the Commission packet for review.

Motion by Commissioner Leistico, seconded by Commissioner Deemer, to approve the year-end annual report letter for 2024 and direct staff to submit such report to The Honorable Elizabeth Strand, Chief Judge of the Tenth Judicial District.

Motion Carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Field, Commissioners Leistico, Deemer, Fuhreck, Jumah, Mess, and Rusert. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioners May and Moore.

5.2 Receive Update on Charter Recommended Changes

City Clerk Schmidt provided an update on the changes to the City Charter that were recently considered by the City Council and whether they were approved or denied.

5.3 Ordinance #25-09 Amending the City Charter

City Administrator Hagen stated that this item is related to the vacancy created when a Councilmember moves out of a ward. He stated that the Council desired additional language related to a temporary situation, using the example of a fire that displaces a resident, but they intend to return to the property when able. He reviewed the proposed language to be incorporated.

Commissioner Leistico commented that this seems reasonable.

Commissioner Fuhreck stated that the example of a fire makes sense. He asked if it was mentioned that the temporary living space must be in Ramsey.

City Administrator Hagen commented that it should be reasonable to find a temporary living space in Ramsey, given the number of apartment buildings and single-family homes available for rent.

Chairperson Field agreed that it would be reasonable to require the temporary residence to be in Ramsey.

Commissioner Leistico recognized that it would be the decision of the insurance company as to the options the resident would have for temporary placement.

Commissioner Fuhreck commented that it would seem likely that the insurance company would provide options outside of Ramsey. He stated that perhaps the trigger could be that the residence remains homesteaded during that time, as it would not be unlikely that the insurance company could place someone outside of Ramsey.

Commissioner Deemer commented that he would not want to get into someone's tax classification of a property.

Commissioner Fuhreck stated that perhaps the requirement to be located in Ramsey during that temporary situation could be removed.

Commissioner Deemer agreed that would be reasonable.

Commissioner Fuhreck asked the opinion of the City Attorney.

City Attorney Knaak commented that he did not have any issue with removing that requirement for the temporary housing to be provided in Ramsey. He noted that someone may have a family member they could stay with in a neighboring community.

Commissioner Fuhreck stated that perhaps the requirement is within the state of Minnesota or Anoka County.

City Attorney Knaak commented that could be appropriate. He recognized that people can participate in meetings remotely.

Commissioner Mess stated that he would agree with the language, striking the language "but within the city". He stated that if the intent is to reestablish ward residency within a six-month period, he did not see a reason to specify a location.

Chairperson Field asked if Councilmembers would have the option to attend a meeting virtually.

City Administrator Hagen confirmed that the Council would have the right to remotely attend a meeting and reviewed other related City requirements for attendance.

Commissioner Jumah commented that he would not want to see an emergency circumstance place someone outside of the city temporarily, and that situation be used against them to remove them from the Council. He recognized that Ramsey is not a large community, and therefore, he would support the temporary location being located within Anoka County.

Commissioner Deemer commented that within Anoka County may be too restrictive given the proximity to Sherburne County.

Chairperson Field referenced the large size of Anoka County, noting that someone could be further out in Anoka County, and that could be a larger distance from properties in Sherburne County or Hennepin County.

Commissioner Deemer commented that perhaps a geographic boundary is not provided, but instead a requirement for meeting attendance.

City Attorney Knaak noted that a member of the Council participated in meetings from the Middle East when he was in active military service.

Chairperson Field stated that he would prefer to remove the restriction that the temporary living space be located in the city, and the Commission agreed.

Motion by Commissioner Rusert, seconded by Commissioner Mess, to recommend adoption of Ordinance #25-09, Section 2.5, to the City Council with elimination of the language “within the city”.

Motion Carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Field, Commissioners Rusert, Mess, Deemer, Fuhreck, Jumah, and Leistico. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioners May and Moore.

City Administrator Hagen provided an overview of the changes that had been made to Section 3.1 since the last review of the Commission. He provided additional information on the changes proposed.

The Commission had no issues with the proposed changes.

Motion by Commissioner Fuhreck, seconded by Commissioner Deemer, to recommend adoption of Ordinance #25-09, Section 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, and 3.1.4, to the City Council as presented.

Motion Carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Field, Commissioners Fuhreck, Deemer, Jumah, Leistico, Mess, and Rusert. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioners May and Moore.

City Administrator Hagen provided additional information on the changes proposed to Section 7.6.

Motion by Commissioner Deemer, seconded by Commissioner Rusert, to recommend adoption of Ordinance #25-09, Section 7.6.1, to the City Council as presented.

Motion Carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Field, Commissioners Deemer, Rusert, Fuhreck, Jumah, Leistico, and Mess. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioners May and Moore.

6. COMMISSION / STAFF INPUT

6.1 Other

No comments.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Fuhreck, seconded by Commissioner Leistico, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Field, Commissioners Fuhreck, Leistico, Deemer, Jumah, Mess, and Rusert. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioners May and Moore.

The regular meeting of the Charter Commission adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Schmidt
City Clerk

Fritz Knaak
City Attorney

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

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