

**CHARTER COMMISSION AGENDA**  
**City Council Chambers**  
**July 10, 2013 5 p.m.**

- I. ROLL CALL:
  
- II. ACCEPTANCE OF REQUESTED EXCUSED ABSENCES.
  
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 10, 2013 To be submitted prior to meeting.
  
- IV. COMMUNICATIONS:
  - A. Commissioner Miletich submitting communication proposing term limits for Mayor and City Council. (#13-05)
  - B. City Attorney submitting draft ordinance amending Chapter II, Section 2, of the City Charter adding term limits for elected officials. (#13-06)
  
- V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
  - A. Draft ordinance amending Chapter II, Section 2, of the City Charter adding term limits for elected officials.
  
- VI. NEW BUSINESS: None
  
- VII. ADJOURNMENT:

REMINDER As per the Charter Commission Rules of Procedure, "...only absences due to personal emergency or illness, or absence from the city will be excused and only if prior notice is given to the president or secretary of the commission."

Please notify the city clerk's office on/or before 10 a.m. on July 10, 2013, if necessary, 730-5500, or [chartercommission@duluthmn.gov](mailto:chartercommission@duluthmn.gov)

April 5, 2013

To: Members, Duluth City Charter Commission

From: Eli J. Miletich, Commission Member

Subject: Term Limits, Mayor and City Council

I am submitting this as a proposed amendment to the Duluth City Charter and asking the commission to consider this as a way to encourage citizen participation in City government by way of having broader involvement in the administration and direction in the affairs of the City, thus bringing about fresh perspectives and new thoughts and ideas with respect to the direction of the City of Duluth, now and in the future.

Thus, please read and consider the following:

Whereas, the government of the City of Duuth is authorized by statute to be a mayor-council form of government with a home rule charter, and

Whereas, the present charter was amended and adopted on March 20, 1956 by a vote of the citizens of Duluth, removing an antiquated Commission form of government, and

Whereas, the founders of this great nation had encouraged citizen involvement and participation at all levels of government, federal, state, county and municipal, and

Whereas, government becomes stale and unimaginative when persons elected and re-elected to positions become somewhat complacent and adopt a thought process whereby citizen involvement is not acceptable to their respective position in government, in other words, "I have the only answers", and,

Whereas, the purpose of the City Charter Commission is "to serve the public by a continuing review of the particulars of the Duluth City Charter as to the practicality and applicability of its contents in the present era and for the future",

Now therefore be it resolved that the Duluth City Charter Commission approve, and send to the City Council, the following proposed Charter amendment:

That Chapter II, Section 2, paragraph 5, be amended to read,

*"The terms of office of the mayor and councilors shall be for four years, not to exceed two terms, and until their successors are elected and qualified."*

I would hope and urge Commission members to exercise independent thought and to support this concept of real citizen government.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

13-

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER II, SECTION 2, OF THE CITY  
CHARTER ADDING TERM LIMITS FOR ELECTIVE OFFICERS.

CITY PROPOSAL:

The city of Duluth does ordain:

Section 1. That Chapter II, Section 2 of the 1912 Home Rule Charter of the city of Duluth, as amended, is hereby amended, to read as follows:

Sec. 2. This government provided for by this Charter shall be known as the mayor-council form of government. The mayor shall be aided by a chief administrative officer who, in the performance of the duties of such office, shall be responsible to the mayor. The council shall have nine members, four elected from the city at large and five from geographical districts.

The city is hereby divided into five council districts numbered from one to five consecutively.

After the state legislative redistricting, based on a new federal census, the city council shall determine whether or not the population of each council district is substantially the same and, if not, the council shall by ordinance establish election precincts to the council districts so as to equalize, as nearly as practical, the number of people in each council district. Each council district shall consist of contiguous territory. If, in any such redistricting, the residence of any district councilor is placed outside of the enumerated district from which such councilor was elected, the office shall not be deemed vacant on that account and such councilor shall continue to serve out the term for which elected.

The council districts are established herein solely for the purposes of electing district councilors. The administration of the

city shall never be divided, nor any facility ever provided, nor any appropriation ever made upon a council district basis.

The terms of office of the mayor and councilors shall be for four years, not to exceed two terms, and until their successors are elected and qualified

Section 2. That this ordinance shall take effect 90 days after its passage and publication.

Approved as to form:

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Attorney

ATTY GBJ:cjk 6/25/2013

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This ordinance amends Chapter II, Section 2, of the City Charter to provide for a term limit of two terms for the elective offices of Mayor and City Council.