



County of Erie Charter Revision Commission

92 Franklin St., 4th Fl., Buffalo, NY 14202

Meeting No. 5 – May 5, 2025

92 Franklin Avenue
Buffalo NY 14202

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:14 p.m. by Chairman Shawn Connolly following a public hearing

Members Present

Jesse Simmons
Kenneth Kruly
Matthew Kibler
Gerald Paradise III
William Miller
William (Bill) Schmid
Frank Jacobson
Scott Kroll
Chuck Eaton
Ryan Boling
Scott Kroll
Mitchell Snyder
Paul Joyce
Bob Penders
Andrea O Súilleabháin
Shawn Connolly
Mitchell Snyder

Members Not Present

Anthony Pendergrass
Cedric Holloway
Lindsay Allen
Christopher Jacobs



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Actions

1. Motion by Bill Schmid to approve previous minutes (4.28.25)
Second by Gerry Paradise, III
Unanimously approved
2. Motion by Mitchell Snyder to table voting on recommendation #1 (proposed by Paradise)
Second by Frank Jacobson
Role Call Vote 5 ayes- 10 – no ** Vote will move forward **
 - No - Jesse Simmons
 - No - Kenneth Kruly
 - No - Matthew Kibler
 - No - Gerald Paradise III
 - No - William Miller
 - No - William (Bill) Schmid
 - Yes - Frank Jacobson
 - Yes - Scott Kroll
 - No - Chuck Eaton
 - Yes - Ryan Boling
 - Yes - Scott Kroll
 - Yes - Paul Joyce
 - No - Bob Penders
 - No - Andrea O Súilleabháin
 - No - Shawn Connolly
 - Yes - Mitchell Snyder

Discussion

1. Shawn received communication from Commissioner Frank Jacobson with a recommendation related to #1 – this will be discussed during voting and has been disseminated via email and out today
 - a. No other communications from the public have been received by any members
 - b. Reminder all information is on the website
2. Review of Public Hearings
 - a. In addition to the speakers tonight, floor opened to all members to discuss
 - b. General appreciation to all those who have come out



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3. Subcommittee Reports and Discussion – All chairs to thank all members of their committee for thoughtful discussion and participation and to the public for coming to the public hearings and their input
 - a. Budget & Misc. – had the most subjects to review, discussed and went through all, many recommendations to go over and each were discussed thoroughly among members- anything the majority of the committee agreed upon would be put in Chair (will hear vote upon them tonight as a commission)
 - b. Executive – Lengthy discussions on all – many times went for clarification from the Departments – all recommendations as today have been voted upon by the subcommittee - anything the majority of the committee agreed upon would be put in Chair
 - c. Legislative – anything the majority of the committee agreed upon would be put in Chair, response by Comptroller regarding 1801 & 1802 proposals put up on 5.12.25
 - Action taken by just the Legislative subcommittee during meeting to recommend 1801 & 1802
 - Discussion regarding when the commission should meet again and any additional requirements – reserve to continue at the end of the meeting - input from the entire commission
4. Review of master list for all 62 recommendations disseminated by Shawn with color coding – items to be voted on tonight, items to be voted on next Monday, and items to be tabled/not moved to vote
 - a. Reminder these recommendations have been voted out of subcommittee, but any Commissioner can put forward any recommendation to be voted upon
 - b. Requirement for recommendation to be put forward at least 24 hours prior to vote (5.12.25) – please submit by end of the week
 - c. Target to have last meeting 5.12.25; 5.13.25 is most likely not necessary
5. Discussion by Chair regarding a letter to the legislature in lieu of a recommendation to inform the Legislature concerns of the public:
 - a. Letter would be informational and not an endorsement
 - b. Items to be included as of now: Ranked Choice Voting, Ballot Access - Reduce number of signatures required for independent nominating, Evening of the Legislature Meetings, Term Limits for County Offices
 - Commission not to comment on any of the items as submitted in objection – commission not recommending, letter to be neutral



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- Ranked choice voting was the most commented upon item throughout the process – followed by term limits
 - Mitch Snyder identified the public comment section is not necessary if it is voted upon tonight
 - Matt Kibler suggests including appropriate state officials on this letter
 - Reminder all elected county officials & town/village elected members who brought forward some proposals
 - c. Discussion regarding how the legislature would receive the submission of Commission recommendations – as an entire package to be approved or rejected, or as individual recommendations? Legislature can approach this however it chooses, and can edit recommendations from the Commission as they see fit
6. Repeated reminder – any member of this commission can bring forward any recommendation – send to Shawn by Friday and it will be voted upon on Monday 5.12.25
7. Open for discussion in the 62-line items - re-affirmed direct questions to subcommittee chairs for clarification on discussion regarding committee votes, can also reach out to Shawn directly
8. Recommendation by Frank Jacobson regarding recommendation #1(25-2551)
- a. Request by CE to eliminate
 - b. Subcommittee voted to modify from \$10k to \$50K (reason behind it)
 - c. Proposal by Frank to consider this recommendation and request Chair to table recommendation 1 so be considered with Frank's
 - Frank is opposed to increase it to 50K, the Legislature should decide how money is spent, spoke to Legislator Lorigo – who expressed lack of communication from County Executive. The legislature should get to “veto” the proposal from the C.E.
 - Ken discussed his experience with the Leg and why this isn't necessary, and pointed out this language could mean any transfer, even of very small dollar amounts, would need to be submitted to the Legislature
 - Questions regarding the amount of average transfer – could 90% of this type of transfer fall under 50K?



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- This proposal gives the legislature the opportunity for action
- Voted upon as noted in actions above

9. Votes on Recommendations 1-17 from the entire commission – Voting by each commission member posted on the website

- 1) Motion by Gerald Paradise III, Second by Chuck Eaton
10 yes – 5 no

Recommendation goes forward

- 2) Motion by Gerald Paradise III, Second by Chuck Eaton
Unanimous in ayes (15-0)

Recommendation goes forward

- 3) Motion by Gerald Paradise III, Second by Chuck Eaton
4 yes – 11 no

Recommendation will NOT go forward

- 4) Motion by Gerald Paradise III, Second by Chuck Eaton
Unanimous in ayes (15-0)

Recommendation goes forward

- 5) Motion by Gerald Paradise III, Second by Chuck Eaton
14 yes – 1 no

Recommendation goes forward

- 6) Motion by Gerald Paradise III, Second by Chuck Eaton
12 yes – 3 no

Recommendation goes forward

- 7) Motion by Gerald Paradise III, Second by Jesse Simmons
14 yes – 1 no

Recommendation goes forward

- 8) Motion by Gerald Paradise III, Second by Jesse Simmons
14 yes – 1 no

Recommendation goes forward

- 9) Motion by Bill Schmid, Second by Chuck Eaton
14 yes – 1 no

Recommendation goes forward

- 10) Motion by Chuck Eaton, Second by Jesse Simmons
13 yes – 2 no

Recommendation goes forward

** Typographical error noted and voted upon anyway **

- 11) Motion by Chuck Eaton, Second by Mitchell Snyder
Unanimous in ayes (15-0)

Recommendation goes forward

- 12) Motion by Chuck Eaton, Second by Mitchell Snyder



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- Unanimous in ayes (15-0)
Recommendation goes forward
 - 13) Motion by Chuck Eaton, Second by Mitchell Snyder
12 yes – 3 no
Recommendation goes forward
 - 14) Motion by Chuck Eaton, Second by Shawn Connolley
6 yes – 9 no
Recommendation does NOT go forward
 - 15) Motion by Chuck Eaton, Second by Mitchell Snyder
Unanimous in ayes (15-0)
Recommendation goes forward
 - 16) Motion by Chuck Eaton, Second by Mitchell Snyder
Unanimous in ayes (15-0)
Recommendation goes forward
 - 17) Motion by Chuck Eaton, Second by Mitchell Snyder
Unanimous in ayes (15-0)
Recommendation goes forward
10. Review tabled item by the Legislative committee - any changes to improve the timeline for the work of the commission next time? - Jesse to submit proposal
11. General discussion/Review of the future/last meeting – No meeting on 5.13.25 unless absolutely necessary – Commissioners to send recommendations to Shawn by noon on Friday (5.9.25)

Next Meeting

May 12, 2025 at 6 p.m. 92 Franklin Ave Buffalo NY 14202

Adjournment

End meeting at 8:15