

MINUTES
Charter Revision Commission
June 24, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Suzanne Burr Monaco called the Charter Revision meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Nichols Room, Trumbull, Connecticut.

PRESENT

Suzanne Burr Monaco, Chairman
Dan Portanova, Vice Chairman
Adam Maiocco, Secretary
Ken Martin
Daniel Shamas
Barbara Schellenberg, Attorney

Moved by Dan Portanova, seconded by Adam Maiocco to approve the minutes of the 6/17/14 meeting

Atty Schellenberg explained the format of the draft report, and indicated that our "reasoning" for each change was expanded in accordance with the Town Council's request.

Chapter I, Section 4B. After further discussion, the proposed change from business days to calendar days was eliminated. The only change will be to clarify "business days" as days the Trumbull Town Clerk's Office is open.

VOTED: UNANIMOUS to ELIMINATE the original proposed change to said paragraph and accept the revised draft as presented.

Chapter II, Section 5B

VOTED: UNANIMOUS to accept the proposed draft as presented.

Chapter II, Section 6

Noted that "Committees" has been added as per Town Counsel request.

VOTED: UNANIMOUS to accept the proposed draft as presented.

Chapter III, Section 1

Again discussed, the Chair indicated that with a 2 year term, it takes 6-9 months to get acclimated, then last 6-9 months involved in election, it makes sense for reasons of continuity. Further discussed that, particularly since this has come up on three occasions, it is time to present this proposal to the voters.

VOTED: UNANIMOUS to accept the proposed draft as presented.

Chapter III, Section 3A

VOTED: UNANIMOUS to accept the proposed draft as presented.

Chapter III, Section 3C. Following discussion, revised to state "if vacancy occurs within same calendar year as election", per Town Council suggestion.

VOTED: UNANIMOUS to accept the revised draft as presented.

Chapter III, Section 6D

VOTED: 4 votes to accept the proposed draft as presented.

Chapter III, Section G(ii)

VOTED: UNANIMOUS to accept the proposed draft as presented.

Chapter III, Section 7

Additional discussion regarding the fact that it takes 2.5 years to complete coursework for TownClerk to be certified.

VOTED: 4 votes to accept the proposed draft as presented. Suzanne Burr Monaco abstained.

Chapter IV, Section 3B

VOTED: UNANIMOUS to accept the proposed draft as presented.

Chapter IV, Section 6**

Discussion adding of language in the provision regarding “in a year in which there is a severe economic crisis”. Mr. Martin discussed his concern regarding the parameters for said language. This discussion will be continued following remainder of charter revisions.

Chapter VII, Section 3A

VOTED: UNANIMOUS to accept the proposed draft as presented.

Chapter VII, Section 3C

VOTED: UNANIMOUS to accept the proposed draft as presented.

Chapter VII, Section 3D

VOTED: UNANIMOUS to accept the proposed draft as presented.

Chapter VII, Section 17C

VOTED: UNANIMOUS to accept the proposed revisions as presented.

Chapter VII, Section 17D

Following discussion and careful review of the proposal by Atty Lee of the Ethics Commission, it was

VOTED: 4/1 to remove Chapter VII, Section 17D from the Charter. After further clarification regarding revision of Chapter VII, Section 17D(ii), moved by Chair to re-vote. Review of alternatives to delete entire section, deleting majority of Section 17D, or retaining 17D and modifying Section 17D(ii).

VOTED: 4/1 to remove Chapter VII, Section 17 D from the Charter. (Mr. Martin against)

Chapter VII, Section 17D(ii)

revision no longer applicable.

Chapter VIII, Section 5D(i)

VOTED: UNANIMOUS to remove the prior proposed recommendation, and leave Section as it stands.

Chapter IX, Section 7

VOTED: UNANIMOUS to accept the proposed draft as presented.

Chapter IV, Section 6

Continued discussion regarding removal of “severe economic crisis”. Question being whether Commission wants any qualification for “opt out” provision. There needs to be a ground for opt out. Language to be revised to “However, in any fiscal year in which Board of Finance determines that economic circumstances “

VOTED: UNANIMOUS to accept the report as amended.

The proposed revisions to the Charter will be submitted to the Town Council on or before June 30, 2014.

Upon question by Mr. Shamas, the Chair explained the process by which the public will be educated on the proposed Charter Revisions. She indicated that the Town Attorney and Town Clerk would prepare the explanations, possibly prepare a video for airing on the public TV channel, packages explaining all the revisions which will be available at numerous public locations.

The Chair thanked the Commission for their hard work and diligence at working together to move the Town forward. Mr. Portanova expressed the same thanks.

Moved by Mr. Portanova, seconded by Mr. Shamas and voted to adjourn the meeting at 8PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Milewski