



CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

March 15, 2012

Room 104

6:30 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Jack Bashar
Steve Bellis
Frank Coyle
Ruth Ann Dunford
Patrick Lopera
Judy Miko
Ken Nappi
Bronislaw Winnick

Commissioners Absent: Anthony Metz

CALL TO ORDER

Honorable Mark A. Lauretti called the Organizational Meeting of the Charter Revision Commission to order at 6:37 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. BOARD MEETINGS TO BE GOVERNED BY ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

Commissioner Bashar moved that all meetings shall be conducted under and governed by parliamentary procedure as defined by Robert's Rules of Order. Commissioner Winnick seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken; motion carried by unanimous vote.

1.A. ADOPTION OF POLICY GOVERNING PUBLIC PORTION OF CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION MEETINGS

Commissioner Nappi motioned he proposes that each speaker be allowed up to five (5) minutes to speak at the beginning of each meeting and then they will be summarized in the minutes and should someone request a lengthier time could do so by submitting it to the Commission to be scheduled at the next scheduled meeting. Commissioner Bellis added that there be no public portion during workshops, he then seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken; motion carried by unanimous vote.

2. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Commissioner Bellis moved to nominate Ken Nappi for the Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission. Mr. Bellis added that it was his third time on this Commission and Mr. Nappi's second time serving and he was very instrumental in working with the Fire Department and worked very hard as well on every section of the Charter. Commissioner Bashar seconded the motion.

Mayor Lauretti asked if there were any other nominations for the Office of Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission.

Commissioner Bellis moved to close nominations and the clerk be authorized to cast one ballot for the election of Ken Nappi as Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission. Commissioner Bashar seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken; motion carried by unanimous vote.

At this time Honorable Mark A. Lauretti turned the meeting over to Chairman Nappi for the additional organizational portions of the agenda at 6:40 pm.

3. ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Commissioner Lopera moved to nominate Steve Bellis for the Vice Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission. Commissioner Winnick seconded the motion.

Chairman Nappi asked if there were any other nominations for the Office of Vice Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission.

Commissioner Winnick moved to close nominations and the clerk be authorized to cast one ballot for the election of Steve Bellis as Vice Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission. Commissioner Bashar seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken; motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. APPOINTMENT OF THE CLERK OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Commissioner Lapera moved to appoint Sophia Belade as Clerk of the Charter Revision Commission. Commissioner Bashar seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken; motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. ADOPTION OF 2012 MEETING SCHEDULE

Chairman Nappi stated that this Commission needs to include their recommendations to the Board of Aldermen by September for this to be on the ballot for the November election.

Honorable Mark A. Lauretti stated that he felt this was important to stick with a November 2012 schedule because it is an election year.

Chairman Nappi suggested that Tuesday be the day that this Commission meets and have this Commission meet twice a month. The first Tuesday meeting of the month to be a Scheduled Regular Meeting and the second scheduled Tuesday meeting be a Workshop with both being called to order at 7:00 pm.

Commissioner Bashar moved to adopt every other Tuesday of each month be established as the regularly scheduled meeting date of the Charter Revision Commission, and that the other Tuesday be scheduled as a regularly scheduled Workshop of the Charter Revision Commission. Meetings are to be held at City Hall and will convene at 7:00 pm. Commissioner Lapera seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken; motion carried by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Winnick stated that there are two (2) sections of the Connecticut General State Statutes 7-187 - 7-191 that should be looked at to verify what authority this Commission has or does not have. Vice Chairman Bellis and Commissioner Bashar stated that they will provide the Commission with those State Statutes by the first meeting.

Commissioner Bashar moved that March 27, 2012 will be the first Regular Meeting of the Charter Revision Commission. Commissioner Lapera seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken; motion carried by unanimous vote.

6. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Honorable Mark A. Lauretti stated he had some comments. First he thanked all the Commissioners for volunteering for this Commission. He stated that it's what drives the success of our City in many areas. The Charter is a document that is extremely important to the City. It's what we live by. When asked by many audiences about Shelton's success, I go back to the Charter. It's a good document. It works. It has been since 1994 that the last Charter passed, it's time to update the document in many areas. There are Statutes that have changed; our Charter is not current with that. There are many issues that govern the City and drive the City's operations that need some good public discussion. This time I will be more available to participate in those discussions. I feel that I have something to offer and I also feel I have a pretty good respect for what works and what doesn't work and why. Lastly, when the work is concluded we all have to go forward and make our case to the people. We cannot sit on the sidelines and have people who have a different agenda drive the headlines in the media because that will not serve the interest of the public. We need to relay that this is a good document that we want to make better. This is a document that will change as the times change, as technology changes, as people change and also as society changes. I want to state that I will make myself available as will some of the Board of Aldermen to get their insights in what they've dealt with in their extensive tenure in government.

Chairman Nappi stated that there are some areas especially in Purchasing, Bidding and Procedure that need to be updated since 1994. Government has changed a lot. There has been good headway made in the past few times that this Commission has met. Those sections should be looked at again; everything that's in the Charter needs to be looked at again. There are certain areas that need not be spelled out this time that were spelled out back in 1994. What we are setting up now is going to be cast in stone. We want people to have opinions.

I would also like to state that in the past we sent a letter out to all the Boards and Commissions stating that the Charter Revision Commission has been established and if there are any areas that you would like reviewed please submit it in writing to the Commission and we will schedule you at our meetings. I ask the Clerk to send a letter to all Commissions and Boards advising them that this Commission has been formed and if there is correspondence to please submit it to the clerk. Also a memo from the Town Clerk's Office has been forward to ask Corporation Counsel a question that was raised by the Secretary of State's office regarding section 2.4.1. I will have the clerk forward this to Corporation Counsel for his opinion.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Lapera moved to adjourn. Commissioner Winnick seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken; motion carried by unanimous vote.

Chairman Nappi adjourned the meeting at 6:55 P.M.

The next meeting of the Charter Revision Commission is scheduled as a Regular Meeting for Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophia V. Belade

Sophia V. Belade
Charter Revision Clerk

TAPE IS AVAILABLE IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

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