



CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

MEETING

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

The meeting for the Charter Revision Commission was called to order by Paul DiMauro at 7:03 P.M. in Room 303 at Shelton City Hall.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attending: Paul DiMauro
Michael Davis
Ann Dougherty
Sue Coyle
Bob Lally
Charles Carroll
Steve Bellis
Gary Cahill

Absent: Irene Smith
Joe Konner

Paul DiMauro opened the meeting for public input.

My name is Walt Sofian, 7 Andrew Drive, Chair and spokesperson for the Charter Action Review Effort Committee known as CARE. Again, we would like to thank the Charter Revision Commission for the facilitating the free exchange of ideas with respect to the Charter Revision effort. Tonight CARE would like to submit five additional recommendations to the Charter Revision Commission, numbered 41 through 45.

Recommendation 41, already submitted unofficially to the CRC at the end of your last meeting, places the requirement for the Planning and Zoning Commission to update the ten year plan for the City of Shelton, as required by Section 8-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes, into a new Section 5.1.4.1. of the Charter title, "Ten Year Plan Update".

Recommendation 42 amends Section 6.9.2 Department of Police, and seeks to establish a six member Police Commission for the City of Shelton. The primary rationale are:

maintenance of checks and balances; improvement of the budgetary, and hiring and promotion processes; allowing police officers and members of the public a forum to express concerns; and the growth of the population in the city of Shelton since the last City Charter update.

Recommendation 43 would add two new Sections, 6.14 and 6.15 establishing a position of City Planner and the required qualifications. The main rationale would be continual updating of the abovementioned ten-year plan by a dedicated employee that would be an integral part of the administration for the city of Shelton. The City Planner would oversee Shelton's land use boards and commissions and provide access for public input from the community. A more detailed explanation of the job qualifications and requirements are presented in the attached sheets. The salary for the City Planner would be somewhat offset by eliminating the Planning and Zoning consultant and not requiring the periodic contracting of a City planning firm like Planimetrics.

Recommendation 44 requests that Section 7.14(b) of the existing Charter remain unchanged. The rationale for this recommendation dovetails with that for CARE recommendation 17, and places the responsibility for purchases, bidding and awarding of City contracts with the Board of Apportionment and Taxation.

Recommendation 45 amending Section 9.6.3 would continue to give the Mayor the authority to temporarily fill the vacancy in any appointed office, himself, provided that there is no conflict of interest. The requirement of Section 9.6.2, for the appointing authority to fill the vacancy within thirty days would remain in effect.

Lastly, CARE would like to thank the Charter Revision Commission again for providing the forum for constructive suggestions and recommendations for this effort.

Paul DiMauro: Anyone else would like to address the Charter Revision?

Judson Crawford: Good evening, my name is Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue, I'm asking the question has the Chairman of the Board of A&T contacted your Board? At our last meeting discussed that we should perhaps sit down with you people here and answer any questions. But it was during the budgetary period, our main thoughts were going to be preparation of the budget, since it has been completed and turned over to the Board of Aldermen, I'd like to ask when would a date could be set up with you to meet?

Paul DiMauro: We've been asking for how many months now, we've sent letters to all boards and commissions, and heard nothing from A&T to this date. Not that we won't entertain your thoughts. You're just one member here from A&T, if you have something to present we would certainly listen to it, we'll except anything ion writing that you might have

Judson Crawford: At our last meeting Mr. Chairman, it was discussed by the full board to have our Chairman to call you to set up a date.

Paul DiMauro: Did we get a call?

Sophia Belade: No

Paul DiMauro: We didn't get a call, so my recommendation Jud is to go back to your Chairman and get it to us. We'll take it by presentation; we'll take it in writing. But we need it by next meeting.

Michael David: Don't just show up, if you want something changed or you see something that you don't like bring it, don't make us have a second meeting because you come and we talk and then you have to come back another time

Paul DiMauro: In fact, I'll go even further than that, anything you have if you would get it to our secretary so she could get it to the rest of us prior to our next meeting, that would be very helpful. Because to read it this night and try to talk about it doesn't make sense. So over the next week if you could get something together with the entire Board of A&T. I would recommend that you present it to the Charter box in the Mayor's office.

Judson Crawford: Very good. Thank you

Paul DiMauro: Thank you. Anyone else like to speak to the Charter Revision Commission, if not I'm going to close the public portion.

The public portion concluded at 7:13 P.M.

Charles Carroll made a motion to accept the minutes from March 8 and March 22, 2005. Bob Lally second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Per Chairman DiMauro: Representatives from both the Board of Fire Commissioners and the Officer's Council will attend the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2005. A copy of the proposed changes from the Officer's Council as well as copies of the minutes from the Board of Fire Commissioners are attached.

The Charter Revision Commission continued the meeting by going through the changes so far in the Charter. They are as follows:

- **Section 2.2. Polling Places and Hours** – There was a consensus taken regarding changing Mayor to Registrars of Voters and adding language not more fifteen (15) or less than five (5) days.

- **Section 2.3. Regulations** – No longer an open item
- **Section 2.4. Elected Municipal Officials and Voting** - as of 4/12/05 open item for discussion if term limitations and numbers.
- **Section 2.10. Wards** – no longer an open item
- **Section 3.2. Powers and Duties** – as of 4/12/05 open item, need to impose a logical time limit from the Director of Finance.
- **Section 3.3.3. Other Appointments** – no longer an open item.
- **Section 3.4. Succession to Office** – 4/12/05 verbiage will stand.
- **Section 4.1. Office, Election, and Qualifications** – 4/12/05 no longer an open item.
- **Section 4.6. Investigation** – 4/12/05 awaiting response from Corporation Counsel
- **Section 4.7.2. Referral to Committee** – 4/12/05 Chairman DiMauro to revise language for approval
- **Section 4.7.3 Hearing** - 4/12/05 awaiting response from Corporation Counsel
- **Section 4.9. Publication of Ordinances; Effective Date** – added language “and is posted on the website”
- **Section 4.10. Emergency Action** - changed sixty-one days to read thirty days, consensus to approve change
- **Section 4.11. Powers of Initiative** – ninth line fifteen percent (15%) changed to ten percent (10%). There was a consensus taken to approve the change.

There are still open items of the proposed Charter. The Charter Revision Commission will continue with Chapter 5.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2005. Mr. Bob Araujo and Mr. Jim Tortora have been re-invited to attend to finalize their proposals to the Fire Department section of the Charter.

ADJOURNMENT

Michael Davis motioned to adjourn. Bob Lally second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul DiMauro adjourned the meeting of the Charter Revision Commission at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophia V. Belade

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Clerk-Charter Revision Commission

**** ATTACHMENTS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ON THE WEB. COPIES OF MINUTES WITH ATTACHMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CITY/TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE***

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