



CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

April 29, 2008

Room 204

7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Jack Bashar
Steve Bellis
Susan Coyle
Paul DiMauro
Chris Gallo

Commissioners Absent: Michael Davis
Bob Lally
Ken Nappi
Irene Smith

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul DiMauro called the Special Meeting of the Charter Revision Commission to order at 7:03 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gallo motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Charter Revision Commission of April 22, 2008. Commissioner Coyle seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATION

Correspondence was received from Chris Panek, 19 Meghan Lane, Shelton, CT. (follows)

April 29th 2008

*Chairman Paul DiMauro
Charter Revision Commission
City of Shelton
54 Hill Street
Shelton, CT 06484*

Dear Charter Revision Commission Members:

I am writing to express my concern that the charter revision process which the commission is currently undertaking be held to the highest standards of public notification. I am sure you would all agree that it is in our city's best interests to keep the public informed as best as possible on the changes being proposed for the charter.

My specific concern is that all discussions regarding the Fire Department be held during a regularly scheduled meeting of the commission and not between two CRC members only who then will report back to the commission.

I recently emailed Mr. Tom Hennick from the Freedom of Information Commission asking about this issue. He responded and told me that two members of the CRC could be considered a subcommittee of the CRC and if they discuss "public business" the meeting should be noticed.

It is my belief that revisions to the sections of the charter involving the Fire Department are public business and therefore I would like to request that they be held in public at a regularly scheduled meeting of the CRC.

As a former member of the Board of Aldermen I certainly appreciate the time and effort you all have put in to the current and past charter revisions. I look forward to your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*Chris Panek
19 Meghan Lane
Shelton, CT 06484
(203) 929-3035*

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO 1994 CHARTER**There was a consensus of the Charter Revision Commission as a proposed change to Section 5.1.2.2. Chairman of the Board of Education. and consensus that 4.9. Publication of Ordinances; Effective Date is closed:***5.1.2. Board of Education:*

5.1.2.2. Chairman: ~~No person shall serve as Chairman of the Board for more than four (4) consecutive terms of one (1) year each.~~ The Chairman, as elected by the majority of the Board of Education members, shall preside over all meetings of the Board. Within thirty (30) days after the Chairman is chosen, the Chairman shall appoint a Clerk of the Board (whose compensation the Board shall establish), who shall attend the meetings of the Board, take the minutes, and prepare and maintain the records of its proceedings. The Chairman shall appoint all committees. The Chairman shall have such other powers and duties consistent with his office as may be conferred or imposed by the Board.

Section 4.9. Publication of Ordinances; Effective Date.

The Clerk of the Board of Aldermen shall file each ordinance, within five (5) days after final passage, with the City/Town Clerk ~~and is posted on the City website,~~ pursuant to Section 4.8.2, 4.8.3, 4.8.4. ~~W~~within ten (10) days after receipt of such ordinance, the City/Town Clerk shall publish the same ~~in summary form~~ in a newspaper having substantial circulation within the City. ~~The notice shall also state that a full copy of the ordinance is on file with the City/Town Clerk.~~

~~Unless the Board of Aldermen at the time of the passage of the ordinance shall direct otherwise, the ordinance shall be published in its entirety. The Board of Aldermen may direct that a summary be published, in which case the notice shall also state that a full copy of the ordinance is on file with the city/Town Clerk.~~

In the event that an emergency ordinance is passed pursuant to Section 4.10 ~~of the Charter,~~ the Board of Aldermen shall not have the right to direct that a summary be published, but the entire ordinance shall be published.

In either event, the publication shall be within ten (10) days of receipt of the ordinance by the City/Town Clerk and shall be published in a newspaper having a substantial circulation within the City.

The following areas of the Charter were reviewed and the changes being suggested:

Section 4.7. Ordinances.

4.7.1. Proposal:

The Mayor or any member ~~or members~~ of the Board of Aldermen may propose an ordinance ~~in writing~~ to the ~~Clerk of the~~ Board and, not later than the next regular meeting following its submission, the ~~Mayor~~ Clerk shall refer the ordinance without the requirement of a vote to ~~the proper committee of~~ the Board of Aldermen.

4.7.2. Referral to Committee:

Should the Board determine that the proposed ordinances should be reviewed by a Committee of the Board before going to Public Hearing, it may, by majority vote, agree to refer the proposed ordinance to a Committee of its choice providing that the reasons for the referral are clearly stated. The Committee would be required to report back to the full Board no later than sixty (60) days after the date of referral to the Committee. In no case can a Committee of the Board withdraw the proposed ordinance from further consideration by the Board. However, the author of the Ordinance is free to withdraw it at any time prior to Public Hearing.

4.7.2. Hearing: (change number)

Within thirty ~~five (35)~~ (30) days after the referral to the Board, the Board shall hold ~~without requirement of a vote,~~ at least one (1) public hearing on the proposed Ordinance and notice of such hearing shall be published in a newspaper having substantial circulation in the City at least five (5) days prior to said hearing. ~~The committee shall report to the Board of Aldermen not later than the second regular meeting follow the public hearing.~~ In the event that an Ordinance is referred to a Committee, the Public Hearing shall be held at the next regularly scheduled Public Hearing date following completion of the Committee's work.

4.7.3. Board Action:

Not later than the next regular meeting following the ~~receipt of the report,~~ **Public Hearing**, the Board of Aldermen shall consider the proposed ordinance together with any amendments that may be offered thereto, and the Board shall either reject or pass such ordinance with or without such amendments except that the Board may table said ordinance until its next regular meeting in order to permit further study or investigation. At such next regular meeting the Board shall consider the proposed ordinance together with such amendments as shall be proposed and shall reject or pass such ordinance with or without amendments.

5.2.5. Economic Development Commission:

The City shall have an Economic Development Commission, consisting of five (5) members, no more than three (3) of which shall be from the same political party, appointed by the Mayor to serve for staggered terms of ~~five (5) three (3) years. The term of one (1) member shall expire each year of a five year cycle.~~ The terms of two (2) members shall expire in the first and second years of a three-year cycle and the term of one (1) member shall expire in the third year of a three-year cycle.

The current members of the Economic Development Commission shall continue in that appointed position until such appointment terminates by operation of laws in effect prior to the effective date of this Charter or until such appointment terminates by death, incapacity, resignation or removal of such member. Thereafter, successor or incumbent members shall be appointed in the manner provided by this Charter. - OPEN ITEM (4/29/08 ordinance language and reference State Statute)

Section 5.3. Appointed by the Board of Aldermen.

5.3.5. Board of Ethics:

The City shall have a Board of Ethics which have all the powers conferred and imposed by Ordinance of the City. The Board of Ethics will consist of five (5) members with no more than two (2) from the same party and will be appointed by the Board of Aldermen for a term of three (3) years. The terms of the members shall be staggered in a manner that not more than two (2) members' term will expire in any year. - OPEN ITEM - (verbiage of term expiration)

~~Section 5.4. Appointed by the Mayor and Confirmed by the Board of Aldermen;~~

~~—The City shall have a Board of Ethics consisting of three (3) five (5) members, none of which three (3) members shall be from the same political party, and no more than one (1) of which shall hold any elected or appointed office with the City. The Board shall be appointed by the Mayor Board of Aldermen and confirmed by at least a majority of the full membership of the board of aldermen to serve for staggered terms of three (3) years. The term of one (1) member shall expire each year of a three-year cycle. The Board may draw, and from time to time may amend, a code of ethics, including specific provisions for enforcement of the code, which code and amendments the Board of Aldermen may adopt from time to time as an ordinance of the City.~~

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Gallo motioned to adjourn the Charter Revision Meeting of April 22, 2008. Commissioner Lally seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman DiMauro adjourned the meeting at 8:23 P.M.

The next meeting of the Charter Revision Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in Room 204 at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophia V. Belade

Sophia V. Belade
Charter Revision Clerk

TAPE IS AVAILABLE IN THE TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE

ALL ATTACHMENTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABE ON THE WEB, FULL COPIES AVAILABLE IN CITY/TOWN CLERK OFFICE