



CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

MEETING
Tuesday, June 14, 2005

The meeting for the Charter Revision Commission was called to order by Paul DiMauro at 7:07 P.M. in Room 104 at Shelton City Hall.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attending: Paul DiMauro
Irene Smith
Joe Konner
Bob Lally
Gary Cahill

Absent: Michael Davis
Steve Bellis
Charles Carroll
Sue Coyle
Ann Dougherty

There was no motion to accept the minutes of June 7, 2005 due to the fact that there was not a quorum present.

Chairman DiMauro read into the minutes a letter submitted by Walter Sofian:

“ Dear Mr. DiMauro:

As spokesperson for the Charter Action Review Effort Committee known as CARE, I would like to take this opportunity to express our disappointment with the current CRC draft of the City Charter revisions. As previously stated, CARE represents a spectrum of Shelton citizenry that is very concerned about the future of the City and hoped that the latest

charter revisions, currently being undertaken by the CRC would reflect the needs of the citizens of Shelton.

CARE has been meeting for the last ten months, undertaking an independent review of the Charter for the City of Shelton, and has put forth forty-six recommendations to the Charter Revision Commission. While we have been treated respectfully and had the opportunity to freely exchange ideas with the CRC, it now appears that the end product, soon to be delivered to the Board of Aldermen is a rehash of the Charter revision that was defeated by the voters in April of 2004 and will not be in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Shelton.

The CRC has grudgingly agreed to increase the size of the Planning and Zoning Commission by one additional member, when it is clear that at least two additional members would allow for Ward representation and would have a much larger impact on the future makeup of the P&Z. Additionally, the CRC draft retains the language of the previously failed April 2004 revision with respect referral of ordinances to committee, Board and/or Commission employees reporting to the Administrative Assistant on a day-to-day basis, and the lack of any definitive standards for establishment and enforcement of a Municipal Code of Ethics.

In summary, after almost a year of effort, there appears to have been no movement on the part of the Charter Revision Commission to establish any meaningful reform and/or update for the Charter of the City of Shelton. The citizens of the City of Shelton deserve better.

*Respectfully submitted,
Walter Sofian”*

The Commission reviewed the proposed changes to the Charter.

Changes to the Charter:

CHAPTER 1 – 6/14/05 REVIEWED CHANGES, DRAFT 13

- **Section 2.4.1. Officials (c) – deleted “to be elected from four (4) persons nominated by each political party and such unaffiliated persons as may be properly on the ballot” per State Statute.**
- **Section 3.2. Powers and Duties – delete line “He shall prepare and have printed, as soon as possible no later than after the close of each fiscal year, an annual City report.”**

CHAPTER 4 – Section 4.7.2 Referral to Committee – 6/14/05 REVIEWED CHANGES, DRAFT 12

- **Delete language “the next regular meeting of the Board, and insert language “60 days after the date of referral to the Committee”**

CHAPTER 5 – 6/14/05 REVIEWED CHANGES, DRAFT 13

- **Section 5.1.4. Planning and Zoning Commission – delete language “and, subject to the approval of the Mayor”, add “and”.**
- **Section 5.2.1. Parks and Recreation Commission – add language to last sentence “which funds shall be subject to audit in compliance with State Statute and City Ordinances.”**
- **Section 5.2.4. Economic Development Commission – add paragraph “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”

- **Section 5.2.6. Inland Wetland Commission – to read as:**

The City shall have an Inland Wetlands Commission, consisting of seven (7) members, no more than five (5) of whom shall be from the same political party, appointed by the Mayor to serve for staggered terms of three (3) years. The term of two (2) members shall expire in the first and second years of a three-year cycle and the terms of three (3) members shall expire in the third year of a three-year cycle.

There may be such alternate members of the Inland Wetlands Commission as may be authorized by the Board of Aldermen by ordinance.

There shall be two (2) alternate members appointed by the Mayor for a term of three (3) years no more than one (1) of whom shall be from the same political party. The Chairman of the Inland Wetlands Commission shall when a regular meeting, is unable to attend a meeting or is otherwise unable to participate, select an alternate in place of such member firstly from the same political party as the member and if an alternate from the same political party is not available, then the Chairman shall select the second alternate. If two (2) members are unable to attend or participate, both alternates shall be seated, provided that the minority representation requirements of the General Statutes are not thereby violated in which event the Commission shall proceed on the matter without the participation of any alternate.

The current members of the Inland Wetlands 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.

- **Section 5.4 – Board of Ethics to read as follows:**

The City shall have a Code of Ethics promulgated by the Board of Alderman. The Board of Ethics will consists of five members with no more than three from the same party and will be appointed by the Board of Aldermen for a term of three years

- **Section 5.5 General Provisions (k) – add language “No appointee shall serve beyond his designated term.”**

There were no changes to Section 6.9 – Section 6.9.3.6. – 6/14/05 REVIEWED CHANGES, DRAFT 9

There were no changes to Section 6.9.4 through Section 7.18 – 6/14/05 REVIEWED CHANGES, DRAFT 8

There were no changes to Chapter 8 – Wards – 6/14/05 REVIEWED CAHNGES – DRAFT 5.

There was discussion regarding if the Inland Wetlands Commission was elected rather than being appointed. Chairman DiMauro to create language for this position. (attached)

All the red print (bold and italic) is inserted language. Strikethrough removes language that exists.

The next meeting scheduled for the Charter Revision Commission is a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. in Room 104 at City Hall. There will be a work session after the Public Hearing has concluded for discussion if required. There may be a possible vote if no major changes are necessary due to new input.

ADJOURNMENT

Gary Cahill motioned to adjourn. Joe Konner second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul DiMauro adjourned the meeting of the Charter Revision Commission at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophia V. Belade

Sophia V. Belade

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***

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED FROM TAPE WHICH IS ON FILE IN THE CITY/TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE