

**TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**

**June 15, 2022**

**\*To view the recording, please click the following link and observe the instructions when/if prompted:** [https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/HJj0-q8pPI-7ktxGsKsuIzWbp1qx9gYvxIMlKqU-X-gfzccmEV-ygrNVAjas0I9RBika-KfBU3ABsiHL.K4Y2JNr99cyZnEaO?continueMode=true&\\_x\\_zm\\_rtaid=nBknsK6OTgySbn7w8c36MQ.1655916787331.457c45176dc7a910a5159f366ec378dd&\\_x\\_zm\\_rhtaid=877](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/HJj0-q8pPI-7ktxGsKsuIzWbp1qx9gYvxIMlKqU-X-gfzccmEV-ygrNVAjas0I9RBika-KfBU3ABsiHL.K4Y2JNr99cyZnEaO?continueMode=true&_x_zm_rtaid=nBknsK6OTgySbn7w8c36MQ.1655916787331.457c45176dc7a910a5159f366ec378dd&_x_zm_rhtaid=877)

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A special meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022. This was a hybrid meeting held both electronically, via Zoom, and in person at the Memorial Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:14 P.M. by Council President Dominique Baez. The Clerk took the roll followed by the reading of the Land Recognition.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dominique Baez	Jeron Alston
Katie Kiely	Betty Wetmore
Kristen Zaehring	Lesley DeNardis
Abdul Osmanu	Adrian Webber (after roll call)
Ted Stevens	Laurie Sweet
Justin Farmer	Paula Irvin
Cory O'Brien	Sarah Gallagher

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Marjorie Bonadies

**PRESIDING:** Dominique Baez, President

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Sean Grace, Chief of Staff; Curtis Eatman, Finance Director; Sue Gruen, Town Attorney; Attorney Steve Mednick

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Order authorizing the sale of property at 670 Wintergreen Avenue, Hamden – Wintergreen School

Opened at 7:19 PM. There were approximately 25 people in the audience in person and 19 attendees on Zoom. There were 4 public speakers in person and 2 public speakers on Zoom. The public hearing was closed at 7:38 PM.

Ms. Baez then recessed the meeting at 7:38 PM (to hold a special committee meeting)

Ms. Baez called the meeting out of recess at 8:34 PM

**PUBLIC HEARING:** To receive comment on the 2022 revised Charter

Opened at 8:36 PM. There were approximately 25 people in the audience in person and 19 attendees on Zoom. There were 6 public speakers in person and 4 public speakers on Zoom. The public hearing was closed at 9:04 PM

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**AGENDA:**

1. Charter Revision Workshop

-- Moved by Ms. Baez, seconded by Ms. Kiely. DISCUSSION: Ms. Gallagher said she served on both commissions and that they put in over 500 hours of work on this. She spoke on areas they discussed and amended. (\*Mr. Webber is now present)

**Preamble:**

Ms. Baez moved a motion to accept the revised preamble. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sweet and approved unanimously.

**Chapter 1 – Definitions:**

Ms. Gallagher moved a motion to accept the definitions as modified by the CRC, seconded by Ms. Baez. DISCUSSION: After some discussion on the difference between the words shall and must Ms. Gallagher said they were used interchangeably in prior versions of the Charter and the definition clarifies that we're using shall, and that means that's the mandatory function.

Ms. Zaehring referenced in section W. Public Notice and while reading the language said it seems you could have one requirement by Charter and one by State Statutes but said the Statute would trump, right? Mr. Mednick said he's not sure that last clause is needed because State Statute would trump and he's not sure why we have that in there and he could modify it.

**Ms. Zaehring moved a motion to amend** and delete the red line language in section W of public notices "in the event the requirement of the Charter is more stringent than the requirements of the General Statutes.". Ms. Baez asked Ms. Gallagher if she'd take that as a friendly motion. Ms. Gallagher said she thinks that was put in there to unsure that folks knew that State Statute did trump the Charter and just wants to make sure that that isn't lost. She said as long as it's clear she'll exclude that clause from her motion. Ms. Kiely accepted the friendly amendment as well.

A vote was taken on definitions as amended and it passed with 1 abstention (Farmer)

**Chapter 3 (Section 3-3.C.1.B) Four Year Term:**

Moved by Ms. Baez, seconded by Ms. Kylie. DISCUSSION: Ms. Zaehring stated they had a lot of public comment about this and asked for a little of the thought process. Ms. Gallagher explained how the first commission had an expert panel that represented various towns and

various forms of government and different ways of forming government come in to talk about forms of governance and during that meeting there was lots of conversation about a recommendation for possibly moving to a Town Manager form of government. She said that it became clear they did not feel ready to move to a Town Manager form of government, however, it was indicated in those sessions that best practice in governance is to have a four year term for several reasons. One is that in a two year term a Mayor may spend the first year governing but then campaigning during the second year. Also, two years is not a lot of time to make a plan and implement the plan. They also found that it's hard to get good candidates for a Mayor because in a 2 year term not many are willing to give up a job they already have for a two year term but got better recruitments with a 4 year term.

After some more discussion on this topic Mr. O'Brien said one reason he'll be supporting this is because we are in a place that we are in financially, because our previous mayors have constantly been thinking about reelection and not thinking about doing the right thing for the town long term.

Ms. Wetmore said she heard from her constituents who don't like a 4 year term and feel once a Mayor is in for 4 years you're stuck with them. She said she doesn't know how she feels but she has to support her constituents.

Mr. Osmanu said he supports a 4 year term but he's not sure how he feels about term limits as mentioned in public input earlier. Attorney Mednick said you cannot do term limits, they're not permitted in the State of Connecticut. Ms. Baez asked how many other states have 4 year term limits. Mr. Mednick said 5 or so and that he'd provide a chart.

Ms. Kiely asked if there's a difference in voter turnout for those 4 year terms. Mr. Mednick said he'd take a look but generally if the Mayor is not on the ticket there's a lower turnout.

Ms. Baez stated she's been a proponent of a 4 year term since she's been 18 and she supports this.

After some discussion about this being a big topic to discuss late in the evening **Mr. Farmer moved a motion** to table this. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baez and approved with 1 opposed (O'Brien) and 3 abstentions (Gallagher) (Zaehringer) (Kiely) - **TABLED ITEM**

Ms. Baez announced they would have another workshop on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and then recessed the meeting at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta  
Clerk of the Council