

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

June 22, 2022

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A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Wednesday, June 22, 2022. This meeting was held electronically, via Zoom, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called out of recess at 7:10 P.M. by Council President Dominique Baez. The Clerk took the roll followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dominique Baez	Justin Farmer
Jeron Alston	Sarah Gallagher
Katie Kiely	Lesley DeNardis
Abdul Osmanu	Adrian Webber
Laurie Sweet	Cory O'Brien

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marjorie Bonadies; Paula Irvin; Ted Stevens; Betty Wetmore; Kristen Zaehring

PRESIDING: Dominique Baez, President

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Sue Gruen, Town Attorney; Attorney Steve Mednick; Commissioner Jay Kaye; Commissioner Jackie Downing

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

REGULAR AGENDA:

1. Charter Revision Workshop
-- Ms. Gallagher and Mr. Mednick went over the process going forth. There was discussion on charter violation repercussions. Ms. Gruen mentioned it's in the ethics section. Mr. Mednick said his preference is an ordinance and explained why. Mr. Mednick then displayed his PowerPoint on voter turnout as he explained.

CHAPTER III:

§3-3 C (1) (b):

Ms. Baez moved a motion to take this off the table. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Brien and approved unanimously. DISCUSSION: Mr. Farmer said he prefers they start this process in 2025 and wonders if they need more time to see more data. Ms. Gallagher explained some of the discussion of the commission. There was then a lengthy discussion.

Mr. Farmer moved a motion saying he would like a revision made from 2023 to 2025 for the beginning of a 4 year term. The motion was seconded by Mr. Osmanu. DISCUSSION: Mr. Farmer said the last time there was concern about setting up the next Mayor and he doesn't want to carry that. Mr. Osmanu said he agrees and supports 2025. Mr. O'Brien said he agrees with this if it was originally proposed but he's not as concerned now and doesn't think he supports this right now. Ms. Kiely thinks voter turnout is really important to consider and wants to make a friendly motion to have the commission look at what's best as far as voter turnout with the BOE and is it better in 2025 or the next election. Mr. Farmer and Mr. Osmanu both accepted the friendly.

Mr. Alston asked about the election cycle for the BOE. Mr. Mednick said the cycle of 6 (members) is up in 2025 and 3 (members) are up in 2023 and that Board members are 4 year terms. Mr. Farmer said he thinks 2025 is best for a multiple of reasons now. Ms. Kiely said the reason she wants it to go to the commission is because she wants to hear their discussion on it about voter turnout. Mr. O'Brien said he would also like further thought and consideration and is okay with it going back to the commission. Ms. Baez said she also would like the caveat of 4 year term from commission. She said she thinks they should agree for the term first and then send it to the commission.

Ms. Baez said she believes the motion on the table now is to add the four year Mayoral and Town Clerk terms and they would like the Charter Revision Commission to consider whether it starts in 2023 or 2025. Mr. Alston said he wants them to consider having the Mayor in the year of the 3 BOE and LC vs. the 6 BOE, Mayor and LC. Mr. Mednick said another thing they can do is look at the structure of the BOE.

Ms. Baez took the vote for a 4 year term for Mayor and Town Clerk with the Charter Revision Commission (CRC) to look at starting in the year 2023 or 2025 with the 3 member BOE cycle or the 6 member BOE cycle. The motion passed with 1 abstention (Webber)

Ms. Baez then took a vote on the 4 year term for Mayor and Town Clerk and it passed with 1 opposed (DeNardis) and 1 abstention (Webber)

Ms. Baez moved a motion to have the CRC discuss the BOE election cycles and amount of members per election. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kiley and approved with 1 abstention (DeNardis)

§3-4: Residence requirement for elective and appointed office

Ms. Baez requested a motion to approve this revision. Moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Ms. Kiely. DISCUSSION: Mr. Mednick said him and Ms. Gruen are looking at this offline and explained that this states if you move from your district you can't continue to represent it. He said it's not in the charter. A vote was taken to add this revision and it passed unanimously.

§3-5 A: Revised the Mayoral succession provisions for clarity about the roles of the president and President Pro Tempore (#2. Succession to the Office of President - #3. Election of President Pro Tempore)

Mr. Mednick explained this language. Mr. O'Brien said he has some concerns with this and asked what if a president can't do this. After a lengthy discussion a vote was taken to accept 3-5A as is and it was approved with 1 opposed (DeNardis)

Mr. O'Brien asked if it is appropriate to clarify it's the second two years. Mr. Mednick said clarification wouldn't be harmful but he thinks the commission felt it was clear.

Mr. O'Brien said it was not clear for him while reading it so he's going to **recommend and move a motion** to have the Commission consider revising the languages to clarify that it would be for the remainder of the term so that we don't have any type of an issue in the future. The motion was seconded by Mr. Farmer. After some discussion with Mr. Mednick, Mr. O'Brien said he'd take it offline for a clarifying amendment. Mr. Mednick said give him the concept and him and Ms. Gruen will work on it.

§3-7 F & G: Clarification of District Reapportionment Process

Mr. Mednick said in this provision it was noticed that there was a little bit of a gap in the Charter regarding the ability to approve the second reapportionment plan. He said for some reason the Registrar's of Voters were left out of the process so they put the Registrar's back in there. It also notice that the commissioning can have no more than four from the same political party so there's protection for unaffiliated and protection against having. Also, that the commission can have no more than four from the same political party so there's protection for unaffiliated and protection against having a majority rule entity they also put in clarification in F3 on what the vote should be right now, with seven members, it was made a majority vote of the entire membership, because the seven member standard might have made it almost impossible to get a product out of the redistricting committee.

Ms. Baez moved a motion to accept this, seconded by Ms. Kiely and approved unanimously.

§3-10 D (7): Defining Habitual Absences and requiring convictions for crimes while in office as basis for removal from elected office

Ms. Gallagher explained how this defines that if you're habitually absent from meetings that that could be a reason for removal from office. Mr. Mednick said they allow for it to be created by

ordinance and if not by ordinance then by the adopted and approved rules and procedures of the Legislative Council.

Ms. Baez moved a motion to accept this revision, seconded by Ms. Sweet. DISCUSSION: After some discussion and opinions on some thinking an ordinance is best and other thinking the standing rules are best a vote was taken on the revision and approved unanimously.

CHAPTER V:

§5-2 D (1): Clarification and expansion of the scope of the Mayor's obligation to quarterly reporting of all contracts to the LC in order to foster greater accountability

Mr. Mednick and Ms. Gruen explained some of this clause and about contracts. There was then discussion on eliminating the last clause and using the word "law" to cover most of it as well as deleting the redaction language.

Ms. Gallagher moved a motion to amend this revision and eliminate the last clause and replace with defined law. The motion was seconded by Mr. Farmer and approved unanimously.

A vote was then taken on the revision as amended and approved unanimously.

§5-3 provisions pertaining to appointment to Boards and Commissions were moved to Chapter VII

(No need to vote, will be accepted in another section)

§5-4 A (1) & (2) Clarification about status of emergency as a public health or civil preparedness emergency

Mr. Mednick explained if the declaration is declared by the President or Governor, there is no requirement for local declaration unless unique circumstances or external funding or reimbursement requirements, otherwise require.

After a brief discussion on this Ms. Baez moved a motion to accept these revision. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sweet and approved unanimously.

§5-4 C Procedures for emergency appropriations and expenditures

Mr. Mednick explained how this establishes the authority that the Mayor can obligate an amount of money not to exceed \$100,000 as may be appropriated pursuant to 5-4C(1).

After a lengthy discussion about what is considered an emergency expenditure Ms. Baez said she thinks they should put C on hold until next Wednesday and talk with the Finance Director.

§5-4 D: Emergency meetings of the Legislative Council

Ms. Baez moved a motion to open this section, seconded by Ms. Sweet. DISCUSSION: Mr. Mednick explained how the current chartered described meetings of emergency nature are prescribed by ordinance and rather than have it in an ordinance they should be in the rules of the Legislative Council.

A vote was taken and approved unanimously.

§5-4 E: Emergency orders, ordinances and measures

Moved by Ms. Gallagher, seconded by Ms. Sweet. DISCUSSION: Mr. Mednick said they added a couple of things in here just to make the previous revision more clear. A vote was taken and approved unanimously.

Ms. Baez then announces d they would meet again next Wednesday and recessed the meeting at 9:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta
Clerk of the Council