

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

**July 14, 2022**

**\*To view the recording, please click the following link and observe the instructions when/if prompted:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/6MVKjdW7lKdE6Gdfp9TNP2ECoDQqbR9\\_K69AtN0HxxiN1XZpM0a3RIT3g87Mxhy\\_.OjjGQGzYsNV1-O7n](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/6MVKjdW7lKdE6Gdfp9TNP2ECoDQqbR9_K69AtN0HxxiN1XZpM0a3RIT3g87Mxhy_.OjjGQGzYsNV1-O7n)

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A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Thursday, July 14, 2022. This meeting was held electronically, via Zoom, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called out of recess at 7:03 P.M. by Council President Dominique Baez.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dominique Baez	Laurie Sweet
Cory O'Brien	Sarah Gallagher
Katie Kiely	Adrian Webber
Abdul Osmanu	Kristen Zaehring
Justin Farmer	Jeron Alston
Ted Stevens	Paula Irvin

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lesley DeNardis; Betty Wetmore; VACANCY

**PRESIDING:** Dominique Baez, President

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Sue Gruen, Town Attorney; Steve Mednick, Counsel

**PUBLIC INPUT SESSION:** There were no speakers

(Written comments can be sent to [LCpublicinput@hamden.com](mailto:LCpublicinput@hamden.com))

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**1. Charter Revision Workshop**

**Chapter IX: 10-1**

Ms. Gallagher read through and explained the two provisions that were added. One was a compliance and corporation provision which lays out that the Board of Education shall cooperate with the Mayor, Legislative Council, and Finance Commission and all our other departments, boards, and commissions as needed. The second provision is that the Board of Education will submit to the Mayor and Legislative Council a quarterly report on all contracts, MOU's, any other letters that are about financial nature.

**Ms. Baez moved a motion** to accept Chapter IX, seconded by Ms. Sweet and approved unanimously.

### **Chapter X:**

Ms. Gallagher went over this chapter reading through the new sections. Mr. Mednick explained a few of the new sections.

Ms. Gallagher said they may want to send back 10-4 A (1) to the CRC for reconsideration of timing of public hearings because the way it's written we're reviewing it for presentation. She then explained how it's laid out. She said when we get into section D, she wants to flag a section she talked about earlier, the Mayor's budget message and here it's on or before the 30th day of April the Mayor shall transmit the budget message etc. and that is what she wanted to flag and see if they wanted to send it back to the CRC to look at into maybe pushing that back to where it is currently. She then read through more of the chapter.

Mr. Farmer asked about budget liaison and if it would be someone already with the Town. Ms. Gallagher said the intention was it should be someone in house, someone who knows the system internally is very helpful, but could be either or. There was some discussion. Mr. Farmer said he thinks they should be someone in the Finance office and a dedicated person if the resources are there. There was then some discussion on when it becomes effective.

**Mr. Farmer moved a motion** to send back to the CRC for them to consider an effective date for the budget liaison. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zaehring. DISCUSSION: Mr. Stevens asked if this would be a stipend within 35 hours or how would this work. Ms. Gruen reminded them that with the exception of the Finance Director they are all union employees. There was then a lengthy discussion on the position. Ms. Kiely asked could it be a Council person. Ms. Gallagher explained how the CRC saw this position to be. Mr. O'Brien expressed his concern with putting a union mandated position in the Charter saying he doesn't think it should be in the Charter. Ms. Baez said she wants it to be "it shall be" and to start immediately. There was then a discussion about the Finance Director. A vote was taken on the motion and it passed with 4 opposed (O'Brien) (Gallagher) (Baez) (Kiely)

**Mr. O'Brien moved a motion** to strike this clause from the Charter and take it up as a budget matter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stevens. DISCUSSION: Mr. O'Brien explained his motion saying unknowns make him uncomfortable. Mr. Stevens said he will support the motion saying he agrees with the position but not in the charter. Ms. Baez said she's not sure. Ms. Kiely said Mr. O'Brien convinced her that this doesn't belong in the charter but also thinks the position is needed. Ms. Gallagher thinks it's very important and should be in the charter and they can then figure it out and work it out. Mr. O'Brien withdrew his motion and said he wants to send it back to the CRC to have them make it clearer. Mr. Stevens said he won't withdraw his second because he doesn't like it in the charter. Mr. O'Brien agreed with Mr. Stevens.

There was some discussion on removing it. Mr. Mednick said you can't remove it right now, you have to send it back to the CRC and recommend that they remove it. A vote was taken to send this back to the CRC with the recommendation of removing this from the charter and it passed with 2 opposed (Gallagher) (Webber) and 1 abstention (Zaehring)

Mr. Mednick pointed out there are now two issues with this when you include the effective date. Ms. Gallagher clarified on the points of the two items that are going back to the Commission that the only thing that they will address is the date of implementation and an up or down on whether this should be in the Charter.

**Ms. Kiely moved a motion** to amend Mr. Farmer's motion to be more general and include for the CRC to go back and look at this position to see where it should be placed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gallagher.

Ms. Baez stated there are two options, either to get rid of it or to change it in their placement in the Charter, the date that it starts, and whether or not it is a budget of position. Mr. O'Brien said he wants to thank the CRC for all the effort they put into this and he does think it's a very valuable addition and possession, and whatever they decide and come back with he is going to support it. He made the point that he doesn't like it in the Charter versus a budget but he's going to support whatever they send back.

A vote was taken on the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Baez moved a motion to accept 10-1 as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Brien and approved unanimously.

### **10-2:**

Mr. O'Brien said in 10-2 b 3 it references Director of Administration/Chief Administrative Officer and we don't have those roles. Mr. Mednick said what that should be if not the COO then probably the Director of Finance if you're going to eliminate the COO.

**Mr. O'Brien moved a motion** to send the language back to the CRC to be in line with the COO. Mr. Mednick recommended deletion of COO position and all that relates to it and replace with Director of Finance. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baez and approved with 1 opposed (Zaehringer)

Ms. Baez took the vote to accept 10-2 and it passed with 1 abstention (Zaehringer)

### **10-3:**

**Mr. O'Brien moved a motion** in section A that all references to the COO be sent back to the CRC to be modified. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baez. Mr. Mednick said if they're eliminating the COO he'll eliminate all references to the COO and that no motion was needed.

**Ms. Zaehringer moved a motion** to have the COO position be discretionary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Farmer and it failed with 2 in favor (Zaehringer) (Gallagher) and all others opposed.

**Mr. O'Brien moved a motion** to change in 10-3 B 1 (f) where it says "average annual income etc" back to "itemized annual income". The motion was seconded by Ms. Kiely. After some discussion on clarity on the motion a vote was taken and approved unanimously.

**Mr. O'Brien moved a motion** in section 10-3 B 2 under itemized expenses to send to CRC to change language to say five years of itemize expenses. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baez and approved unanimously.

Ms. Gallagher and Mr. Mednick explained 10-3 F (1) & (2) to Mr. Farmer.

**Ms. Gallagher moved a motion** to send back to the CRC to review the date of the Mayor's budget message. The motion was seconded by Mr. Farmer.

Ms. Baez pointed out that that is in section 10-4 and they should finish 10-3. Mr. O'Brien said to do her motion and go back to 10-3.

A vote was taken on the motion and approved unanimously.

Mr. O'Brien clarified the language in section 10-3 D and Mr. Mednick said he was correct in how he understands it.

There was discussion on section 10-3 F (1) – (3) Transition language. **Mr. O'Brien moved a motion** to send this back to the CRC to look at the time constraint saying maybe 3 or 4 months would be more sufficient than the 2. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zaehring and approved unanimously.

Ms. Baez took a vote on 10-3 and it passed unanimously.

#### **10-4:**

Ms. Baez asked if there were any other motions for this section. Saying she saw no hands up she took the vote and it passed unanimously.

#### **10-5:**

There was discussion on Chapter XI and transitional provisions with Mr. Mednick saying he'd take a look to see if any should be included.

Mr. O'Brien said in 10-4 A (1) it says following said hearing the Legislative Council committee of jurisdiction is required to commence review of the public service components and work program set forth and the proposed town budget. He said there are two items in this sentence here, one is Legislative Council committee of jurisdiction should always be as it is above, and below it should say the Legislative Council or designated committee of jurisdiction to allow us the flexibility to debate as a as a body or as a committee. He said he'd like to make a motion to recommend that that language is consistent wherever else is in the Charter, it should say the Legislative Council comma or a designated committee of jurisdiction comma instead of the Legislative Council committee of jurisdiction. Mr. Mednick said he can fix it as part of the errata.

Mr. O'Brien said another question he has is it says the public service components and work programs and asked for some clarity on what that is. Mr. Mednick said they were trying to describe the elements of the budget, the line item elements of the budget and there may be a better way to express it and he's open to suggestions. **Mr. O'Brien moved a motion** to send this back to the CRC to clarify or reference the budget. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zaehring and approved unanimously.

Ms. Baez called for the vote on 10-4 as amended and it passed unanimously.

**Mr. Stevens moved a motion in 10-5 A** where it talks about adoption date saying he would like it to read “until the meeting is completed.” The motion was seconded by Ms. Kiely. After a discussion and advice from Attorney Mednick and Gruen how this changes dates and pushes things back Mr. Stevens withdrew his motion and Ms. Kiely withdrew her second.

**Ms. Kiely moved a motion** to ask the CRC to look extending the timeline and the date of budget deliberations to allow for the reading of procedures, if necessary, to happen after midnight, while looking at and making sure that all of the dates that follow have the right time length that they need and look at and if possible provide the stopgaps needed to prevent reassessing and obstructing the actual completion of the budget process. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stevens and it failed with 5 in favor (Kiely) (Stevens) (Farmer) (Webber) (Osmanu) and 6 opposed (Baez) (Gallagher) (Irvin) (O’Brien) (Sweet) (Zaehringer)

Ms. Baez took the vote on 10-5 and it passed unanimously.

### **10-6:**

Ms. Baez moved a motion to accept 10-6 as recommended. The motion was seconded by Mr. O’Brien and approved unanimously.

### **10-Sections 7 thru 11:**

Ms. Baez said if there are no recommendations here she will take sections 7 through 11 together and moved a motion to accept these sections. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sweet and approved unanimously.

Mr. Mednick said he just wanted to point out that there is a catch all you'll see in the resolution that he will hand out. Not only for the errata but also for us to take a look at the effective date provisions, so there could be a change in this section, if we take a look at it and we'll be talking to you about it before it comes back to you and he just wanted to point that out.

### **XI & XII:**

**Ms. Baez moved a motion** to accept Chapters 11 and 12 together. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gallagher and approved unanimously.

**Ms. Baez moved a motion** in 8-5 D Human Services Depts. to change where it says Public Safety, Health and Community Services to Public Safety, Health and Human Services. The motion was seconded by Mr. O’Brien and approved with 1 abstention (Farmer)

**Ms. Baez moved a motion** to change in section D the title from Human Services Departments to Health and Human Services Departments and then to move C above it to a subsection in D. The motion was seconded by Mr. O’Brien and approved with 1 abstention (Zaehringer)

Mr. Mednick then briefed them on discussions he had with the Town Clerk.

**Mr. Farmer moved a motion** under 7-2 f Finance Commission qualifications to send back to the CRC to discuss adding a person to the commission that doesn’t have financial expertise. A layperson. Ms. Baez said she will second this motion to add a caveat to be 1 person who does not

have these required qualifications. Mr. Stevens said these are very stringent qualifications and he would rather see at least 2 people have qualifications and have more laypeople. After some discussion on this Ms. Baez took a vote to send it back to the CRC and have them talk about it and it passed unanimously.

**Mr. Farmer moved a motion** that under the Police Department in Public safety he wants discipline to be clear there has to be notice to the parties. Ms. Baez stated the motion is when there is a complaint the person who complained must get notified and she then seconded the motion which passed with 1 abstention (Zaehringer)

Mr. Mednick asked why 8-5 instead of where complaints are dealt with in the Police Commission. Ms. Baez said the CRC has it as an open end, Mr. Farmer didn't mention where.

Mr. Stevens said he talked with Ms. Gallagher because he couldn't make the last meeting and one item he had mentioned had made it in 7-1 he about removal from commissions adding a criterion for falsification on resume if that was found out afterwards and he asked if it was discussed or added. Ms. Gallagher said it wasn't.

**Mr. Stevens moved a motion** to consider in section 7-1 where there are four criteria for removal, he would like to add a fifth about basically something along false information or misleading statements in a resume or qualifications that people put forth. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baez and approved with 1 abstention (Gallagher)

**Ms. Baez moved a motion** to add representative repercussions for charter violations and have the CRC consider what could be repercussions for having charter violations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sweet and approved with 1 opposed (Zaehringer)

There being no further business Ms. Baez recessed the meeting at 10:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta  
Clerk of the Council