

TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

July 19, 2022

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A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Tuesday, July 19, 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 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the reading of the Land Acknowledgment by Ms. Sweet.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dominique Baez	Laurie Sweet
Paula Irvin	Sarah Gallagher
Katie Kiely	Adrian Webber (approx. 7:30)
Kristen Zaehringer	Abdul Osmanu (after roll call)
Justin Farmer	Jeron Alston (approx. 7:30)
Cory O'Brien	Ted Stevens

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lesley DeNardis; Betty Wetmore

PRESIDING: Dominique Baez, President

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Town Attorney Sue Gruen, Attorney Steve Mednick

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION: There were 2 speakers

(Written comments can be sent to LCpublicinput@hamden.com)

REGULAR AGENDA:

1. Resolution of the Hamden Legislative Council Recommendations to the Charter Revision Commission Pursuant to C.G.S. §7-191 (b)

-- Moved by Ms. Gallagher, seconded by Ms. Sweet. DISCUSSION: Ms. Kiely said in Section VII where we talk about the Police Commission under the duties of the Town Clerk

we list the citation and she'd like the CRC to consider adding citation of State Statute 7-276. Mr. Mednick said the section is already cited in the previous Charter and if it's not there it wasn't meant to be deleted and he'll put it back in but he wants to point out that we use that statute as a point of reference. He said the Home Rule Charter we're using operates under Home Rule and that that statute is designed for communities that don't have a Charter and they lay out the fundamental powers of what a police Commission should have. He said to Ms. Kiely's point if you take a look at the outline of our Police Commission it's taken right from that statute even though it's not our source of authority, because it exists and because there's case law under that statute it's a very good point of reference, but he thinks it's already referenced in there. Ms. Gruen said she thinks it was in a footnote in the existing Charter.

Ms. Kiely moved a motion to amend 7-2 D and have the CRC consider adding citation of State Statute 7-276 that discuss both the powers of the Police Commission, including the subpoena powers, and includes documents and all usual records. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Brien and approved with 2 abstentions (Zaehringer) (Farmer)

Ms. Kiely said for the Veterans Commission based on what they heard at the public hearing, she doesn't have a specific motion to make except that she would ask the CRC to look that over and make sure that they wouldn't be excluding people from service or turning out. Mr. O'Brien said he would second that for discussion. DISCUSSION: Ms. Gallagher said it's worth sending back to have it looked at but she doesn't think it's limited.

Mr. Farmer mentioned the terms of having people grandfathered in, as well as the Equity Commission looking into things, as well as the council, He said we have two safeguards already but isn't against sending it back, he just thinks they're already covered.

Mr. O'Brien said he appreciates both sides and is in favor of sending it back for a thoughtful approach but wants to make sure this is applied across the board because he won't support carving out certain boards or commissions.

Mr. Stevens said he agrees that carve outs are not the way to go and that he doesn't even like term limits to begin with. He then said he wonders if Ms. Kiely would take a friendly of an 18 year term limit, or even 15. Ms. Kiely said she's be happy to have the CRC look at a broad opportunity but she does appreciate how they came up with the 12 years.

Ms. Kiely then said she did not mean to carve out the Veterans Commission and said her amendment would be to ask the Charter Revision Commission to look at that 12 year term limit but also look at all the provisions that they've put in place to make sure we have enough people and make sure that by broadening the diversity we're not limiting the effectiveness of the commission. She said she's happy to have them look at if they think a different years it makes sense, or if they need to maybe put in something if this happens then this. Ms. Zaehringer said she thinks it should be sent back for a look at all commissions and not just the Veterans as they heard from a couple different ones. Ms. Kiely agreed and said she didn't want to single out one group. Mr. O'Brien said as the second to the motion he supports the broader look at all commissions.

A vote was taken on the motion and approved unanimously.

Ms. Gallagher said she wanted to flag that Mr. Stevens caught a repeated clause in 7-1 D (1) & (2) and as part of the errata they'll delete it. Mr. Mednick encouraged them to keep sending in anything they notice to ensure they get the final document right.

Ms. Baez then referred to the resolution and said in number 11 it says "please consider making adding" etc and she thinks the word making needs to be deleted. She said in number 17 it says "please would like the CRC to review C.G.S." and she thinks it just needs to say, please review C.G.S.

Mr. Farmer moved a motion in 7-2 under item 4 Appointment of Membership, to send back and have the CRC add to have youth representatives to the Police Commission age ranges 16-25 and could be voting or non-voting members. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sweet. DISCUSSION: Ms. Baez said she would like youth representatives that are younger and thinks the 18-25 year olds should be voting members. Ms. Zaehringer said she thinks it's a great motion of civil involvement for the youth and wonders if they would consider a friendly of youth positions on all commissions. Mr. Farmer and Ms. Sweet both accepted the friendly motion. Mr. Stevens said he agrees with both Ms. Baez and Ms. Zaehringer. A vote was taken and approved unanimously.

Ms. Baez said in the resolution number 24 it says that we're changing the section to Public Safety, Health and Human Services in lieu of Community Services but it's more like in lieu of Public Safety, Health and Community Services. She said she knows it's very small but it might create confusion later.

Mr. Farmer said he appreciates all those who worked on this and that he is proud of this document. He said hopes they actually make use of it, there was a lot of time and effort put into it. He then thanked all the Commissioners and Attorney's Gruen and Mednick.

Ms. Baez took the vote to accept the resolution as amended and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Gallagher announced the CRC's tentative meeting dates were July 30th, August 2nd and August 3rd.

There being no further business Ms. Baez adjourned the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta
Clerk of the Council