

**TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING**

August 10, 2022

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A meeting of the Charter Revision Commission was held on Wednesday, 10 August 2022 via Zoom due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

1. Call to Order: 4:11 PM

2. Roll Call

Present: Jackie Downing; Jay Kaye, Y'Isiah Lopes, Patricia C. Vener - Saavedra, Secretary, Acting Chair

Also in attendance: Steve Mednick, Counsel to Commission, Dominique Baez (late)

Agenda: Continuation: Confer with the Legislative Council regarding Resolution of the Hamden Legislative Council Recommendations to the Charter Revision Commission, Pursuant to C.G.S. § 7-191 (b)

3. Public Testimony:

- Correspondence has been posted
- Ron Weil (member of the Veterans Commission) - mentions representing everyone in town and having to represent each district we would not have the people they have. The wording seems to mandate district representation and that won't work - Mednick points out that this is not a mandate or requirement. Weil wants the candidates routed through the commission before going to the Mayor.

Public Comments for CRC can be sent to: CRC2022@hamden.com

4. Agenda - we go through more Legislative Council, (LC), recommendations for discussion and possible voting. But first some finagling with file formats and screen sharing.

- Rec #16 Chapter VII §7-2.A (2) (f) - Please include the possibility of having a Representative on Finance Commission who has none of the professional requirements. Mednick points out that when it comes to services we are all experts

but for this specific commission qualifications really are needed. New wording accepts one "stakeholder."

- Jackie - understands this commission is a support to the LC so if they choose to put a stakeholder on there; everyone on there is already a stakeholder even if they have "qualifications." Does there have to be a lay person instead of all 5 commissioners being cognizant of financial regulations.
- Baez - the way that it was discussed, LC is looking for someone who may not fit the specific qualifications. they want the non-qualifications would be a liaison to community.
- Mednick explains the wordcraft which allows for this person but does not require this position. There is discretion for Mayor and LC president to appoint this category of membership.
- Baez affirms the wiggle room for the appointing entities. (vote on Saturday)
- **Rec #17 Chapter VII, §7-2.C (5)** - establishing penalties for charter violations. It's there but needs clarification points. The Ethics Board addresses all violations and refers the case to the appropriate body/person for executing repercussions.
 - Baez - asks if the case first goes through the Board of Ethics and then the case can be forwarded on to the appropriate sanctioning body.
 - Mednick clarifies that someone has to file a complaint with the board of ethics to start things going after Kaye asks how things start. Mednick continues that an ordinance can address specific violation repercussions not the Charter.
 - Vener-Saavedra ask about specifics and Mednick explains to my satisfaction. If LC member is looking for establishing repercussions, it's not necessary any further than what we have here.
 - Baez - does this leave space for LC to make an ordinance?
 - Mednick explains how this might be done. An ordinance can be made that addresses any specific charter violation. This is not ethics violations but charter violations. State Law allows for the establishment of this kind of Ordinance. (See def of Ordinance added 11 years ago in beginning of Charter)
 - Baez asks for vote on Sat.
- **LC Rec #19 Chapter VII, §7-2.D.3 (i)(vi) (Police) and §7-2.E(3)(c)(i) (Fire)** - approve appointments, promotions, removals by Mayor but Collective Bargaining Agreement does not allow this.
 - Kaye - doesn't Mayor already have ability to recommend any of these? Mednick - that's what exists now, but this would allow a Mayor to have direct authority (more than merely recommend) Attny Gruen may have to look at this
 - Downing moves to reject LC Rec #19 on advice of counsel Kaye - 2nds Passes Unanimously (It is rejected)
- **LC Rec #23 - Chapter VII, §7-2.D (4) and §7-1.B (1)** Youth appointment to police commission; non-voting (later with option to add to other B and C). Appoint by Mayor with a process through LC. Exempted from qualifications except for residency.
 - Mednick offers 1 year term, Downing prefers 2 yr term I prefer 1 year Lopes agrees 1 yr with ability to run again.
 - Baez - BoE youth terms are 2 years. Offers an idea to stagger terms.
 - Mednick says that would entail 1 yr and 2 yr at start to get a stagger, then goes into various scenarios that would be unwieldy.

- Baez reiterates that they want to have Youth member for all Boards and Commissions.
- Mednick says we can mandate it for all boards and commissions. He then offers to remove from Police section and move it over to top of B and C section.
- Kaye - to Baez - we were discussing one year vs 2 yr. asks if she wants to match terms or 2 yrs overall. Baez agrees 2 yrs across the board for all B and C.
- Mednick wants to talk to Gruen about certain boards like zoning which have ethics considerations and limitations of being non-voting members. LC and Mayor to create process.
- Mednick asks about training aspects of some boards and commissions? Baez wants to include training.
- Kaye wants to know about time limitations? Some meetings will be late; will there be time limits?
- Set off til Saturday
- LC #28 **Chapter X, §10-1.B** - Budget Liaison - moving this into LC section and out of budget and make effective immediately on passage. Create section 4-14. Baez - but if LC has to cover its budget would rather leave it in Finance so it can be financed later. The position can at first be covered by existing Finance Dept personnel (non-Bargaining).
- LC #2 - When should Mayoral 4 year term begin? - Mednick looked around state and it's all over the place. If Mayor / Selectperson is not on the ticket there is a reduced number of voters showing up. BoE splits are mostly 5 - 4 but we have 6 - 3. 2023 election is the one where 6 are up. Mayor, when up has more say / influence over who runs. So should Mayor be involved with educational matters?
 - Baez - concern is when mayor is not on there could be more special interest voter turnout. LC prefers most voters having the larger voice. So we will mitigate by including Mayor with 6 class.
 - Kaye - we were not really thinking about class size or voter turnout but he does not want to wait but on the other hand it does give candidates more time to prepare.
 - Downing - appreciates the LC thinking on this; but there was someone who thought it might balance out the voter turnout by having smaller class with Mayor.
 - Baez - asserts that this balancing out has not happened anywhere. Mednick says Hartford experiment with this and they are going to return the BoE on the Mayoral cycle. 6 will come up in 2025. Kaye suggests the 2 yr wait will allow for good candidates to make the decision to run.
- Mednick will redraft things we talked about and talk to Prez to discuss with rest of LC and we'll go through it all on Sat.
- Kaye adjourn Downing 2nds vote passes

Time adjourned: 5:30 PM

Next meeting: Saturday 13 August 2022 9:30 AM (Note: second meeting on Sunday 14th)

Minutes submitted by Commission Secretary Patricia C Vener-Saavedra