

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

August 13, 2022

***To view the recording, please click the following link and observe the instructions when/if prompted:** <https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/share/9TtOSHjR9RZNEsRV1rldmos4f109VkDVjU-VOOLX15q-QBVdLR94nOAsrnnUlXs.vhD0QCIXjmJWJ-j3>

**** If you are reviewing a print copy of these minutes and wish to view the meeting recording, please visit the Agenda Center at www.hamden.com/agendacenter and click the MEDIA icon found next to the agenda listed under this date OR download these minutes and click the link above.**

A meeting of the Charter Revision Commission was held on Saturday, August 13, 2022 via Zoom due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

1. Call to Order: 9:39 AM

2. Roll Call

Present: Sarah Gallagher, Chair; Jackie Downing; Jay Kaye, Y'Isiah Lopes, Frank Dixon, Patricia Vener-Saavedra, Secretary (late)

Also in attendance: Steve Mednick, Counsel to Commission

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:

- No public comment at meeting; one letter received regarding hybrid meetings

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 #1: Counsel checked all definitions and references and they all work.
- Rec #2 BOE; awaiting input from LC; Kaye reinforced that Town would have stakeholder time to prepare for four-year term; inclination of Commission is to initiate four year term with the election cycle in 2025 when class of six BOE members are on ticket
- Rec #3: Approved: clarify district language
- Rec #4: Approved: process for remainder of office
- Rec #5: Approved: redaction reference
- Rec#6: title change to reflect Declared Public Emergency Expenditure; still needs approval
- Rec #7: Approved: keep COO in charter; suggested option to put as a separate

question on ballot for voters

- Rec #8: Open meeting; change “will” to “shall” based on public input
- Rec #9: Approved: quorum clarification
- Rec #10: Approved: “designee” in Town Clerk section
- Rec #11: Approved: Term limit commence 12/1/23
- Rec #12: Approved: did not add falsification of qualifications
- Rec #13: Approved: Municipal Official refers only to Town of Hamden
- Rec #14: Town Clerk provisions; Town Clerk has agreed to language
- Rec #15: Approved: Finance Commission reports to LC
- Rec #16: Community at large without qualifications on Finance Commission; change “a community stakeholder” to “up to one community stakeholder” in order to limit the number of unqualified members yet retain the insight of a lay member.
- Rec #17 Repercussions for chapter violations - clarification language in subsection 5 of Board of Ethics we added language (see previous minutes, see also the Appeals section "... or other classes of violations). This does not establish penalties! This is where the various types of violating entities get branched off to appropriate supervising entities.
 - Kaye notes that this clears up lack of understanding.
 - Gallagher - wants to know if Charter Violation an illegal activity?
 - Mednick offers to add "including illegal activity" which opens it up.
 - Gallagher asks how people report a violation?
 - Mednick says that is dealt with in Ordinances covering reporting procedures.
- Rec #18 - create flexibility to be able to create a separate entity traffic Auth (State statute 7-276).
 - Downing - reminds us that we did discuss that it might make things confusing because it does not pertain to us. But we go back to read the footnotes which are a bit complicated as some things in statute do not pertain to Chartered Towns.
 - Gallagher asks "what is this footnote telling us?" What does "point of reference" mean?
 - Mednick explains that we used the statute's language to form our own provision's wording. That's all. The statute does not have anything to do with our creating a provision in its image.
 - In the end we split two topics from the footnote and clarify language. We are ok with Traffic Authority language. 18a approved 18b - in the air
- Rec #19 - We cannot give a mayor authority to recommend, promote, remove Police officers from their positions because of the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement provisions. The CBA trumps the Charter. However, later CBAs can have different agreements and provisions.
- Rec #20 - requiring department chiefs to report to LC - Mednick added this in for other departments as requested.
- Rec #23 - Youth representation - Downing asks if this pertains to Ordinance boards and commission also? Mednick - all of them.
 - Mednick also added wording "subject to Law and all applicable rules of procedures..." because having youth involved in executive sessions and sensitive matters could be problematic (even without those provisos).
 - Kaye - what if a Board or Commission cannot find two youths to participate; would they be in violation of Charter? Could they still vote and so forth?
 - Mednick - The youth members are not part of the Quorum. The question now is should it be mandatory? We decide not and Mednick adds a provision that lack of youth members would not invalidate Board and Commission meetings.

- This makes it clear they are not part of the quorum. Kaye -
- Can the B or C make the [above mentioned] rules? Mednick - all B and C should have rules but leave it to LC to decide rules of youth participation.
 - Gallagher brings up the sentences about finding and appointing youths. Mednick - we don't want to just work with BoE; the question is how do we reach young people.
 - Gallagher - change selection to recruitment. There is a repeat discussion about including only Hamden High School students or all appropriately ages students no matter which school or homeschooling they receive.
- Rec #22 and #25 in parts - missing "and Finance Commission" in one section which is immediately added in.
 - Rec #24 training - add language which allowed for payment of training for Library board members
 - Rec #26 titles being changed - see previous minutes.
 - Rec #27 more name changes - see previous minutes.
 - Rec #28 budget Liaison - After some discussion of process of obtaining immediate Budget Liaison who presently works in the Finance Department rather than an external position (for now!) and because it is the intent that LC prez is the one choosing and appointing this position as a standard, there needs to be a change from the Finance Director doing it alone to start with.
 - Mednick - start with the standard phrase and then add "as a transitional appointment in consult with LC Pres, Financial Dri will appointment ..." (ck with LC Prez Baez)
 - Rec #29 - adding "itemized average 10-3.B.1.(f) (Approved)
 - Rec #30 10-3.B.2 5 yr standard - moved Mayor's budget to March, (see previous minutes).
 - Rec #31 - extension timeline for transitional development of Fund Balance and Equity Fund Ordinances was already approved.
 - Rec #32 LC "or designated committee of jurisdiction" already approved (see earlier minutes).
 - Need to speak with Baez on Monday to schedule next meeting with them.
 - Kaye want to vote on ones not needing clarification. re: 11 term limit - agreed on date 12/1/23? Was it included? Mednick - yes, this is a year after effective date of charter so they can plan. It won't address people who want to stay on for over 12 years. Gall what we've done well is open things up for community participation. Mednick applauds what we are doing as a CRC (see recording for his appreciative words).
 - Kaye - Motion to approve the LC rec 1, 2, 6, 8, 11, 14, 16, 17, 20, 23, 24, 25, 28. Vener-Saavedra – second - Vote - Passes Unanimously.
 - Note that this leaves all but LC Recommendation #18 approved by the CRC
 - LC needs to approve certain questions and this need to get to Sec'ry of State 1st week of Sept (4th or 5th) office shortly after end of month. LC must act on this before end of month.
 - Vener-Saavedra move to adjourn, Kaye 2nd

Time adjourned: 11:53 AM

Next meeting: Wednesday 17 August 2022 7:30 PM

Minutes submitted by Commission Secretary Patricia C Vener-Saavedra with Thanks to Jackie Downing for her assistance in taking over for the first half hour of the meeting.