

## East Windsor CT Charter Study Commission

### Special Meeting Minutes for Organization Meeting of January 16, 2018

Held at Town Hall at 7:00 pm

The Charter Study Commission had its Organizational meeting. John Matthews and Keith Yagaloff were unanimously elected Cochairmen

Future meetings will be held on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 pm at Town Hall or Scout Hall (location needs to be confirmed), See Published Agenda. Next meeting will be January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm

Members present: Betsy Burns, Keith Yagaloff, John Matthews, Jack Mannette, John Mazza, William Loos, Don Arcari, Charlie Szymanski.

Also present: Cher Balch, and Bonnie Yosky who are applying for membership.

A paper from Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) outlining the Three Basic forms of Connecticut's Local Governments was distributed by Cochairman Matthews. Discussion of this paper will be at future meetings.

The commission brainstormed for ideas for Charter improvements that will be discussed at future meetings. The initial list is presented below.

This is an initial list acquired as time permitted. Additional ideas will be sought at future meetings. This study group is intended to be a precursor to a full-fledged Charter Revision Commission to be sanctioned by the BOS and State Statute starting in May of this year

### East Windsor Charter Study Commission, January to July 2018

#### Brainstorm for Current Charter Shortcomings, Problems, and Opportunities for Improvement.

Rules for Brainstorming: All ideas will be heard without comment about the merits of the idea. Questions can be asked for the purpose of clarification. We will go around the room. Each person will be asked for one idea and then yield to the next person until all ideas have been offered.

Ideas offered at January 16 2018 Organizational Meeting.

- 1) Split Budget into two separate votes, Town and Education.
- 2) Reduce number of failed budget referendums to two from current three.
- 3) Streamline Government structure. ?????
- 4) After last budget vote, default to last year's budget, i.e. no increase.
- 5) Address ambiguities in Charter, clarify, and strengthen voter rights.

- 6) Put Charter in MUNIS.COM system to improve search capability.
- 7) Hire Town Administrator.
- 8) Hire Director of Finance, make BOF and CIP advisory.
- 9) Identify State Statutes # whenever CGS is referred to in Charter.
- 10) Consolidate Fire Departments to one Town FD.
- 11) Put checks and balance on Police Commission Authority.
- 12) Each department to provide narrative for budget increase request.
- 13) After last budget vote, default to last year plus COL
- 14) Establish Professional Administrator position
- 15) Define/clarify Town Attorney selection/term process.
- 16) Supplemental Appropriations to be line item votes.
- 17) New BOS to pick their Town Attorney.
- 18) Define how to allocate 2% default budget money.
- 19) Specify CGS # for establishment of Boards and Commissions.
- 20) Establish/define HR position.
- 21) Consolidate resources/expertise of Town and BOE.
- 22) Increase BOS to seven from current five.
- 23) Reduce # of petitioners to 50 from 200 to force a referendum.
- 24) Strengthen Procurement/Purchasing procedure.
- 25) Have one Fire Marshall with Deputies for entire town.

This list of suggestions is a start of suggestions made by members after two times around the table. Time limited additional rounds so this list will be continued at next meeting. Also, expected at next meeting, will be a start of discussion of merit of each suggestion and an attempt to whittle the list down and to prioritize items.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Submitted by Cochairman John Matthews