

Town of Newtown Legislative Council Charter Charge Committee Meeting  
Thursday, June 14, 2012  
3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

**PRESENT:** Jeff Capeci, George Ferguson, Kathy Fetchick, Daniel Honan, George Ferguson,

**ALSO PRESENT:** First Selectman, Pat Llodra

Chairman Wiedemann called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. He then distributed a draft.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CHARGE TO A CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION:** Mr. Wiedemann noted the only change he made to the document that was distributed at the previous meeting was to change the completion deadline to August 20, 2012. This allows time for the Council to publish charter changes, hold a public hearing and act in time for the September 7 ballot deadline. Ms. Llodra suggested including in the charge separation of debt service from the budget vote and including approval of capital projects on the budget ballot. This would give the voters the ability to vote up or down on capital expenditures. Once approved, the debt service associated with them would be removed from consideration for budget reductions. Bifurcation would inflate the Municipal budget by up to ten percent which the First Selectman has little control over. Mr. Capeci said he did not advise including such a measure as part of the charge due to the strict timeline the committee must adhere to. With an expectation of a more broad charter revision beginning after this one concludes, this issue can be considered under the same Legislative Council.

Ms. Fetchick suggested adding a fourth item to the charge giving the commission flexibility to use any combination of items 1-3. Mr. Capeci suggested striking the sentence in paragraph 7:

*This will hopefully draw enough voters for a successful conclusion of a charter revision.*

This sentence has no relevance because the revisions are expected to be on an election ballot where only a simple majority is required for passage. Ms. Llodra suggested removing the following sentence:

*Additionally, the charter modifications will then be a vehicle for better clarity of voter intent available for the spring 2013 budget referendum process. This sentence, she said is unnecessary, all in favor.*

Ms. Fetchick moved to recommend to the Legislative Council for adoption the charge as amended for adoption. Motion was seconded by Mr. Honan, all in favor.

**FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE -** Mr. Capeci said he would submit the charge to legal counsel for review. Assuming no legal issues, future meetings will not be necessary.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:1 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeff Capeci, Clerk

*These are draft minutes and as such are subject to correction by the Legislative Council at the next regular meeting. All corrections will be determined in minutes of the meeting at which they were corrected.*