

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

The Charter Revision Commission held a meeting on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT Chairman Jeff Capeci called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Present: Kevin Burns, Jeffery Capeci, Tom Long, Dan Wiedemann, Eric Paradis, James Ritchie, George Guidera

Absent: Robert Hall, Deborra Zukowski

Also Present: Jim Gaston and John Voket

VOTER COMMENTS: Jim Gaston, 18 Main Street – Encourages the commission to restore the original intent of the minority representation on the BOE. The last charter revision added a member to the BOE which previously had 6 members with language that there wouldn't be any more than 3 of any one party. When the additional member was added, the understanding intent was that there will be no more than 4 members from any one party could hold a seat. Mr. Gaston found in the minutes, before this went to a vote, that the town attorney found that the language was troubling. The confusing part is that it talks about a bare majority in one section and then it states the general statues in another which says that a bare majority can be 5. Before that vote, LeReine Frampton, who was on the previous commission, did an article in The Bee letting the public know what the language they would be voting on meant. The Bee article expressly stated that there could be no more than 4 from any one party. The ballot only asked, would you approve a 7 member panel and sites 9-167. Access to 9-167 was likely not available. The original intent was to have it as non-political as possible.

MINUTES: Mr. Wiedemann moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of 11/12/14. Mr. Long seconded, motion unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion with Edmond Town Hall Board of Managers Chairman, Jim Juliano regarding Section 2-80, Board of Managers of the Edmond Town Hall - Tabled

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2015 Meeting Calendar - Tabled

Charter Property Disposition Sections; 7-90 and 7-90D – The intention is to get an understanding about what points that they want to be in the charter. Once the points have been accepted by the commission, then they can work on the language.

Mr. Capeci suggested a flow chart would be helpful with the processes and the main points. If they understand the flow and have a consensus, then the final step would be working on the language.

Reorganization of the Charter – Kevin Burns explained that a document was just sent to commission members that morning. When they have had a chance to review it, he would like feedback. Jim Ritchie and George Guidera will join Kevin Burns and Deborra Zukowski with the reorganization of the charter.

No changes that are being made to anything that is in the charge and no substantive changes are being made either, just changes to make it read better.

Charter Charter Items Categorized under Board Composition – They met again last week and have figured out a common form for the definitions of the appointed commissions and boards that will be in the charter. The previous meeting they came up with criteria as to why they would include boards and why they wouldn't. They will meet again next week and hopefully finalize

VOTER COMMENT - NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS – NONE

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk