

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE CHARTER REVISION
COMMISSION

The Charter Revision Commission held a Special Meeting, Wednesday, July 15, 2015 in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Building, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT. Chairman Jeff Capeci called the meeting to order at 7:23pm.

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

Absent: Deborra Zukowski

Also Present: David Grogins, Carey Schierloh, Mary Ann Jacob and First Selectman Pat Llodra and 10 members of the public

Final Commission Action on Draft Charter

Town Attorney David Grogins explained that this is a substantial effort that the commission has engaged in. There are a lot of procedural changes. He expressed concern about the internal consistencies of all the organizational aspects. He is also very concerned that he did not have enough time to make sure everything was consistent.

There may have been a misunderstanding on the date that everyone was aiming for. The timeline was not based on what we had to do, but what we wanted to do. The requirement of the statute says that the commission has 16 months from the time they are established. Under the statute, the draft Charter would go to the Legislative Council and then it could go back Commission for changes. The reporting authority has 15 months to send the final draft to the voters.

The real estate section is too far into the weeds. You have a document that is going to be very difficult to amend and it is too detailed. Pushing to a vote on November 3rd would deprive the departments the needed to review

Mr. Hall moved to have the Commission continue its work and hold another public hearing during the second week of August. In the meantime the draft Charter will be circulated to all of the town boards and commissions that are mentioned and to any members of the press or public who wish a copy. Mr. Paradis seconded. Mr. Ritchie articulated that he heard a request to allocate more time to this. This is inconsistent with the motion. He would prefer that we abandon the idea of going to referendum in November and concentrate on improving the Charter so it will serve our Town going forward.

Mr. Capeci said that this would be premature tonight to set a date for a hearing. We could certainly strive to get this on November's ballot but getting it right for next November's ballot would be better.

Mr. Guidera explained that Mr. Hall's proposal is clearly aimed at getting this on the ballot in 2015. This should be going on to the Boards and the Commission.

Mr. Long made a friendly amendment changing the date to the first week of August. Motion failed 3 Yes (Hall, Paradis, Long) to 5 No (Burns, Capeci, Weidemann, Ritchie, Guidera)

Mr. Burns moved to authorize the chairman to distribute the drafter Charter to all affected boards, commissions and town departments and request their feedback and to schedule future meeting dates to consider changes. Mr. Ritchie seconded, motion unanimously approved.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm

Respectfully Submitted, Arlene Miles, Clerk