TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT
CHARter Revision Commission
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 9, 2020

An organizational meeting of the Charter Revision Commission was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 via Zoom due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M. by Council President Mick McGarry and the Clerk took the roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tiffany Artis-Wilson; Lamond Battle; Todd Berton; Jeff Cohen; Frank Dixon; Jackie Downing; Tom Figlar; Sarah Gallagher; Marnie Hebron; Myron Hul; Jay Kaye; Todd Moler; Nancy Olson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Frank LaDore; Joshua Sprague-Oliveira

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Steve Mednick, Counsel

Mr. McGarry talked a little about the charge of the commission then each member of the commission introduced themselves.

Mr. Mednick went over the roles of officers saying the role of the chair as the presiding officer who runs the meetings, open the meetings, order roll call and set the agendas. The vice-chair is second in command and takes over the role of chair in his or her absence. The secretary would work with the clerk to make sure minutes are faithfully kept. He said minutes should reflect motions, debate on an item, whether it passed or failed, and any amendments. He said his general rule of thumb in the modern era is to keep the minutes more as a road map and the public can look at the recording of the Zoom meeting to actually hear what happened at the meeting.

Mr. Hul asked who would act as parliamentarian. Mr. Mednick said you could appoint one but as counsel he'd be happy to be of assistance. There was then a brief discussion about following F.O.I. requirements.

Ms. Hebron asked if there would be any meetings off the record between Leadership of this commission and the Council or elective officials that all members of this commission would not be invited to. Mr. Mednick said that's up to the chair as you go forward. He said the expectation is that all the work of the commission will be in accordance with F.O.I. but he imagines it's possible that the chair may have to call the president of Council from time to time if there's an administrative matter. Mr. Hul said there probably will be and he can almost guarantee that the leadership of the commission will be meeting individually with either Mr. McGarry or other Council members or Mayor's office, but those are going to be more towards an administrative discussion of the work of the commission rather than substance he would hope other than maybe defining items for the agenda. He calls them administrative meetings and said its part of their function and part of their duties and responsibilities.
Election of Chair:

Mr. McGarry asked if there were any nominations for a Chair.

Mr. Kaye nominated Mr. Dixon and it was seconded by Mr. Figlar.

Ms. Gallagher nominated Ms. Hebron and it was seconded by Ms. Artis-Wilson.

There were no other nominations.

A vote was taken and Mr. Dixon won Chair with 9 in favor (Berton) (Cohen) (Dixon) (Downing) (Figlar) (Hul) (Kaye) (Moler) (Olson) and 4 in favor of Ms. Hebron (Artsi-Wilson) (Battle) (Gallagher) (Hebron)

Mr. McGarry left the meeting and Chairman Dixon took over.

Election of Vice-Chair:

Mr. Dixon asked if there were any nominations for Vice-Chair.

Mr. Berton nominated Mr. Kaye and it was seconded by Mr. Moler.

Mr. Kaye nominated Ms. Downing and it was seconded by Ms. Hebron.

Mr. Dixon nominated Mr. Hul and it was seconded by Ms. Artis-Wilson.

A vote was taken and Ms. Downing won with 8 in favor (Battle) (Downing) (Figlar) (Gallagher) (Hebron) (Kaye) (Moler) (Olson)

There was 1 vote in favor of Mr. Kaye (Berton)
There were 4 votes in favor of Mr. Hul (Artis-Wilson) (Cohen) (Dixon) (Hul)

Nomination for Secretary:

Mr. Dixon asked if there were any nominations for secretary.

Ms. Hebron nominated Mr. Battle, seconded by Mr. Kaye.

With no objection the chair casts one vote for Mr. Battle as secretary.

The nominations were then closed.

Chair: Frank Dixon
Vice-Chair: Jackie Downing
Secretary: Lamond Battle
Mr. Mednick then went over the power point he prepared for the meeting. (Attached hereto)

After the presentation Mr. Cohen asked for any meetings that they have or where they have to public speaking do they do that as a group or break it up, how will that work? Mr. Mednick said this is a bigger commission than he normally recommends but the chair, vice-chair and secretary can make decisions about how things go depending on how many issues that you have to tackle and unless you have a lot of issues he thinks that most of what you do will be in the group of 15.

Mr. Hul said you talked about collaborating with the Council for the final document so what happens if they don’t achieve an agreement with the Council, what document if any goes on the ballot? Mr. Mednick said the Council gets the final bite at the apple and whatever they approve finally is the document that gets approved so the objective is to bring your document to the Council by the end of May with minimal friction. Or you go in with a few issues that are important to you that the Council isn’t yet convinced of and try to convince them.

Ms. Olson said she just hopes they can all approach this with the vision of Hamden as one Town. She said it’s not Noha, it’s not Soha and it’s not the East side or the West side so they need to approach all the issues with the view that we are a cohesive community and we need to build that cohesiveness up again. Mr. Dixon said he 100% agrees with that and he also thinks it’s very important they understand some of the key issues that they have to address in the Charter.

There was discussion on upcoming meetings and the public hearing which will be their next meeting on September 22, 2020 at 7:00pm with a follow up meeting on September 30, 2020 and after that meetings will be held on Wednesday’s every two weeks following that one.

They also discussed getting an email account for public input.

There being no further business Mr. Dixon requested a motion to adjourn. Moved by Ms. Olson, seconded by Mr. Kaye and adjourned at 9:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
Kim Renta
Clerk of the Council
Hamden Charter Revision

2020-2021
acts.

existing charter and any inconsistent special
organic law of the city, supersedeing its
home rule charter "which shall constitute the
home rule municipality to draft and adopt a


To enable a municipality to draft and adopt a

and

special legislation of local municipal concern;

and burdensome task of handling and enacting

To relieve the General Assembly of the

Purpose of the Home Rule Act
maintain accountability
the government, oversee the Mayor and
should be able to adopt ordinances, Finance
Legislative Council, as the Legislative body,

administration of the Town;
able to govern and manage the
Mayor, as Chief Executive Office, should be

A Blueprint for Governance
Broad Scope

Governance of the town deemed desirable or necessary to improve the changes and other items and matters as it statutory responsibility to "consider such charter revision commission The periodic review mandated by the last Scope of the Enterprise
Micromanagement or Constitution?

Understanding the functions of Government

Attorney and Commission Counsel

Start Small: "Red-Line" Exercises with Town

other Local Officials

Meetings with Mayor, Legislative Council and

Statutory Public Hearing

How Do You Define Your Scope?
MEQA
Charter Versus Ordinances
Impact of Collective Bargaining Agreements
Title 7 of the Connecticut General Statutes
State Constitution Article Tenth
Powers
Municipalities Have No Inherent/Implied
Tricky Assignment

A Governing Document
The Process
Similarly situated municipalities.

Based upon the specific needs of Hartford and the experiences of other public and public officials and invoke extensive dialogue and review subsequent meetings would address substantial issues raised by the provisions.

Commission engages in review, analysis, and "red-line" of charter.

Citizens participate in early overview sessions.

Mayor, Council, leadership, and members, other public officials, and working meetings of commission.

Statutory Public Hearings.

Organizational Meeting of Commission.

Work Plan: September 2020 - April 2021

Council modifications returned to the Commission (6/27/21).

If not approved, the recommendations as modified by the Council are returned to the Commission.

Questions for the ballot:
- If approved, this would constitute the final action of the Council with the exception of the approval of


Council Public Hearing (6/24/21 - within 45 days of submission to City Clerk).


Recommendations appear on Council Agenda (approximate 5/24/21).

Commission submits recommendations to City Clerk (approximate 5/19/21).

Recommendations following hearing (last week of 5/11/21).

Commission prepares draft recommendations for 2nd Public Hearing and final review of

Work Plan: May - June 2021
The Referendum (11/2/21)

Submission of questions to the Office of the Secretary of the State

Approval

Newspaper publication of proposed charter within 30 days following

days of receipt from the Commission.

Council accepts or rejects Final Report, including approval of

days following receipt of Council modifications.

Commission submits Final Report to Council (7/23/21) - within 30

Work Plan: July - November 2021
Role of the Counsel

Facilitate Commission/Council Interface

Research and Preparation for Workshops

Legal Advice