COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

I. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Smyth called the meeting to order at 5:51 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Dixon and Atty. Mednick were also in attendance.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Dixon called the Roll as follows:

Council at Large:	Mr. Gregory Burnett	*Mr. Joshua Goldstein*
	Mr. Johan Lopez	*Ms. Nora Niedzielski-Eichner*
	Ms. Barbara Smyth	
District A:	Mr. Jalin Sead	*Ms. Nicol Ayers*
District B:	*Mr. Dajuan Wiggins*	*Ms. Darlene Young*
District C:	Ms. Nicole Eaddy	Ms. Anne Wennerstrand
District D:	Ms. Heather Dunn	*Mr. Douglas W. Sutton*
District E:	Mr. James Frayer	*Ms. Lisa Shanahan*

There were seven (7) in attendance. This was a workshop and a quorum was not needed. Council President Smyth

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one present who wished to address the Council at this time.

IV. REVIEW PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION

A. Proposed Charter Revision Redline Version

Atty. Mednick said that he wished to remind people that the Council was in the phase where the Council would be making recommendations to the Commission. There will be a public hearing next week. He reviewed the details of the timeline. He suggested that they have some Council Members attend the last Committee meeting so there can be some dialog back and forth. He noted that there were some Commissioners present.

Council President Smyth said that they would be scheduling a public hearing on July 8th and that they will be voting on this on the 22nd.

Council President Smyth stated that she had been reading through the various sections so that people can comment. She said that they would be considering Article IV-10 and gave the details. There were no comments on this Section or Sections V.

Mr. Burnett asked why they were eliminating the role of the sheriff. Atty. Mednick said that the Committee felt that this was not a role that served any purpose. The constables still serve the City. He said that he was not sure if the Sheriff was up for election this year. If the Sheriff is on the ballot, he or she would serve their term and the position would cease to exist following that.

The discussion moved to Section VII. Atty. Mednick said that they were supposed to include the rules for Commissions and Board in the Ordinances, but forgot. This simply just included the requirements in the Charter.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner and Ms. Shanahan joined the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Mr. Frayer asked for clarification on one of the changes for the Board of Estimate. Atty. Mednick said that the change was to insure that there was geographic representation across the districts. Mr. Frayer said he was concerned that residents with the necessary financial skills would be available in each District. Ms. Niedzielski-Eicher said that she felt that this was an excellent additions. Council President Smyth agreed.

Mr. Hempstead said that this was really good and very similar to how P&Z was changed to reflect the entire City. Mr. Frayer disagreed and felt that have a strong financial background was more important. Discussion followed.

Council President Smyth said that she would highlight this section.

Mr. Levin spoke about their concerns that some of the residents had expressed that they felt that the BET members were all appointed by the Mayor. He reviewed the details.

The discussion moved to Section VII-2b.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eicher asked if the Police and Fire Commission had changed to have a four year term concurrent with the Mayor.

The discussion moved to Section VIII-4, about the Library Board. There were no additional comments.

Atty. Mednick said that he would like to meet with Mr. Livingston to see if they could eliminate some of the sections in the back of the Charter because many of them are now redundant.

Article IX had no changes.

Council President Smyth said that she would like to put forth one recommendation. Mr. Lopez, who was in transit, recommended changing the name of the "Common Council" to "City Council". She asked if anyone had any strong feelings, but liked the idea.

Mr. Burnett asked if there were any towns that used the title “Common Council”. Atty. Mednick said that Hartford is still known as the Common Council but refers to itself as a City Council. The discussion moved to the cost of making such a change. Council President Smyth said that this could be done over a period of time. Discussion followed.

Mr. Lopez joined the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

The discussion moved back to Article X and a number of suggestions Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner had submitted. Atty. Mednick said that if the Council Members need to meet again, there is the possibility of meeting on a Saturday morning. Council President Smyth said that she would keep that in mind.

Atty. Mednick displayed Section 10-5 on screen, which was about dividing the cap into two pieces. There would be a cap for the BOE and an cap for the rest of the City. She outlined the reasons and indicated new language in Section 10-6 involving budget compliance. Section A would be for the City and Section B would be for the BOE. Section C addresses setting the mill rate.

Council President Smyth said that Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner had reached out to Atty. Mednick, Mr. Schmitt, the BOE and the Superintendent of Schools among others. Atty. Mednick confirmed that this was legally permissible. Discussion followed about the reasoning of the creation of two different caps.

Atty. Mednick reminded everyone that the Council cannot bind the BOE but this would require them to clearly state what their intentions would be. He reminded people that other BOEs had come forward and listed their programs, but then when the final budget documents are submitted, those programs were not included in the budget. A lengthy discussion regarding the details followed. Mr. Burnett and others felt that this was redundant.

Council President Smyth said that they were out of time and would continue this discussion at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. SHANAHAB MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

ATTEST:________________________
Irene Dixon, City Clerk