

**CITY OF NORWALK
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 5, 2025
ZOOM AND COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone and/or Zoom, or a recording in the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at norwalkct.gov/meetings.

Members of the public may call in to participate. Callers will not be able to see the meeting participants. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, dial *9 on the phone and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" may also use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be included into the record, they must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please email the City Clerk's office at cityclerk@norwalkct.gov with the subject line "Public Comment" to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fairbairn called the meeting to order at 6:03p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Tyler Fairbairn, Chairman; Carl Dickens; Jim Clark; John Levin; Doug Hempstead, Co-Chairman; Tanya Rhodes-Small; Ed Camacho; Jo Bennett, Richard McQuaid

STAFF: Steve Mednick; Commission Council

OTHERS: Nora Niedzielski-Eichner; Jalin Sead; Josh Goldstein; Sheri McCready; Lunda Asmani; Jared Schmidt; Greg Burnett, Jim Frayer; Anne Wennerstrand

II. ROLL CALL

Chairman Fairbairn called the Roll: Tyler Fairbairn, Chairman; Carl Dickens; John Levin; Doug Hempstead, Co-Chairman; Tanya Rhodes-Small; James Clark; Jo Bennett; Ed Camacho, Richard McQuaid

At Roll Call there were nine (9) Committee members present constituting a quorum.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lisa Britain, Independent Party Town Chair began speaking about democracy and what constitutes democracy and election rules. She then explained it to the commission. She stated that this is not happening here with the City Charter.

Diane Lauricella, 21 Little Fox Lane. She said there are proposals put forth that she thinks have merit and if the public has the education from them to explain several of the proposals, she believes they will pass. She asked that the questions be written clearly and not something that can be twisted around and hard to understand. She spoke about the council's compensation. She is in favor of adding two (2) minority party council member seats.

Sheri McCready Brown, Chair of the Board of Education, and she also serves as the finance committee chair. She spoke about the proposed BOE cap on their annual budget request prior to its formal submission to the city. She cited Connecticut General Statute 10-222 about the BOE's fiscal responsibility. She said a provision that caps the BOE's request before they have the opportunity to assess and submit their estimate would unfortunately conflict with state law. It would intrude on their ability to advocate the needs of the students in a comprehensive and transparent way.

Chairman Fairbairn closed public participation at 6:14p.m.

A. DELIBERATIONS WITH COUNSEL, MEMBERS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL AND OTHER MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

IV. DISCUSSION

Chairman Fairbairn stated the commission will begin at Item 10 where they left off at the last meeting. Item 10 was not a consent item, and the council was asked to give their thoughts.

Several members of the Council gave their thoughts. It was noted that the council was strongly in support of this item, 12-2. It seems the council is looking for a variety of representations, a voice for the people and then a brief recap was presented. There

was also opposition for this item. It was also noted that the council, as it stands right now, has the authority to attend any BET meetings as a non-voting member without putting it in the charter. The majority of the council would like that person to be a voting member. A discussion ensued about the support and opposition to this item. They discussed the rules and the terms of the appointment to be the same as the council as stated in the handbook. Attorney Mednick will write up the provisional language for Item 10.

Item 10 Article VII, §7-2.A(2) and (3). Appointment, term of Office, Qualification and Political Balance of the Board of Estimate

****MR. LEVIN MOVED TO APPROVE TO ADD A NON-VOTING COMMON COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE BET**

****MR. DICKENS, MR. CLARK, MR. CAMACHO, MS. RHODES-SMALL, MS. BENNETT, MR. HEMPSTEAD, AND MR. FAIRBAIRN WERE OPPOSED**

****MOTION FAILED TO PASS 7 TO 2**

****MR. LEVIN MOVED TO APPROVE TO ADD A VOTING COMMON COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE BET**

****MR. CLARK, MR. CAMACHO, MS. RHODES-SMALL, MR. HEMPSTEAD, AND MR. FAIRBAIRN WERE OPPOSED**

****MR. MCQUAID ABSTAINED**

****MOTION FAILED TO PASS 5 OPPOSED TO 3 IN FAVOR TO 1 ABSTENTION**

Chairman Fairbairn recommended having a motion to consider the related items together for a vote. Attorney Mednick addressed and gave a brief explanation of a memo the commission received regarding the BOE cap. Mr. Asmani gave his perspective on the budget process. Mr. Hempstead stated he would like to table Items 16-21 due to insufficient time for the commission to take up all those items and invest the necessary time to sort it out. The commission and council began to discuss the decision to table.

****MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO TABLE ITEMS 16-21**

****MOTION PASSED 6 TO 3**

Item 16 Chapter VII, §10-6.C

Item 17 Chapter VII, §10-6.D

Item 18 Chapter VII, §10-7.A

Item 19 Chapter VII, §10-7.B

Item 20 Chapter VII, §10-8

Item 21 Chapter VII, §10-8.C

****MR. FAIRBAIRN MOVED TO RECONSIDER ITEMS 17, 18 AND 20**

The commission began to discuss the dates in items 17, 18 and 20. The cap was approved in items 14 and 15. In item 14 the dates remain the same. In item 15, the date would change to give the BOE sufficient time to create their cap-compliant budget. To do that the schedule had to move back a couple of weeks. It also allows the BET to see that budget prior to voting on it. The CFO's and Attorney Mednick met and agreed on the new dates. Mr. Schmidt read through §10 in regard to the cap and the dates and a brief discussion began.

****MR. FAIRBAIRN MOVED TO AMEND, AS REFLECTED IN THE AMENDED DRAFT, THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER ITEMS 16, 17, 18 AND 20
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

****MR. FAIRBAIRN MOVED ITEMS 16, 17, 18 AND 20.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Hempstead gave suggestions for alternative language in some of the sections in the charter. A discussion ensued about his proposals.

V. VOTES

Item 10

****MR. LEVIN MOVED TO ADD A NON-VOTING COMMON COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE BET**

****MR. DICKENS, MR. CLARK, MR. CAMACHO, MS. RHODES-SMALL, MS. BENNETT, MR. HEMPSTEAD, AND MR. FAIRBAIRN WERE OPPOSED
MOTION FAILED TO PASS 7 TO 2

****MR. LEVIN MOVED TO ADD A VOTING COMMON COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE BET**

****MR. CLARK, MR. CAMACHO, MS. RHODES-SMALL, MR. HEMPSTEAD, AND MR. FAIRBAIRN WERE OPPOSED**

****MR. MCQUAID ABSTAINED**

****MOTION FAILED TO PASS 5 OPPOSED TO 3 IN FAVOR TO 1 ABSTENTION**

Item 16

****MR. FAIRBAIRN MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 17

****MR. FAIRBAIRN MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Item 18

****MR. FAIRBAIRN MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Item 19

****MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Item 20

****MR. FAIRBAIRN MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Item 21

****MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dickens moved to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16p.m.