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ATTENDANCE: Patsy Brescia, Chair; Mayor Harry Rilling; Carl Dickens; Tyler Fairbaim; Benita Raleigh; Angela Wasunna

OTHERS: Thomas Livingston, Common Councilmember; Steve Mednick, Attorney

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Brescia called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Brescia called the Roll as indicated above.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 2, 2022

**** MR. FAIRBAIM MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
**** MS. WASUNNA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

IV. MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Rilling thanked everyone for their willingness to serve on this Commission. He said that encouraging people to get involved is part of the Charter Revision process. He expressed his hope that the public will become involved in the process.

Mayor Rilling noted that the current Charter is convoluted and needs more clarity.

Mayor Rilling asked Mr. Livingston if he had any comments. Mr. Livingston said he was here this evening to watch and help where he could.

V. PRESENTATION BY CORPORATION COUNSEL

There was no presentation this evening.

VI. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Mr. Mednick discussed the proposed schedule that was distributed to the Commission members. He said the objective is to come up with a readable and workable document. He said he hopes representatives from Finance and the Common Council will be able to attend their next meeting.

At the following meeting, Mr. Mednick said he hopes to have a broad discussion and have a draft of the first three Articles of the Charter. In addition, he would like to get direction from the City's Bond Counsel. He also proposed inviting Mr. Joe DeLong, the Director of CCM to give a talk at the January 18th meeting. At the end of that meeting, they can open it up for public comment on Articles 1, 2, 3 and 10. The objective would be for preliminary public review for those sections. Mr. Mednick said it would be useful to periodically get feedback from the public.

In February they would start working on the elected officials and look at comparative data. From there they would move on to boards and commissions. Mr. Mednick noted this is an aggressive schedule, but it can change. He discussed structures for boards and commissions.

Mr. Mednick said he and Ms. Brescia discussed getting agendas and content out early enough so Commission members would have enough time to review the material before the meeting.

VII. COMMENTS BY COMMISSION COUNSEL

Ms. Brescia said they are all anxious to get started and that they want to cleanse the current Charter of anything that is passe. In addition, they want to add gender neutral language to the Charter. She suggested that beginning at the next meeting, they go through the Charter line by line. Mr. Mednick said how they debate the Charter will be up to the Commission. He

recommended that the Commissioners read everything he provides to them. In response to Ms. Brescia's suggestion to go through the entirety of the Charter and eliminate a lot of the extraneous language, Mr. Mednick said he felt the best way would be to review the Charter, chapter by chapter. He recommended the incremental approach. Mr. Livingston said that made sense.

Mr. Mednick said he will contact Mr. Coppola and ask him about attending a subsequent meeting. He noted that all changes will be annotated.

Mr. Dickens asked if they could see other Charter Revisions that Mr. Mednick worked on. Mr. Mednick said he will send those to the Commission members.

Following a discussion about the December 21st meeting, the Commissioners agreed to hold the meeting as scheduled.

Mr. Dickens expressed concern about people not being informed about the Charter Revision. Mayor Rilling made some suggestions on how to inform the public. Mr. Livingston added that he spoke with Ms. King and Ms. Williams about getting a page on the City's website. He said that as they get going, there will be more interest in this. He said it was important to get people interested and engaged in this.

Mr. Fairbairn said he would encourage Common Council members to communicate with the people in their districts. He suggested presenting articles showing what changes have been made. Mr. Livingston suggested circulating the calendar so people have a sense of what is coming.

Mr. Mednick said there should be a link on the City's website showing their agenda. He also said they should post Chapter 10. He said there should be an active attempt to engage members of all political parties. Mr. Dickens said he wants to be sure that everyone is aware of what work is being done.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Brescia wished everyone a nice Thanksgiving.

**** MS. WASUNNA MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MR. DICKENS SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk
Charter Revision Commission
November 16, 2022
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