

**CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT**

**AGENDA
6:30 PM EST**

**MARCH 15, 2023
ROOM 125**

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



Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and 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. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.



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 read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Irene Dixon at idxon@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting: March 1, 2023

IV. MEETING WITH (A) TREASURER; (B) SHERIFF; (C) SELECTMEN; AND, (D) CONSTABLES

V. DISCUSSION: ARTICLES I – III, VI

- A. §3-3.c, §6-3, §6-4 and §6-5 - Sheriff, Selectmen and Constables
- B. §3-6.b(1) - Mayoral Succession and Temporary Disability
- C. Background Document #5 re – Term of Office and Term Commencement Date
- D. List of Critical Charter issues for Public Hearing on 5 April 2023

VI. OVERVIEW ARTICLE IV AND V – COMMON COUNCIL AND MAYOR

VII. COUNSEL DISCUSSION OF STATUS – WHAT’S NEXT?

- A. Articles VII and VIII (Boards, Commissions and Departments)
- B. Public or Comment on Critical Charter Issues

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**City of Norwalk
Charter Revision Commission
Regular Meeting
March 1, 2023**

Attendance: Patsy Brescia, Chair; Carl Dickens; Tyler Fairbairn; Richard McQuaid; Benita Watford Raleigh; Michael Witherspoon; Angela Wasunna

Other: Steven Mednick, Commission Counsel

1) CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brescia called the meeting to order at 6:33.

2) ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

3) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 15, 2023

******Mr. Dickens moved to approve the minutes of February 15, 2023**

******Mr. McQuaid seconded the motion.**

******The motion passed unanimously.**

**4) ACTION ITEM #1: DISCUSSION AND PRELIMINARY ACTION ON
ARTICLE X – BUDGET ISSUES**

Mr. Mednick shared the latest draft of Article X with the group. He went through the latest changes. Mr. Mednick asked the Commission members to proofread everything and send all comments and changes to him.

City of Norwalk
Charter Revision Commission
Regular Meeting
March 1, 2023

There are sections missing in section D. Once the budget dates have been set, these will be added.

In Section B, there were some concerns that the Board of Education would be able to get their estimates in by December 15. The Commission will discuss this with the Board of Education.

Section C is redundant and will probably be eliminated.

Mr. Mednick went through Section 10 and pointed out the few remaining questions. He is waiting for Mayor Rilling to get back to him on some of the issues regarding voting in the Common Council.

Ms. Brescia asked about the two-year status for capital items to be included. Most capital items are on the budgets longer than two years. She also asked about the five-year capital budget. This is a projected estimate but is not binding, it is an estimate.

The Commission agrees that there should be public hearings in September before budget discussions begin.

******Ms. Brescia moves to put this article before the CFO and the public for review.**

******The motion passed unanimously.**

5) DISCUSSION: ARTICLES I-III, VI

Mr. Mednick shared the Articles I-III with the commission. He will talk to Tom Livingston to fill in some of the history of Norwalk districts, municipalities and how they came to be.

Mr. Mednick discussed the General Grant of Power and how this allows the municipality to assume a power even if the Charter does not specifically mention it.

Mr. Mednick pointed out that there are still definitions to be refined in article 12 and article 15.

Articles 22 and 23 still need further editing for clarification and preciseness of language.

Mr. Mednick went through the definitions in these articles.

There was discussion of whether the term Citizen or Resident should be used.

City of Norwalk
Charter Revision Commission
Regular Meeting
March 1, 2023

******Ms. Brescia moved to change the word Citizen to Resident.**

******The motion passed.**

There was discussion as to whether the Council uses Mason's Rules or Robert's Rules.

Mr. Mednick was unsure about section 3 on holding elections and the power of the common council. He will follow up with registrars.

A. §3-3.C, §6-3, §6-4, §6-5 – SHERIFF, SELECTMAN, AND CONSTABLES

There was a question about whether the positions of Treasurer, Sheriff, Selectmen and Constables are still necessary. The people currently holding these positions will be invited to the next meeting.

B. §3-6.(B)1 – MAYORAL SUCCESSION

The sections on succession need further discussion. Also Mr. Mednick will add language concerning temporary disabilities of elected officials.

There are clauses regarding removal of elected officials for cause. Mr. Mednick will check if an ordinance regarding this already exists.

C. BOARD OF EDUCATION – ARTICLE IX

The commission agrees that the Board of Education and the Superintendent should come to a meeting and clarify this section of the charter.

D. SUNSET PROVISION – ARTICLE XI

This section will not be included in the final draft.

E. TAXING DISTRICT PROVISIONS – ARTICLE XII

This section shall become Article XI. This section lays out the six districts and the activities that occur in the taxing districts.

F. PROVISIONS FOR REPEAL

7) COUNSEL DISCUSSION OF STATUS – WHAT’S NEXT

A. ARTICLES V AND VI – MAYOR AND THE DEPARTMENTS

B. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS ON CRITICAL CHARTER ISSUES

The next steps include inviting the Board of Education to the next commission meeting. Ms. Brescia would like to schedule a public hearing to get feedback on the charter

8) ADJOURNMENT

******Mr. Witherspoon moved to adjourn the meeting.**

******The motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman Brescia adjourned the meeting at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Chaple
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk
Charter Revision Commission
Regular Meeting
March 1, 2023

NORWALK CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION BACKGROUND DOCUMENT #5

COMMENCEMENT OF TERM OF OFFICE

City	Commencement Date	Term
New Britain	Mayor: First Tuesday following their election ¹ Council: First Tuesday following their election ²	2 years ³ 2 years ⁴
Norwalk	Mayor: Second Tuesday following their election ⁵ Council: Second Tuesday following their election ⁶	2 years ⁷ 2 years ⁸
West Hartford	Mayor: Second Tuesday following their election (Council/Manager) ⁹ Council: Second Tuesday following their election ¹⁰	2 years ¹¹
Fairfield	Board of Selectman: Third Monday in November (BOS/RTM) ¹² RTM: Third Monday in November ¹³	4 years 2 years ¹⁴
Hamden	Mayor: Last Sunday in November following the election ¹⁵ Legislative Council: Last Sunday in November following their election ¹⁶	2/4 years ¹⁷ 2 years ¹⁸
Bridgeport	Mayor: December 1 st following Mayoral election ¹⁹ Council: December 1 st following their election ²⁰	4 years ²¹ 2 years ²²
Stamford	Mayor: December 1 st following Mayoral election ²³ Board of Representatives: December 1 st following their election ²⁴	4 years ²⁵ 4 years ²⁶
Waterbury	Mayor: December 1 st following Mayoral election ²⁷ Board of Alders: December 1 st following their election ²⁸	4 years ²⁹ 2 years ³⁰
Danbury	Mayor: First business day of December following their election ³¹ Council: First business day of December following their election ³²	2 years ³³ 2 years ³⁴
New Haven	Mayor: January 1 st following Mayoral election ³⁵ Board of Alders: January 1 st following their election ³⁶	2 years ³⁷ 2 years ³⁸
Hartford	Mayor: January 1 st following Mayoral election ³⁹ Council: January 1 st following their election ⁴⁰	4 years ⁴¹ 4 years ⁴²
Greenwich	Board of Selectman and RTM: January 1 st following elections ⁴³ (BOS/RTM)	2 years ⁴⁴

¹ New Britain Charter Art. III §3-2(a)

² New Britain Charter Art. III §3-2(a)

³ New Britain Charter Art. III §3-2(c)

⁴ New Britain Charter Art. III §3-2(c)

⁵ Norwalk Charter §1-166

⁶ Norwalk Charter §1-166

NORWALK CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION BACKGROUND DOCUMENT #5

COMMENCEMENT OF TERM OF OFFICE

- ⁷ Norwalk Charter §1-166
- ⁸ Norwalk Charter §1-166
- ⁹ West Hartford Charter Ch. II §2
- ¹⁰ West Hartford Charter Ch. II §2
- ¹¹ West Hartford Charter Ch. II §4
- ¹² Fairfield Charter Art. II, §2.3.D
- ¹³ Fairfield Charter Art. II, §2.3.D
- ¹⁴ Fairfield Charter Art. I, §1.4.A
- ¹⁵ Hamden Charter Ch. III, 3-3.A(2).
- ¹⁶ Hamden Charter Ch. III, 3-3.A(2).
- ¹⁷ Hamden Charter Ch. III, 3-3.C(1)(b). Two years in 2023 and 4 years in 2025 and thereafter.
- ¹⁸ Hamden Charter Ch. III, 3-3.C(2)
- ¹⁹ Bridgeport Charter Ch. 3, §3
- ²⁰ Bridgeport Charter Ch. 5, 1(c)
- ²¹ Bridgeport Charter Ch. 2, §1(b)
- ²² Bridgeport Charter Ch. 5, §1(c)
- ²³ Stamford Charter Part 1, §C1-70-3
- ²⁴ Stamford Charter Part 1, §C1-70-3
- ²⁵ Stamford Charter Part 1, §C1-70-3
- ²⁶ Stamford Charter Part 1, §C1-70-3
- ²⁷ Waterbury Charter Chapter II, §2B-2(b)(1)
- ²⁸ Waterbury Charter Chapter II, §2B-2(b)(2)
- ²⁹ Waterbury Charter Chapter II, §2B-2(b)(1)
- ³⁰ Waterbury Charter Chapter II, §2B-2(b)(2)
- ³¹ Danbury Charter Ch. II §2-2.B
- ³² Danbury Charter Ch. II §2-2.B
- ³³ Danbury Charter Ch. II §2-2.A.a.
- ³⁴ Danbury Charter Ch. II §2-2.A.b.
- ³⁵ New Haven Charter Article II, §6.A
- ³⁶ New Haven Charter Article II, §6.A
- ³⁷ New Haven Charter Article II, §6.B
- ³⁸ New Haven Charter Article II, §6.B
- ³⁹ Hartford Charter Ch. III, §4(a)
- ⁴⁰ Hartford Charter Ch. III, §4(a)
- ⁴¹ Hartford Charter Ch. III, §4(a)
- ⁴² Hartford Charter Ch. III, §4(a)
- ⁴³ Greenwich Charter Art. 3, §38(b).
- ⁴⁴ Greenwich Charter Art. 3, §38(b).