CITY OF NORWALK
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
MARCH 15, 2023

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ATTENDANCE: Patsy Brescia, Chair; Carl Dickens; Tyler Fairbairn; Angela Wasanna; Benita Watford Raleigh

OTHERS: Steven Mednick, Commission Counsel

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Brescia called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Ms. Brescia called the Roll as indicated above. A Quorum was present.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**:

Regular Meeting: March 1, 2023

**** MR. DICKENS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
**** MS. WATFORD RALEIGH SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

Ms. Brescia said she had hoped to have visitors, but they were unable to attend.

Following a brief discussion, the Commissioners agreed to hold a meeting on March 29, 2023 and invite members of the Board of Education along with the Treasurer, Sheriff, Selectmen and Constables. Mr. Mednick will send invites tomorrow.

A public hearing will be held on April 4, 2023 with the following agenda:

6:30 p.m. - Treasurer, Sheriff, Selectmen and Constables
7:00 p.m. – Board of Education

The public hearing will be offered as a hybrid opportunity.

V. **DISCUSSION: ARTICLES I – III, VI**

A. §3-3.c, §6-3, §6-4 and §6-5 - Sheriff, Selectmen and Constables

This item was not discussed this evening.

B. §3-6.b(1) - Mayoral Succession and Temporary Disability

Mr. Mednick shared his screen showing the current Charter. He said that nothing in the current Charter addresses the temporary absence or disability of the Mayor. The Commissioners discussed this item and Mr. Mednick shared provisions from other cities. Mr. Mednick said they need to address what length of time constitutes a temporary disability. It was also discussed whether or not a Mayor would have some expectation of privacy regarding their temporary disability.

Mr. Mednick will provide a draft for a two year term and a four year term.

C. Background Document #5 re – Term of Office and Term Commencement Date

Mr. Mednick explained that Norwalk has a very short time period between the time of the election and the time a person takes office. Ms. Brescia cautioned against choosing a date, because it could fall on a holiday. The Commissioners discussed using the first business day in January.

D. List of Critical Charter issues for Public Hearing on 5 April 2023

The Commissioners discussed the list of critical items for the April 5th public hearing. It was suggested they think about how to maximize the public participation at that meeting. Mr. Fairbairn said he started working on an Op Ed and would like to get it out next week.

Mr. Mednick said they need to be careful and mindful that they do not have a lot of time after the April 5th meeting. He said they are reforming the document, not the government. There are not going to be a long list of radicle changes. They need to be clear about what the asks are. They also need to focus on the understandability of the document.

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

Ms. Brescia shared concerns raised by members of the Common Council that need to be addressed. These items included an increase in pay, a physical office and a staff person assigned to them.

Mr. Mednick said he hopes to have a complete document by the end of April, early May.

Mr. Mednick addressed increasing the pay for members of the Common Council and said that Legislative salaries, by law, have to go to a Referendum.

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

These sections are being worked on.

Mr. Mednick asked all Commission members to send him feedback on the changes. He added that that he hopes to have all ambiguous language removed from the document.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

**** MR. DICKENS MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MR. FAIRBAIRN SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services