

**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.

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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.

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******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

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