

**CITY OF NORWALK
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Patsy Brescia, Chair; Richard McQuaid, Vice Chair;
Carl Dickens, Tyler Fairbairn, Benita Watford

STAFF: Atty. Steven Mednick, consultant

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Brescia called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called and a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

• January 4, 2023

These minutes were not discussed at this time.

• January 18, 2023

**** MR. MCQUAID MOVED THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 18, 2023.**

**** MR. FAIRBAIRN SECONDED.**

The following correction was noted:

Page 2, Corp Counsel should be changed to Corporation Counsel.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 18, 2023 AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

• December Minutes

Ms. Brescia said that she had mentioned there were numerous typos, misspellings and poor grammar in the December minutes. She said that there were too many to list and the minutes were poorly done. She wished to have her comments included in the record.

**** MR. FAIRBAIRN MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MINUTES.**
**** MR. MCQUAID SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER MINUTES PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSSION OF ARTICLES I – III, VI, IX, XI, AND XII

**CONTINUED REVIEW OF REVISED OPERATING, CAPITAL,
AND BOND PROVISIONS**

Atty. Mednick said that the current Charter lists the current terms of office for the City and the Board of Education. He listed the various large Connecticut cities with their terms of office. One of the principle concerns was that four year terms did not allow for checks and balances. New Haven elects the Mayor for four years and the Council Members have two year terms, which provides the check and balance. Atty. Mednick went on to give some alternative terms structures.

Discussion followed.

Atty. Mednick then gave a brief overview of how the State elections and local elections are scheduled. He explained that unless there was a special election, one election take place in the even years with the other election taking place in the odd years. Discussion followed.

The discussion moved to the filling of vacancies of Elective Offices. Atty. Mednick gave a brief summary of the current Charter requirements.

The discussion moved to the line of succession in the event of a mayoral resignation. Atty. Mednick stated he would research this issue.

Mr. McQuade then gave a brief overview of the duties of the Town Clerk and City Clerk in Norwalk. Atty. Mednick explained that the City Clerk's duties are listed in Article V. Ms. Brescia said that there are many residents who are confused as to which office they should contact regarding any particular issue.

Atty. Mednick explained that there are three different types of districts in Norwalk. There are the Council Districts, which are the districts determined by the City for the election of Council Members. There are voting precincts, which are categories that are created for polling. Discussion followed.

COMMENTS BY COMMISSION COUNSEL STEVEN MEDNICK

Atty. Mednick said that at the next meeting the following items would be addressed:

- A panel discussion on two and four year terms.
- Article 10
- Notes and updates on the issues discussed in Chapters 3,6, & 9.
- Outline some of the issues in Chapters 4 & 5

He added that he was moving ahead with the draft on two major chapters and expected to have it ready by March.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. WATFORD MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MR. MCQUAID SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services