

**CITY OF NORWALK
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: William Fitzgerald, Chairman; Jerry Petrini, Stephen Keogh, Yvonne Rodriguez, Michael Witherspoon, Mary Roman, Glenn Iannaccone

STAFF: Mario Coppola, Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Elsa Obuchowski, Oak Hills Park Authority

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mr. Fitzgerald.

ORGANIZATIONAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Fitzgerald recommended that Robert's Rules of Order be followed.

**** MR. KEOGH MOVED THAT ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER BE FOLLOWED.**

**** MR. IANNACONE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Fitzgerald then nominated Mr. Petrini to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

**** MR. IANNACONE MOVED TO ELECT MR. PETRINI AS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION.**

**** MS. ROMAN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Public submissions were discussed next. Public submissions should be sent to Ms. Barbara Tiscia at the Corporation Counsel.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

The Common Council had recommended that the commission consider amending six items on the Charter. Mr. Fitzgerald suggested the commission break into teams to discuss the items.

Mr. Keogh, Ms. Rodriguez and Mr. Witherspoon will look at extending the mayoral term to four years and a possible two-term limit.

Ms. Roman, Mr. Iannaccone and Mr. Petrini will be responsible for adjusting the election of Board of Education members in relation to Council terms, eliminating references to the Selectman, treasurer and sheriff positions and removing references to salaries of city officials.

The groups will begin their work after the Public Hearing.

Regarding the four-year term for Mayor, Mr. Petrini pointed out that if the Mayoral term is changed election turnout might be hindered during off years. He also said another consideration was he does not know if a Councilperson could be recalled.

Mr. Petrini said the Board of Education elections could be aligned with the Mayor.

If four-year terms are recommended, Mr. Keogh said the options are to stagger the council elections or to have everybody run with the Mayor the same year.

Ms. Rodriguez supported a four-year term for the Mayor to have more time to get policies into place. Ms. Roman said the new Mayor is learning the first year and then campaigning the second if the term is only two years.

Term limits were the next item discussed. It was concluded the Law Department will look at term lengths and term limits.

Mr. Keogh said the Commission needs to find out if Selectman, City Treasurer and Sheriff positions are required and if so what is the requirement. Mr. Keogh said if they are required then the question is are they elected or appointed. Mr. Coppola said the Law Department will look into the matters. The department will enlist the assistance of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

The next item of discussion was whether to remove all references to the salaries of City officials or amend the charter so the salaries would be set by the Board of Estimate and Taxation. Mr. Coppola said the Law Department will research comparable cities to Norwalk to find out how much they are paying their City officials.

SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The first public hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room. The Commission agreed upon Monday, February 22 at the same time as a snow date.

Another public hearing will be scheduled following the submission of the draft report to the Common Council. The report must be submitted by April 5.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 101.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. PETRINI MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. ROMAN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

G. Venuto
Telesco Secretarial Services