

**CITY OF NORWALK
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
JANUARY 4, 2023
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

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ATTENDANCE: Patsy Brescia, Chair; Carl Dickens; Tyler Fairbairn; Richard McQuaid; Angela Wasunna; Benita Watson; Michael Witherspoon

OTHERS: Henry Dachowitz, Chief Financial Officer; 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.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 21, 2022

**** MS. WATSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
**** MS. WASUNNA SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

IV. CONTINUED REVIEW OF REVISED OPERATING BUDGET, CAPITAL BUDGET, AND BOND PROVISIONS

Mr. Mednick shared his screen and reviewed Article X. The changes were based on discussions he had with Mr. Dachowitz and Mr. Livingston. He noted that he was very mindful of the need to simplify the language and make it more direct and readable for the public. He also reviewed changes that were in response to the comments from the last meeting of this Committee. Mr. Mednick said the cooperation clause was for everyone.

Ms. Brescia asked if they could clearly state which budget was being reviewed. Mr. Mednick said this is meant to be inclusive of both the operating and capital budgets. He said he would meet with Mr. Dachowitz to define the broad elements of both budgets.

With the approval of both the Mayor and Mr. Dachowitz, Mr. Mednick said he would send the draft Charter to the Board of Education for their review.

VI. REVIEW OF ARTICLES I THROUGH III

The Committee members reviewed Articles I – III. Mr. Mednick said he reviewed ancient language from the Charter.

The Board of Education budget process was reviewed.

It was noted that it was important to understand the impact of each contract conclusion. The proposed defined terms were discussed.

Ms. Brescia questioned the wisdom of taking out the reference to the various taxing districts. She said they need to come up with something that makes sense. Mr. Dachowitz said the details of the taxing districts are in the budget book. The Committee members held a discussion about the taxing districts. Ms. Brescia suggested tabling the discussion about the taxing districts and added they are not part of the City's budget. Mr. Dachowitz explained that the taxing districts provide services and charge for those services. Those amounts are backed out of the City's budget.

The Committee members reviewed the section related to the Board of Estimate and Taxation. Ms. Brescia stressed the importance of defining the operating and capital budgets. Mr. Mednick said changes were made for clarity and consistency and redundancies were removed.

VII. COMMENTS BY COMMISSION COUNSEL STEVEN MEDNICK

Mr. Mednick said that in areas that are dormant he wants to try to reverse engineer it into current practices that are followed.

Mr. Mednick asked about inviting Board of Education representatives to a meeting. Ms. Brescia suggested holding one more session with the document and inviting them to the following meeting.

Mr. Mednick said the changes will be made based on feedback he receives. He will emphasize the operating budget and will make the document more direct. He said he can give an interim mark up with editorial clean ups with notes on what is outstanding. He will have that done as soon as possible.

Mr. Mednick said Article three needs a lot of work and he will work with the Corporation Counsel to figure out how Norwalk does reapportionment. He said he hopes to have that done shortly.

Mr. Dickens asked if there is a definition in the Charter of what the Mayor does. Mr. Mednick said he will see that the Mayor and the Common Council have pages and pages of responsibilities. Currently the Mayor's section is 25 pages.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services