

ALL COMMON COUNCIL ACTIONS TAKEN AT THIS MEETING TO APPROVE EXPENDITURES AND CONTRACTS OR TO ACCEPT BIDS AND OTHER PROPOSALS REQUIRING THE EXPENDITURE OF CITY FUNDS ARE SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the special meeting to order at 7:42 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Dixon called the Roll:

Council at Large:	Mr. Gregory Burnett	Mr. Edwin Camacho
	Mr. Joshua Goldstein	Ms. Nora Niedzielski Eichner
	Ms. Barbara Smyth	

District A: Ms. Nicol Ayers (joined while the meeting was in progress) Mr. David Heuvelman

District B: Ms. Diana Revolus

District C: Ms. Jenn McMurrer

District D:

District E: Mr. James Frayer

At Roll Call there were nine (9) Common Councilmembers present and six (6) absent (Ms. Ayers; Ms. Young; Mr. Kydes; Ms. Alterman; Mr. Meek; Ms. Shanahan). A Quorum was present.

Also present were Mayor, Harry Rilling; City Clerk, Irene Dixon and Corporation Counsel, Mario Coppola.

Charter Revision members present were Patsy Brescia, Chair; Carl Dickens; Tyler Fairbairn; Benita Watford Raleigh; Angela Wasunna and Attorney Steven Mednick, Counsel to the Commission

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation comments are not verbatim and represent a summarization of statements unless otherwise noted. Speakers are Norwalk residents unless otherwise noted.

Ms. Diane Lauricella thanked all for their participation in this initiative. She wanted to reiterate the charge given to the Commission. She said she was in favor of Article 2 and added that Article 3 is a mixed opportunity and she will be an advocate for this to pass. She said she was not sure about the transition restrictions.

Ms. Lauricella addressed Article 4 and said that compensation should have been discussed and that there should be more Common Council seats. She asked why there was no Civilian Police Oversight Commission.

There were no other members of the public who wished to comment.

IV. REVIEW AND ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION PURSUANT TO C.G.S. §7-191(b)

Mr. Burnett explained that at this meeting they would be looking at the revisions that have been made to the Charter. A total of three Workshops were held and tonight will culminate with a Resolution. Attorney Mednick will provide expertise in terms of what is needed to be covered and will provide guidance.

Attorney Mednick shared his screen and explained that tonight the Common Council would be making recommendations. After that, the Charter will be sent back to the Commission and at Wednesday's meeting they will confer with the Common Council and go through the Resolution and tell the Commission what the next step is in the process. Attorney Mednick noted that the Commission can only review the items provided by the Common Council. The hope is the Commission will send the report back to the Common Council by August 7th. At that point, the Common Council is confined to vote only on the items before them; they can't amend the document. Once the Charter is approved, they will approve one or two questions for the ballot.

Mr. Mednick said it is not too early for the Council President to think about the questions for the ballot, so they can be ready on August 15th. After August 15th the item has to be submitted to the Town Clerk and Secretary of the State to be published. Attorney Mednick addressed Ms. Lauricella's comment about compensation and explained the legislative process.

Attorney Mednick explained that the only major, substantive comments are in Item 22, dealing with the term of office for the Mayor and Common Council. He said he imagined that is an issue the Common Council will review. Attorney Mednick continued to address changes that were made.

Common Council members discussed four year terms for the Mayor and Common Council. They also discussed compensation and term limits. It was suggested that they do not consider a four year term for Mayor as part of this charter revision. It requires careful study and it was suggested that an ad hoc committee be created to continue the work.

Mr. Burnett said it is clear that this is a first lap in the race. It has been the mission of the Common Council to get off to a good start in the right direction. It is key to identify key priority items and the role of the next Common Council will be to continue that momentum.

The discussion about the four year term for Mayor continued. Mayor Rilling said he had a conversation with Mr. McQuaid and Mr. Burnett and said that the four year term should be removed and brought up at another time, if it is appropriate.

Mr. Heuvelman spoke in support of a four year term for Mayor and said he would be in favor of having it be part of the resolution.

Ms. Brescia said she and the Commissioners appreciate this discussion about the four year term. She said they will discuss this at their meeting on Wednesday. Mr. Dickens said he agreed with Mr. Heuvelman. Ms. Smyth said she agreed with a four year term for Mayor, but felt strongly about a four year term for the Common Council.

Mr. Burnett asked if there were any specific questions. Ms. Niedzielski Eichner recommended changes to item 21 regarding voting. Attorney Mednick said he was going to recommend that the Charter Revision Commission coordinate with Mr. Burnett to see what items deal with voting standards.

**** MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION PURSUANT TO C.G.S. §7-191(b)**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. BURNETT; MR. CAMACHO; MR. GOLDSTEIN; MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER; MS. SMYTH; MS. AYERS; MR. HEUVELMAN; MS. REVOLUS; MS. MCMURRER; MR. FRAYER)**

Mr. Burnett explained that there are several meetings to come. The Charter Revision Commission is meeting on Wednesday.

Mayor Rilling expressed his thanks to everyone.

V. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. REVOLUS MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Irene Dixon, City Clerk

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SPECIAL MEETING

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** 7:42PM
- II. **ROLL CALL** 10- Mr. Meek, Ms. Alterman, Ms. Shanahan, Mr. Kydes and Ms. Young absent; Ms. Ayers arrived at 8:00PM
- III. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** 1
- IV. **REVIEW AND ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION PURSUANT TO C.G.S. §7-191(b)** **APPROVED**
- V. **ADJOURNMENT** 8:49PM

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