

**COMMON COUNCIL
NORWALK, CT**

SPECIAL MEETING

**JUNE 5, 2023
COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AND VIA ZOOM**

**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**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the Special Meeting to order at 7:36 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	Mr. David Heuvelman
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District B:	Ms. Diana Revolus
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District C:	Ms. Jenn McMurrer
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District D:

District E:

At Roll Call there were nine (9) Common Councilmembers present and five (5) absent (Ms. Young; Mr. Kydes; Ms. Alterman; Mr. Meek and Ms. Shanahan). A Quorum was present.

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

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.

Mr. Thomas Livingston expressed his gratitude to the Charter Revision Commission members for all their hard work. He said the City is indebted to them.

Ms. Diane Cece also expressed her gratitude to the Charter Revision Commission members. She said she thought the Charter Revision meant the Commission would reorganize the Charter and remove obsolete language, but not make any changes pertaining to the way government operates.

A big controversial issue is the recommendation for a four-year term for Mayor. Ms. Cece noted there has been a lot of public input about this. She added that several people have asked to consider the size of boards, committees, etc., especially for the Police Commission and the Traffic Authority. She asked to look at the possibility of establishing a Citizen's Review Board for the Police and Emergency Services.

Ms. Cece requested keeping in mind what the actual charges of the Commission were.

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

IV. PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION FROM CHAIR BRESCIA, VICE CHAIR MCQUAID, OTHER MEMBERS AND ATTORNEY STEVEN G. MEDNICK

Mr. Burnett explained that this is the first of several meetings to work on the Charter Revision. He said that Ms. Brescia, Chair of the Charter Revision Commission will walk the Common Council through the highlights and answer any questions. The ultimate goal is to provide action on July 12th. At that time the proper wording for the ballot will be presented to the public.

Ms. Brescia introduced the following members of the Charter Revision Commission, Mr. Carl Dickens, Ms. Angela Wasunna, Ms. Benita Watford Raleigh and Mr. Michael Witherspoon. She also introduced Mr. Steven Mednick, Commission Counsel.

Ms. Brescia walked the Common Council through the changes that were made to the proposed revised Charter.

Mr. Mednick expressed his thanks to the members of the Charter Revision Commission. He reviewed the document and said there are a lot of end notes, so people can look back to see what was taken out of the Charter. Ms. Brescia said they tried to make the Charter as easy to understand as possible.

Ms. Brescia said she looks forward to the workshops. Mr. Mednick asked the members of the Common Council to let Mr. Burnett know what their priorities are. He added that he would be happy to provide any backup materials for the workshops.

Mr. Mednick reviewed the document and fielded questions from the members of the Common Council. The Common Council members discussed the recommendation for a four-year term for Mayor. Mr. Mednick offered to share a document showing the mayoral terms for several towns in Connecticut. In response to Mr. Burnett's question about the four-year term for Mayor, Ms. Brescia said she did not recall any other question rising to the level of being a separate question on the ballot.

Mr. Mednick reviewed procedures and told the members of the Common Council that their job was to make recommendations to the Charter Revision Commission for consideration. He added that they can only deal with those issues. He said he will work with the Common Council to develop the questions. The questions will go to the Town Clerk and to the Secretary of State.

V. REVIEW CHARTER REVISION PROCESS AND PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Mr. Burnett explained that the following are proposed dates for future workshops. Mr. Mednick added that they will have to have action at 15 days following the public hearing.

- A. JUNE 12: COUNCIL WORKSHOP I
- B. WEEK OF JUNE 18: UNSCHEDULED WORKSHOP II
- C. JUNE 26: COUNCIL WORKSHOP III (POSSIBLE SATURDAY SESSIONS, IF NEEDED)
- D. JULY 10: PUBLIC HEARING AND DELIBERATIONS
- E. JULY 17: COUNCIL ACTION: FINAL ACTION OR RECOMMENDATIONS
- F. JULY 19: CONFERRAL MEETING WITH CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
- G. JULY 26: CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION FINAL REPORT

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Irene Dixon, City Clerk

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To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at norwalkct.gov/meetings

-  Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.
-  Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.
-  Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.
-  Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Irene Dixon at idxon@norwalkct.gov to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

SPECIAL MEETING

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** 7:35PM
- II. **ROLL CALL** 9- Mr. Kydes, Ms. Alterman, Mr. Meek, and Ms. Shanahan absent;
Ms. Young joined at 7:40 PM
- III. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** 2
- IV. **PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION FROM CHAIR
BRESCIA, VICE CHAIR MCQUAID, OTHER MEMBERS AND ATTORNEY STEVEN G. MEDNICK**
ACCEPTED
- V. **REVIEW CHARTER REVISION PROCESS AND PROPOSED SCHEDULE**
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