

MINUTES

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

APRIL 25, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. in Room L100 of the Newington Town Hall.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present

Vincent Camilli
Paul Vassella
Mike Lenares
Alan Nafis

Also Present

Tanya Lane - Town Clerk
SPEAKER? (Peter Boorman, Town Attorney)

(*These minutes are a brief overview of the meeting held on April 25, 2012. Please refer to tape for full transcript.)

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Myra Cohen, 42 Jeffrey Lane, Councilor, speaking for self, maybe I don't speak clearly in explaining but the Item 9, [inaudible], my comments on the Commissioner on Aging. The Commissioner on Aging and the Department of Senior and Disabled Services were previously created by ordinance. The purpose of putting them in the Charter, not the last Charter but the previous Charter revision, was to preserve what was viewed as very high blind victory so that is why it is very brief in the Charter, everything is in the ordinance. The Charter was simply to give them a spot in the Charter so that they would be Charter protected.

The discussion of Section C-410 of the Charter, the third line "except an emergency ordinance, on a special appropriation" - **or** a special appropriation. In other words this gives the right of the public to participate on ordinances but nothing to do with money and this reference "or a special appropriation" is refers to \$75,000 that is a special appropriation that is done by ordinance so that does not allow public participation. This would be for something like suppose we pass the Blight Ordinance and somebody says I don't like the Blight Ordinance I want to put a whatever in my front yard and we don't like so this is a petition by the public against an ordinance the Town has passed. Therefore the last part of that "the ordinance will not become effective until the same has bee approved." This is not to approve an ordinance by the public, this is to oppose an ordinance. An ordinance that is passed by the Council does not require public opinion. This petition is to oppose the ordinance that was passed. [inaudible]

SPEAKER asks if anyone else from the public wishes to speak. NONE.

V MINUTES

A 4/18/12 MEETING

Move to Accept, second. A short discussion followed regarding the Commission on Aging and the Department of Human Services. They are already separate they are to stay separate.

Motion to accept. Second. Unanimous vote.

Minutes accepted to be changed.

VI MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED

A Discussion of proposed language in Charter Revision regarding the Board of Parks and Recreation.

We have Mr. Donald Woods who is the Chair of the Board of Parks and Rec. Please step forward. We are talking here about § 605. Thank you for coming.

Donald Woods, 82 Ivy Lane, I am here representing the Parks and Rec. Board as Chairman.

SPEAKER: § 605 about the Board of Parks and Rec. and the language that was in there that we did two years ago and want to take out states that "The manager shall appoint, in concurrence with the Board, a Superintendent of Parks and Recreation and such other full time employees as the Council may determine in accordance with Article IV of this Charter." Now it is coming out and the Commissioners here discussed that and wanted to hear opinions of the Board itself and/or the Superintendent if he had anything to add.

Don Woods: The consensus of the Board is that it should be taken away. However, the Parks & Rec Board would like to be part of the interviewing process for a Superintendent.

B. Discussion of Articles IX and X.

Article IX - Personnel

§ 901 - No changes

§ 902 - No changes

§ 903 - No changes

§ 904 - **Prohibitions.** The last sentence to be removed due to contradiction of CT law.

§ 905 - Sentence removed last time. Still to be removed.

§ 906 - No changes.

Article X

§ 1001 - No changes

§ 1002 - No change

§ 1003 - **Existing Office Holders.** The entire section is brand new with language consistent throughout the Charter. This section was entered as a practical matter to ensure that Boards and Commissions continue to operate.

Note: The recording of the meeting ends at this point.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Gibbon
Clerk – Charter Revision Commission