



Keith Chapman
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

200 Garfield Street
Newington, Connecticut 06111

Office of the Town Council

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Town Clerk

2022 Charter Revision Commission Special Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2022

This meeting was presented as a Zoom Webinar/Hybrid Meeting.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

- Town Clerk Krupienski called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Kevin Borrup
Nancy Cappello
Anthony Gonsalves
Joe Harpie
Chris Miner

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introduction of Members

- Joe Harpie; have been involved with politics and have served on many committees. I was on the town council and had the privilege of being deputy mayor for two mayors. Look forward to working with everybody. I chair the building committee and have worked with Chris Miner and after a long battle got that project done successfully.
- Nancy Cappello; very new to politics. Have lived in Newington for 22 years. Have two boys and have been very involved in school boards – PTA, PTO, SafeGrad and fundraising. Looking forward to getting involved with politics and look forward to working with all of you on this committee.
- Chris Miner joined local politics in 2016; worked with Joe Harpie on the Town Hall Renovation Building committee; served two terms on town council; was on the Anna Reynolds Building committee. Happy to be hear and work on solving issues within the Charter.
- Kevin Borrup; have been involved with Newington politics for a bit. One of Newington's first representatives to the Central CT Health District when we joined; did short stint on the BOE; look forward to working on this committee.

- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that the Mayor is with us tonight.

- Mayor DelBuono thanked everyone for agreeing to serve on this commission. Appreciate it.

4. Review of the Charge to the Commission

- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that the charges of the commission were approved by the council on February 22, 2022. It is a long resolution and you were given 13 charges to review. Most of the changes are basics and one of the more important charges will be to create a continuing charter revision, a process to move forward in that manner, to remove it from the political arena into the process arena. Like the TPZ does with their POCD every 10 years. Looking at referendum limits; looking at memberships of boards (can only address those listed in the charter); looking at term limits; did receive request regarding Classified Personnel; asked to look at removal of commission or board member to determine best way (currently very long process); reviewing language for Library Trustees regarding

Phone: (860) 665-8510 Fax: (860) 665-8507
townmanager@newingtonct.gov
www.newingtonct.gov

membership; looking at dollar amounts and financials and limits; possibly staggered terms for council and BOE; request for review of residency requirements for Town Planner and Chief of Police (does not prevent review for any other employee in town); review language in Right of Referendum on Ordinance – current language is vague; review language in Auditor to create Audit Committee. Once we have reviewed these we will hold a public hearing, and at minimum two. The first one needs to be held before we start making any proposed changes to our charter to allow public to come in with changes or recommendations. The final public hearing will be to present the final report to me for submission to the council; that shows all work done with suggested (if any) changes. Once the report is finalized, you will appear before them to explain your reasoning for changes. They will hold a public hearing as well to get comments; they will come back to you with suggested changes (if any). Once report is accepted by the town council the commission will end. The town council will notify the public and it will be sent to referendum. I will provide you all with the CCM Charter Revision Resource Kit. As we review each section we will review language; make changes; show what the proposed language is. We can vote at each meeting on changes; etc. At end of document review it will be on our website for public review. Mr. Krupiensi reviewed the town website and where to find documents. Mr. Krupiensi reviewed the outline of the charter revision process.

5. Election of Officers

a. Chairperson

- Motion by Commissioner Cappello to elect Joe Harpie as Chairperson. Seconded by Commissioner Borrup. Nomination accepted by Mr. Harpie. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Vice-Chairperson

- Motion by Commissioner Cappello to elect Anthony Gonsalves as Vice Chairperson. Seconded by Chairman Harpie. Nomination accepted by Mr. Gonsalves. Motion passed unanimously.

- *Town Clerk Krupiensi turned the meeting over to Chairman Harpie.*

6. Schedule of Meeting Dates

- Town Clerk Krupiensi stated that I did pull together Wednesday meetings. Is the commission available for that?
- Chairman Harpie stated that one person is unable to attend meetings at the beginning of the month; want to keep it on Monday's or move to Wednesday's?
- Commissioner Miner asked if the meetings could begin earlier.
- Commissioner Gonsalves stated that he is usually very busy the last day of the month and the first few days of the month. Would prefer to do meetings in the middle of the week as opposed to Monday's or Friday's; Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday are ideal.
- Chairman Harpie asked how Tuesday's work for everyone.
- Town Clerk Krupiensi stated that the town council is 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. If you are looking at the 1st and 3rd that should work.
- Chairman Harpie asked what time to start?
- Commissioner Cappello stated that 6:30 or later would be best.
- Chairman Harpie stated that we have to put in as much time as we can in months of March, April and May. May need to reevaluate if necessary and ask James to put together a schedule. Know you are all committed to this and will make schedule work.

Proposed Meeting Dates: March 15, April 5, April 19, May 3, May 17, June 7, June 21, July 5, July 19, August 2, August 16

- Town Clerk Krupiensi stated that a regular meeting and special meeting are basically the same; with a special meeting the only thing that can be discussed is what's on the agenda and for a regular meeting you can add items to the agenda if wanted with a two-thirds vote.

- Motion by Commissioner Cappello to approve the proposed meeting dates as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Miner. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Scheduling of Public Hearing

- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that we need to do this prior to your first meeting. I can schedule it for March 9 or 10.
- Commissioner Miner asked about having in person meetings.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that they will be discussing that at a meeting tomorrow. I've had discussions with both the mayor and town manager. Request is to hold this public hearing, as well as that regarding voting districts, in person. I would assume that these meetings would be in Council Chambers.
- Commissioner Borrup stated that on Thursday's any time after 7 works.
- Chairman Harpie asked everyone if Wednesday, March 9th at 7 p.m. is ok.
- ***Motion by Commissioner Miner to schedule a public hearing on March 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Newington Town Hall as well as Zoom hybrid format. Seconded by Commissioner Cappella. Motion passed unanimously.***
 - Chairman Harpie stated that parking seems to be an issue. Anyway we can get cones or somehow get parking spaces held for the commissioners.
 - Town Clerk Krupienski stated that he will have a discussion regarding that in the morning.
 - Mayor DelBuono stated that commissioner can attend via Zoom as well.

8. Comments by Members

- None
- Commissioner Gonsalves stated that he works for Eversource and one things that can come up are storms, power outages, etc. When that occurs I will be out of the loop.
- Chairman Harpie stated as we go through these it will be helpful to review minor changes in language. Those with significant changes will be done separately. How do we check statute impact, does that automatically come up?
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that if we have direct reference to it I will have contact with the town attorney to see if he is available and to provide direction.
- Chairman Harpie stated that the development commission comes to mind and there is statute.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that it is listed in the charter as well as code of ordinances.

9. Public Participation on Agenda Items (Via Zoom Application or Phone)


(2 Minute Time Limit per Speaker) (888) 788-0099 or (877) 853-5247

- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive started to write down questions to ask. When is appropriate time to ask questions? At the public hearing or first regular meeting?
- Chairman Harpie stated that at the first regular meeting or at the public hearing, wherever you feel more comfortable.
- Ms. Lyons stated she will bring it up at both.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Miner. Seconded by Commissioner Borrup. The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan Gibbon
Recording Clerk