

**Charter Revision Commission Minutes**

Special Meeting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Item A: Call to order by Chairman Granfield at 6:50pm

Item B: Pledge of Allegiance

Item C Roll Call:

Present: Brunetti, Clifford, Carrano, Smith, Apicella, Diaz, Granfield

Absent: Bolt, Riccio

Item D: Motion to accept meeting minutes from Special Meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 by Diaz. Seconded by Brunetti

Motion for 10 minute suspension by Brunetti. Seconded by Carrano

Meeting reconvened at 7:01pm

Item E: Motion to open public hearing by Brunetti. Seconded by Clifford

Public hearing opened at 7:01pm

Introductory and opening remarks from Chairman Granfield about the scope and work of the charter revision commission.

Commissioner Carrano begins presentation of the commission's work and proposed changes to the West Haven charter.

Presentation included sections on:

Introduction, Vetting processes, West Haven Statistics, Reasons for revision, Issues outside of the scope of the commission, Issues discusses but not allowed to be in the charter, Proposed structural changes, General changes, Other proposed changes, Current organizational structure, Council-manager form of government, Council-manager statistics for CT, Role of the mayor, Terms of elected office.

7:36pm a break was given to the presenter and audience.

Reconvened at 7:40pm

Continued with sections on:

X \_\_\_\_\_

2019 JUL 1 2 01 4: 15

RECEIVED  
TOWN AND CITY CLERK  
OF WEST HAVEN

State of CT statistics, City clerk, Tax collector, Treasurer, City Council, Board of Education, Vacancy in elected office, Budget, “other changes”, and new proposed organizational chart.

8:14pm End of Presentation and break

8:21pm Public input session begins. Chairman Granfield outlines general rules and guidelines for public input session.

Session begins

Howard Horvath, 122 Wilson Ave

- Gives general thank you to commission for their work
- Has concerns with city-manager form of government and believes it will do little to change political issues. Is also concerned with taking power away from citizens to elect government officials and moves this power to the city council.
- Proposed instead a full-time mayor who selects a manager who runs the daily operations of the city while the mayor shapes the overall vision for the city.

Walter Casey

- Rescinds speaking time as his questions were answered by the presentation.

Jim Amendola, 40 Carlson Rd

- Thanks commission
- Will give his concerns with the charter to the city council

John Galvin, 40 Crest St

- Introduces himself as the VP of the village improvement association
- Issues with page 7 item 4 of the presentation which doesn't address the number of libraries.
- Claims the current charter will fund the library and all its subsidiaries.
- Concerned with language of the charter and the use of may vs. shall. Does not want to city to cut funding to the library due to this.
- Prefers the use of “shall” and solidifying the library in the city's charter.

Bridgette Hoskie. 326 Washington Avenue

- Questions the ability of the city council to interview potential city managers without asking discriminatory questions, especially those related to health.
- Believes that more representation is needed, especially for minority parties.

- Would like to know who the backup to the city manager would be.
- Would like to know how a person is to be removed from a commission if they are not performing their duties.
- Would like set hours for positions such as the tax collector and treasurer.
- Supports the ethics commission additions to the charter

Jane Whelan, 100 Ames Dr

- Questions how the city will be split into three voting districts.
- Questions who the backup for the city manager would be.
- Regarding contracts and credentials, wants to know if individuals will be grandfathered in if they do not meet new credential requirements.
- Wants to know who will work with MARB under new charter.
- For bonds, questions what will happen if the treasurer and mayor disagree with the city manager for bonding.

Chairman Ronald Quagliani

- Gives general thanks to commission
- “Enabling language” may force newly elected individuals to enforce these new charter changes in a short amount of time. Proposes that a staggered approach be taken, benchmarks be established, and/or a transitional committee is established to implement these changes.

Dave Brown, 56 Highview Avenue

- Questions who will draw the new lines for the voting districts and how often they are drawn. Has concerns with gerrymandering
- Has concerns with representation and independents

Steve Mullins, 22 Oak Rd

- Thanks the commission
- Wants to know if there is a residency requirement for positions such as city manager, tax collector, and treasurer.
- Wants to know if the mayor is an ex-officio member of the Board of Education under the new charter.

Comments end for public hearing at 8:56pm. Motioned by Brunetti. Second from Carrano

Item F: Discussion- none

Item G: New business – none

Item H: Adjournment of meeting 8:57pm motion from Diaz