



CITY OF DANBURY
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
155 DEER HILL AVENUE
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Location: Room 3C City Hall

Minutes from Monday, September 22, 2008

Commissioners Present: Carlo J. Marano, Robert L. King, Peter N. Buzaid, Carlo J. Marano, Joan S. Mead, Mary Comstock, Paul E. Swenson, Edward T. Torian, Diane R. Servello and Mary M. Cronin

Commissioner Absent:

1. The commission discussion and accepted the minutes from the September 8, 2008 meeting with certain corrections.
2. The commission heard from Mayor Boughton who honored Commissioner Servello work and contribution to the Charter Revision Commission and the Chairman thanked her for her diligence and research into the charters of other municipalities in Connecticut.
3. The commission heard input from the public:

Lynn Waller pointed out that the change to the charter to permit legal representatives to speak would permit lawyers to dominate a time reserved for the public; she also noted that the percentage of electors needed on a petition was too high to make the right to referendum meaningful.

Warren Levy Spoke to oppose combining the planning and zoning commissions and to speak in favor of an annual limit on non-referendum bonding allowed in §7-10 especially because it is not needed for emergencies; he opposed having the mayor appoint the legislative assistant, opposed the change to §6-4 permitting settlements of claims covered by insurance without council approval, He spoke against permitting out of town lawyers. to speak for residents at the Council public speaking session.

Paul Rotella Spoke against the mayor appointing the legislative assistant; spoke against language permitting out of town attorneys to speak at the Council meetings. And wanted ambiguities in the Charter cleared up. He also spoke in favor of keeping 2 year terms of office; against combining the Planning commission and the Zoning Commission; he believes that even though a claim is fully covered by insurance its settlement should go before the Council; and he opposed the payment of any stipend to members of the Council or any the members of any other board or commission.

Linda Galloway Spoke to oppose any increase in non-referendum bonding; to oppose an appointed position for the legislative assistant believing it should be a civil service position and opposed a change that would allow non-Danbury residents to address the Common Council at its regular meetings.

Al Robinson Spoke to oppose combining the Planning Commission and the Zoning Commission; he is in favor of capping non-referendum bonding at 2.5 million annually and in is in favor of 2 year terms of office.

Margaret Mitchell Spoke against combining Planning and Zoning Commissions; in favor of an annual cap on non-referendum bonding and was in favor of giving the public more input into the budget

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John Nuemuller Spoke about the way the Planning Commission meetings are conducted pointing out that as the applicant goes first and speaks for a long period of time they often effectively shut the public out. He is worried that it could happen with a combined Planning and Zoning Commission.

4. The Commission heard from **Mayor Boughton** who discussed the Commissions approach to the legislative assistant's position as a good compromise.
5. The commission had discussion regarding language drafted by counsel, Eric Gottschalk, regarding what was the City Clerk's position in §3-3 and §2-2 and **voted unanimously** to approve that language.
6. The Commission had discussion regarding the lengths of terms of office for elected officials, not including the Board of Education and **voted 5 to 4** to increase the length of term to 4 years. IN favor MEAD, CRONIN, SERVELLO, COMSTOCK and MARANO; Opposed BUZAID, KING, SWENSON and TORIAN.
7. The Commission had discussion regarding the addition of annual cap on non-referendum bonding IN § 7-10 and **voted 5 to 3** to cap the annual amount of non-referendum bonding at 5 million. IN favor COMSTOCK, KING, TORIAN, CRONIN, BUZAID opposed to 5 million dollar cap MEAD, SERVELLO, SWENSON. A motion to limit the annual amount of non-referendum bonding to 2.5 million **failed by a vote of 3 to 5**. In favor MEAD SERVELLO SWENSON opposed COMSTOCK, CRONIN, KING, BUZAID, TORIAN
8. The Commission had discussion about combining the Planning and Zoning Commissions and the feasibility of including elected and appointed members on the combined commission. The Commission agreed to put the matter on the Agenda for October 6th, 2008.
9. The Commission had discussion regarding language in §3-4 regarding public speaking before the Council. The Commission **voted unanimously** to change the language from legal representative to "authorized" representative..
10. The Commission reviewed previously adopted changes to the Charter and Unanimously approved language for changes to §6-7, §6-13, 6-3 and §6-11
11. The Commission agreed to complete work on a draft report by October 20, 2008

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 9:45PM.

Submitted: October 6, 2008

By: Peter N. Buzaid Secretary