

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

Minutes from Monday, February 23, 2009
Meeting commenced at 7:00PM

Present: Robert L. King, Peter N. Buzaid, Mary M. Cronin, Mary Comstock, Edward T. Torian, Paul E. Swenson, and Joan S. Mead.

1. The Commission accepted comments from the public:

Joseph Walkovich spoke in favor of retaining 2 year terms of office, reducing the amount of non-referendum bonding and the significance of retaining the requirement that donations to the City of Danbury be approved by the Council

Lynn Waller spoke against the language regarding allowing an authorized representative to address the Council, reducing the amount of non-referendum bonding and the provision for emergency bonding. She also submitted a copy of an opinion of the Office of City Clerk from 1992 from the Corporation Counsel.

Joel Brooke spoke against the language contained in §7-8 of the Draft Report related to special assessments

Warren Levy spoke concerning the procedure for the Commission's conference with the Appointing Authority (the Common Council) and whether any member of the Council could participate. He also addressed his concern regarding the Legislative Assistant being appointed by the mayor and in favor of reducing non-referendum bonding.

No other input from the public was offered and the commission moved on to a special meeting

2. The Commission reviewed the recommendations made to it by the Common Council as reflected in the Common Council Minutes. The Commission engaged in discussion with its Counsel, Eric Gottschalk, regarding its duties under the statute CGS § 7-191 at this point in the Charter Revision process. The Commission agreed that its review the Charter and Draft Report is now limited to the issues raised in the recommendations made by the Common Council. Commissioner King prepared a summary of the recommendations as they matched up with the Charter changes made in the Draft Report. The Commission also agreed that any votes on changes would be made after or during the conference with the Common Council.
3. The Commission discussed the issue of retaining 2 year terms office for elected officials.
4. The Commission discussed eliminating the proposed changes regarding special assessments in §7-8 and related language in §7-10.
5. The commission discussed the issue of public speaking §3-4 at Common Council meetings by electors or taxpayers as well as the issue of allowing an authorized representative to address the Common Council.
6. The Commission discussed the issue of the acceptance of donations by the Common Council §4-2 regarding the requirement of reporting aggregate annual gifts in excess of \$1,000 to be reported and also including with a dollar value donated services and materials.
7. The Commission discussed the issue of changing the title of Administrative Assistant to Chief of Staff.
8. The Commission discussed non referendum bonding and reducing the amounts 2.5 Million/ 5 Million specified in §7-10. This will be addressed at the conference.

9. The Commission discussed the filling of vacancies as provided in §2-6 and engaged in a dialogue with Councilman Levy, Mayor Boughton and others in an effort to frame the issue.

The Commission then engaged in a discussion about the date and time for a conference meeting with the Common Council and picked March 4, 2008 for that conference as well as agreeing to hold a final meeting on March 9, 2009.

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 8:25PM.

Submitted: February 24, 2009

By: Peter N. Buzaid Secretary