

Minutes from Wednesday, March 4, 2009  
Meeting commenced at 7:00 P.M.

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

**Absent:** Edward T. Torian

1. The Commission opened its meeting for a conference with members of the Danbury Common Council
2. The Commission accepted comments from the public:

**Joseph DaSilva** spoke against 4 year terms of office.

**Joel Brooke** spoke about removing language from §7-8 regarding assessments for improvements.

**Lynn Waller** spoke about listening to the Common Council Members concerns in their recommendations and also spoke regarding the amount of non-referendum bonding allowed in §7-10

**Dave Bono** spoke against changing the title of the City Clerk.

**Christine Heller** spoke about listening to the Common Council.

No other input from the public was offered and the commission moved on to its meeting after hearing from its Counsel, Eric Gottschalk, regarding the statutory purpose of the meeting, the limitations on the Commission's actions at this point and the remaining process.

3. The Commission then engaged in its conference with members of the Danbury Common Council.

**Thomas Saadi** spoke about the clear vote of the Council recommending retaining 2 year terms of office and reducing the amount of permitted non-referendum bonding as bonding should have a high level of scrutiny.

**Gregory Seabury** spoke urging that questions be put to the voters.

**Paul Rotella** spoke against 4 year terms and in favor of reducing the amount of non-referendum bonding.

**Jane Diggs** spoke regarding her current position against 4 year terms of office and pointing out that all members of the public who addressed the issue were against it.

**Philip Curran** spoke in favor of retaining the amount of non-referendum bonding at 2.5 million per item 5 million per year.

**Ben Chianese** spoke in favor of retaining 2 year terms and pointed out that with a 4 year term it was impossible to remove a member. He also spoke about §2-6 regarding the filling of a vacancy on the Council and the problems caused by a recent opinion offered by the Corporation Counsel on the time limits specified in §2-6.

**Paul Rotella** spoke about §2-6 and the problems with the language.

**Joseph Cavo** spoke about the language in §2-6 and suggested the period of time be extended to 90 days.

**Warren Levy** spoke against 4 year terms and discussed the history of the limitations on non-referendum bonding pointing out his opposition to the increased amounts in §7-10.

**Joseph Cavo** spoke that the 2 year term was the will of the Council in its vote and suggested the amount of non-referendum bonding be reduced to 2.5 million annually.

4. The Commission discussed a motion to delete "Authorized Representative" from §3-4 and **voted** unanimously to delete that language.
5. The Commission discussed a motion to amend the language contained in §4-2 regarding donations making clear that all donations be reported to the Common Council and those in the aggregate of more than \$1,000 in any year be approved by the Council. The Commission **voted** unanimously to approve the amendment.
6. The Commission discussed a motion to retain the language in §2-6 and unanimously **voted** to retain that language.
7. The Commission discussed a motion to remove the changes made to §7-8 regarding public improvement assessments and **voted** unanimously to remove those changes.
8. The Commission had discussion regarding the amounts of non-referendum bonding, discussed a Motion to change the amount to no more than 3 million annually and **voted** 5 to 1 in favor of changing the amount to 3 million annually in FAVOR BUZAID, COMSTOCK KING, MEAD, CRONIN and OPPOSED SWENSON.
9. The Commission had lengthy discussion regarding 4 year terms of office; a motion to restore the terms of office to 2 years was **defeated** by a **vote** of 4 to 2. OPPOSED CRONIN, COMSTOCK, MEAD, KING. In FAVOR BUZAID, SWENSON.

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 9:25PM.

Submitted: March 8, 2009

By: Peter N. Buzaid Secretary