

Charter Revision Commission Minutes

Public Hearing on Thursday, April 26th, 2018

6:30PM call to order by Chairman Granfield

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: John Brunetti present, Victoria Clifford present, Silvana Apicella present, Monique Bolt present, John Carrano present, Iris Diaz present, Edward Granfield present, David Riccio present, Rohan Smith present.

Opening comments from Chairman Granfield regarding the focus of the public hearing, to receive citizen input regarding Charter Revision.

Public Hearing opened at 6:34pm

Comments from Ronald Quagliani regarding Charter Revision

Term Limits

- Proposed terms limits on the office of mayor and to city council members. Two, four year terms with a max of 8 years in office.
- Suggested stagger city council elections instead of having all elections at the same time.

Budget:

- Suggested having the city budget due on beginning of June rather than the 1st Thursday in May. Cites concerns with having to estimate possible state funding.
- Believes that it is counterproductive that if a mayor's budget is not passed by city council that it is applied by default.
- Concerned with the voting majority regarding budget line items.
- Suggests the committee finds ways to combine departments or commissions.

Miscellaneous:

- Believes gender inclusive language needs to be added to charter.

Comments from Howard Horvath regarding Charter Revision

- Suggests two, four year terms, max of 2 terms.
- Implementation of a "nuclear option".

Comments from Kris Petrucci regarding Charter Revision

- Suggests allowing a referendum vote for citizens to vote on the budget.

Comments from Darryl Cummings regarding Charter Revision

- Four year term for mayor only.

- Any term limit applied as a result of this charter revision should be applied to 2021 election and not the upcoming 2019 election.

- Does not believe the number of mandatory minority seats should be increased.

- Suggests committee members look outside of Connecticut and New England for city charter examples.

- Believes ownership of sidewalks is ambiguous and needs to be clarified.

From Commissioner Apicella, a letter from a West Haven citizen is introduced.

5 Minute recesses called by Chairman Granfield at 6:57PM

Reconvened at 7:02PM

Public Session Closed at 7:02PM

Proposed future meeting schedule distributed by Chairman. Proposes meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.

Motion by Carrano to adopt schedule.

2nd from Riccio.

Passed unanimously

Floor opened for panel discussion.

Granfield: Mayor has asked for the first two meetings to be held as special meetings. Explained the purpose of this.

Riccio: Expressed concerns with supermajority vote. Referendum power could be used as a good tool for citizen input. Expressed favorability in looking at term limits.

Carrano: Thinks the charter needs smaller language fixes. Believes the council should have more say regarding the budget. Expressed the need to clarify the process of vacancies for elected positions.

Apicella: Supports more verbage expressing accountability in the charter.

Smith: Expressed design to look into what works in the Charter and replacing what doesn't.

Motion to adjourn Carrano

2nd Riccio

Passed

Meeting adjourned at 7:16PM