

CITY OF STAMFORD 19TH CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION ELECTED OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

Anthony Pramberger, Jr., Chair

Members

Michael Larobina
Thomas Lombardo
J.R. McMullen
Jackie Pioli

Report

Thursday, September 1, 2022
This meeting was held remotely

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm by the Chair.
2. Roll Call – Committee members: present were Lombardo, McMullen, Pramberger; not in attendance were Larobina and Pioli. Also present were Commissioners Lane and Williams.
3. Review and approval of Meeting Notes of August 17, 2022 meeting – by a vote of 3-0 the committee agreed to postpone approval of the Aug. 17 meeting notes as changes were made to items 4.b.e. “12 – Consider including an independent Registrar and / or unaffiliated Registrar”, and 4. B. g, “18 – Delete “or” before the Town Clerk”. These meetings notes will be updated and recirculated for review and approval at the next meeting on Sept. 15.
4. Formulating questions for Mayor Simmons (Sept. 28) and discussion of timing of additional interviews to be scheduled –
 - a. The Chair asked committee members to consider questions by the committee’s next meeting on September 15, for the interview with Mayor Simmons on Sept. 28. Commissioner Williams submitted two questions – (1) Do you see any hindrances in the Charter regarding your ability to run the city, and, (2) Since the Mayor is elected in early November, and takes office in early December, is that sufficient time to appoint a cabinet, or would it be better if the newly elected Mayor took office on January 1?
 - b. There was further discussion of time allocation for the current and prior Mayors. It was agreed that Mayor Simmons would have thirty minutes, and the prior Mayors would have twenty minutes. Since the Sept. 28 meeting will be an in-person meeting at the Government Center, it was agreed that a hybrid approach

would be used (in-person and via Zoom) as each Mayor and Commissioner preferred. The Chair will work with Ms. Rosenson and Ms. Hughes in this regard.

- c. It was agreed that the Chair would extend an invitation to the Board of Representatives leadership to one of the committee's meetings in October, November, or December.

5. Continuing our workload:

- a) 31 – Change the language regarding Oaths to match the State statute –

The committee reviewed the current language regarding administering oaths in the Stamford Charter ("You, _____ having been chosen _____ of Stamford, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that you will faithfully discharge the duties of said office according to law, so help you God."), and possibly appropriate language in the State Constitution

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_004.htm#TOC

(You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, your duties as ... to the best of your abilities; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.)

By a vote of 3-0, the committee agreed we should keep the current language as there was no perceived benefit in changing to the State language.

- b) 112 - Give Board of Representatives ability to amend charter by a $\frac{3}{4}$ supermajority vote, which could then be voted on by public referendum -

The committee thought that CRC Counsel to-be-hired should advise on this matter.

- c) 16 - Allow the President of the Board of Representatives to issue oath of office –

The committee thought that the Mayor, the Town Clerk, and the President of the Board of Representatives should each be able to issue the oath of office. The committee would like the opinion of the CRC Counsel to-be-hired on this matter before finalizing its decision.

- d) 19 - Clarify that the Mayor may issue the oath of office (might be a separate Section; make consistent with State law)

The committee thought that the Mayor, the Town Clerk, and the President of the Board of Representatives should each be able to issue the oath of office. The committee would like the opinion of the CRC Counsel to-be-hired on this matter before finalizing its decision.

- e) 96 - Board of Representatives should have term limits of 3-4 terms

The committee thought that CRC Counsel to-be-hired should advise on this matter.

- f) 97 - Halve the number of members on the Board of Representatives, either by having one per district or reducing the number of districts to 10

The committee will seek the input of the Board of Representatives leadership when the committee meets with them.

- g) 98 – Give the members of the Representative staggered terms, so $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Board is elected every 2 years

Commissioner McMullen proposed the following language:

“Beginning with the 2025 biennial election, two members of the Board of Representatives shall be elected by the qualified electors of each of the voting districts of the City. The two candidates in each district receiving the greatest number of votes in their district shall be deemed elected. The candidate with the highest vote will serve a 4 year term and the candidate with the second highest vote will serve a 2 year term. Beginning with the 2027 biennial election, any political party may nominate one candidate in each of the voting districts of the City for membership on the Board of Representatives. The candidate with the highest vote will serve a 4 year term. Each Representative at the time of election shall be a resident of the district from which he or she is elected.”

(Referendum 11-8-1960; Referendum 11-8-1977; Referendum 11-7-1995)

The committee was favorable to this language, and it wants input from the Board of Representatives leadership, and the CRC attorney-to-be-hired, before making a decision.

6. Next meeting date – September 15, in-person at the Government Center
7. Unfinished Business – there was none
8. New Business – there was none
9. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.