

CITY OF STAMFORD 19TH CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION ELECTED OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

Anthony Pramberger, Jr., Chair

Members

Michael Larobina
Thomas Lombardo
J.R. McMullen
Jackie Pioli

Wednesday, October 19, 2022, Meeting

Meeting Report

This meeting was held in person at the Government Center and via Zoom

1. The meeting was Called to Order at 5:10 pm by the Chair.
2. Roll Call – Present in person were Commissioners Lombardo, Pioli, McMullen, and Bowser; Board of Education members Chery, Duplaise, Esses, George, Hamman and Heftman. Present via Zoom were Commissioners Lane, Halpern, and Chair Pramberger.
3. The following suggestions were made from Board of Education (BOE) regarding the Charge of the Charter Revision Commission:
 - I. The resignation process from the BOE- Clarify who is notified, when is it effective, when can it be withdrawn?
 - a. Commissioner McMullen noted that resignations are covered in the Charter (Sec. C5-20-19).
 - II. Allow the Board of Education to retain its own counsel – the general consensus was that this was not in the best interests of the BOE or the city, although several members wanted access to an attorney with experience in education when needed.
 - III. Minority representation on the BOE – it was suggested that instead of a 6 (majority)-3(minority) relationship, that this be changed to 5-4 to create greater equity for the minority party. It was not clear if this were allowed by state statute. We would need to review with outside counsel.
 - IV. District-based BOE elections- there was a suggestion that it would be better if BOE members were elected on a district basis. It was agreed that the logistics around this would not be workable.
4. Seeking input from Board of Education on specific issues:
 - a. Elected Officials Committee

- i. Review having terms for Board of Education members be four years – several members thought the logistics would be difficult; one member agreed; one suggested it be brought into kilter with Boards of Finance and Representatives.
 - ii. Consideration of term limits – the majority of the BOE was not in favor of this, some noting that it is already difficult to get people to serve. One member was in favor. Another stated that if this went into effect, the limit should be four terms or twelve years.
 - iii. Commissioner Michelson - It seems that any line-item cuts in the BOE budget don't have to be cut by the BOE in that line item but can be apportioned to one or more other line items; verification is needed. This is different from the city budget line-item cuts. So, to the extent that a line item that is of concern is cut, could this be a Charter change to prohibit this practice, if it exists, because it goes against the city side budgeting practice? – Ms. Heftman noted that in the State Statute, Sec. 10-222, Appropriations and budget, it is allowable: “The money appropriated by any municipality for the maintenance of public schools shall be expended by and in the discretion of the board of education.”
5. Continuing our workload:
 - a. Input from outside counsel – it was agreed that the Chair will recirculate the list that the Committee developed, and each member would review for accuracy and potential items of inclusion.
 - b. Our own ideas – item held.
6. The Meeting Notes of October 6, 2022, were approved unanimously.
7. Upcoming meetings:
 - November 3 (Mayor Simmons is confirmed; Commissioner Lombardo has reached out to former Mayors Serrani, Esposito, Malloy, Pavia and Martin; he is awaiting their reply); 16
 - December 1 (Chair will be away); 15
 - It was agreed that the Chair will develop a draft meeting calendar for 2023
8. Remaining invitations to be issued – it was agreed that this committee would join the City Departments Committee to interview City and Town Clark, Lyda Ruijter. No other invitations are needed at this time.
9. Unfinished Business – the committee reviewed the following Charge items:
 - a. 115 – Consider how other cities are governed, i.e. Austin- it was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that we have considered this request and have decided not to pursue it, as it is not markedly different that the present system.
 - b. 116 – Zero base government structure - it was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that after discussion and consideration, we have decided not to pursue this request.

- c. 117 – Replace Board of Representatives with City Council – this item was discussed further; it was agreed that the Chair would send Mr. Jacobsen an email seeking clarity on how such a City Council would function, and what would happen to the Mayor and the elected Boards (e.g., Finance, Representatives) now in the city.
10. New Business – there was a discussion of the status of the items in the Charge of this committee. It was agreed that the items would be placed in the following Status categories: A= Approved/ in agreement; D= Declined; in disagreement; C= Requires input from outside Counsel; I= Investigate further; M=Move to Charter Revision Commission for vote. It was agreed that the Chair would assemble this list and circulate in advance of the next committee meeting.
11. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

This meeting is available on [video](#).