

**CITY OF STAMFORD
19TH CHARTER REVISION
COMMISSION
CITY DEPARTMENTS COMMITTEE**

CLEMON WILLIAMS, CHAIR

MEMBERS

FRANCES LANE

THOMAS LOMBARDO

JR MCMULLEN

ANTHONY PRAMBERGER

AGENDA

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

7:00pm

*This meeting will be conducted remotely and can be accessed by
computer, tablet or smartphone at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85800400337>
or at www.zoom.com – Webinar ID 858 0040 0337
or by telephone at 1-646-558-8656 – Webinar ID 858 0040 0337*

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Review of language provided on issues:
 - A. C5-20-3 – Review whether the Board of Representatives, Board of Education and Board of Finance should have their own legal counsel. Language provided by Attorney Mednick is contained in Attachment 1.
 - B. C5-20-20 – Review residency requirement language for the following positions: The Chief of Police, The Fire Chief, Corporation Counsel, Director of Human Resources The Director of Operations, and The Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare. Language provided by Attorney Mednick is contained in Attachment 2.
 - C. New language for Charge §10 C, § 10 D, § 10 E, § 10 F, and § 10 G. All of these deal with adding ADA language to the Charter. For discussion we will discuss Attachment C which are changes to the Charter to address the issues.
4. Approve Minutes from Special Meeting on February 7, 2023
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

Attachment #1

Sec. C2-10-3. [Legal Assistance and Investigatory Functions.](#)

~~(1)~~ **Funds for Investigation¹.**

~~(1)~~ The Board of Representatives shall have authority, by a two-thirds (2/3^{rds}) vote of its entire membership, to incur any expenses which it deems necessary or advisable, in connection with any investigation authorized under Section C2-10-2 of this Charter. Expenses so incurred shall be paid by the Office of Administration on warrant issued by the Mayor and counter-signed by the Clerk of the Board of Representatives. The Board of Representatives may, by a two-thirds (2/3^{rds}) vote of its entire membership, appropriate funds to cover expenses incurred pursuant to this Section without request for such appropriation by any officer of any department of the City, other than the Board of Representatives.

(2) [Legal and Other Professional Assistance².](#) [The President of the Board of Representatives may execute all contracts approved by a majority vote of the entire Board for experts and professional advisors and consultants, including the assistance of outside counsel, where such services are necessary or convenient to the performance by the Board of its legislative functions and duties, including any case or controversy, in rendering an opinion pertaining to legislative function or duties or appearing in any proceeding on behalf of the Board. Such contracts shall be binding upon the City. Prior to any vote the President shall consult with the Corporation Counsel for the sole purpose of ensuring there are no legal, ethical or positional conflicts between the outside counsel and the City. In furtherance of this authority the Annual Budget shall include a line-item for said purpose; or, in the event there are insufficient funds available for the retention of counsel, the Board of Representatives may, by Resolution, appropriate or transfer monies to pay the fees and costs of such counsel.](#)

Sec. C5-20-3. Legal Functions³.

The Corporation Counsel shall act as legal advisor of the City, the Mayor, the Boards of Representatives, Finance and Education and all other Officers, Departments, Boards, Commissions, Authorities, Agencies and Bureaus in matters relating to their official duties. The Corporation Counsel or his/her designee shall appear for and protect the rights and interests of the City in all actions and proceedings brought by or against it or any of the municipal Officials, Departments, Boards, Commissions, Authorities, Agencies and Employees. The Officers, Departments, Boards, Commissions, Authorities, Agencies and Employees shall not employ other counsel, [except as otherwise provided in this Charter.](#) The Corporation Counsel shall have charge of all appeals in which the City or any Officer, Department, Board, Commission, Authority, Agency or Employee thereof is

Cont: Attachment #1

¹Referendum 11-3-1959; Referendum 11-7-1995. **Editor's note**—Former Sec. C2-10-3, Vacancy, was repealed by referendum vote 11-7-1995. Note(s)—Formerly Sec. C2-10-19.

² [NEW \(2024\)](#)

³ Referendum 11-8-1977; Referendum 11-3-1987; Referendum 11-7-1995; Referendum 11-2-2004; Referendum 11-6-2012

involved. Subject to the approval of the Mayor and within the appropriation therefor, the Corporation Counsel shall have the power to compromise any claim by or against the City. The Corporation Counsel shall prepare all forms of contracts and other instruments in which the City is concerned, and shall in all respects act as attorney for the City, its Officers, Departments, Boards, Commissions, Authorities and Agencies. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Representatives may, by ~~resolution jointly presented by the Majority Leader, Minority Leader, the President and Clerk and approved by the affirmative vote of not less than thirty-one (31) members, retain independent counsel to represent the Board of Representatives with respect to a specific case or controversy in rendering opinions and appearing in any proceeding and may appropriate monies to pay the fees and costs of such counsel.~~ Resolution, retain outside counsel for the reasons and in the manner set forth in Section C2-10-3(2) of this Charter.

Attachment #2 (To be provided by Attorney Mednick)

Attachment #3

Preamble:

Current:

PREAMBLE

[SHARE LINK TO SECTIONPRINT SECTIONDOWNLOAD \(DOCX\) OF SECTIONEMAIL SECTIONCOMPARE VERSIONS](#)

The Citizens of the City of Stamford shall have all the rights, privileges and protections provided by the City Charter and all Federal and State law, to include:

1.

The right to an open and accessible government including reasonable access to City records and information and reasonable access to City officials and employees to conduct business with the City.

2.

Subject to State law, the right to observe meetings and hearings of all City Boards, Commissions and Committees and to make reasonable public comment at public hearings.

3.

The right to have elected and governmental employees conduct business in accordance with the City Code of Ethics.

(Referendum 11-6-2012)

Here is some language that can be added to the Preamble:

All residents and visitors to the City of Stamford shall have an equal opportunity to participate fully in the economic, cultural, and intellectual life of the City and to have an equal opportunity to participate in all activities. To this end, discrimination is prohibited based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender expression, marital status, military status, or disability.

The provisions of this Charter shall help ensure that all people living in our city are fully and responsibly represented, including democrats, republicans, and unaffiliated voters. That the city is committed to diversity and inclusion in all municipal functions and will protect the human, civil, and voting rights of every citizen. The city is committed to providing a safe, clean, and healthy environment for its citizens, employees, and visitors and to taking measures to protect them against external and internal threats, be they physical or cyber. As a waterfront community whose wellbeing is inextricably tied to that of sustainable of the Long Island Sound, the city shall commit to a healthy, sustainable, and resilient environment and to safeguard against the effects of adverse weather and sea level rise.

