

# CITY OF STAMFORD

## 19<sup>TH</sup> CHARTER REVISION

### COMMISSION

Members  
**JEANETTE BILICZNIANSKI**  
**CYNTHIA BOWSER**  
**KAREN CAMPOREALE**  
**SUE HALPERN**  
**FRANCES LANE**  
**MICHAEL LAROBINA**

Steven Kolenberg, Co-Chair  
Thomas Lombardo, Co-Chair  
Jackie Pioli, Clerk

Members  
**STEVEN LOEB**  
**ALEX MARTINEZ**  
**J.R. MCMULLEN**  
**SHELLEY MICHELSON**  
**ANTHONY PRAMBERGER, JR.**  
**CLEMON WILLIAMS**

#### UPDATED MEETING REPORT Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:00 p.m.

This meeting was held remotely at the above date and time. Present were Commissioners Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Kolenberg, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger and Williams; and Attorneys Mednick and Roberts.

1. Chair Lombardo called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. Chair Lombardo requested the clerk take attendance of those present on Zoom. A quorum was confirmed to proceed; Commissioner Camporeale joined the meeting at 7:42pm.
3. Commissioner Halpern led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Communication and Correspondence: The Chair confirmed with members that everyone received Updated Charge information from Attorney Mednick.
5. Finance Committee Report. Commissioner Shelley Michelson shared that Finance Committee met on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The committee brought forward six charges to remove from the master list, Charge Numbers: **36,37,38,29,72** and **74**. Commissioner Michelson moved the six charges (described below) collectively to the floor for a vote. Seconded by Commissioner Martinez.

Charge Number	Charter Section	Description	Committee Report Status	Commission Action
36	C5-50-2(c)	Consider revising the section, as it does not work with the purchasing ordinance bid waiver process.	Previously reviewed, works as intended -no change necessary.	Charge Removed 13-0-1
37	C5-50-2(d)	Consider revising – estimate should be furnished to the Director of Administration Previously reviewed – works as intended	no change necessary	Charge Removed 13-0-1
38	C5-50-2(d)(2)	Consider revising – the Certificate should come from the Director of Operations	Previously reviewed – works as intended no change necessary.	Charge Removed 13-0-1
39	C5-50-2	Consider revising – section should be clarified	Previously reviewed – works as intended - no change necessary.	Charge Removed 13-0-1

72	C7-10-8	Review whether this section is applicable	Creates Police and Fire Pension Funds, Section is applicable, no change necessary.	Charge Removed 13-0-1
74	C-8-30-4	Consider having the BOE budget process earlier to allow earlier hiring of teachers	Although a legal opinion is supportive, Dr. Lucero and her team felt that SPS has sufficient recruitment practices available to render this unnecessary.	Charge Removed 13-0-1

The motion to remove these items from the charge was approved by a vote of 13-0-1 (Commissioners Bowser, Halpern, Kolenberg, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor; Commissioner Bilicznianski abstaining)

Next Commissioner Michelson discussed Charge Number **73**; as described below, to develop a Biennial Budget. Commission members discussed this proposal with Attorneys Mednick and Roberts, who noted that the City would still have to approve a mill rate each year. It was noted that an incoming mayor could be stuck with the prior mayor's budget.

Charge Number	Charter Section	Description	Committee Report Status	Commission Action
73	C8-30-2	Develop a biennial budget similar to the State of Connecticut	Committee discussion required; interviewees had sharp differences of opinion, Admin, BOE & grants in favor, BOF, BOR against, Yanik says premature.	Charge Rejected 10-1-3

Commissioner Michelson moved to reject Charge **73**, seconded by Commissioner Loeb. The motion to reject **Charge No. 73** was approved by a vote 10-1-3 (Commissioners Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, Michelson, Pramberger, and Williams in favor; Commissioner Kolenberg opposed; Commissioners Bilicznianski, Pioli, and McMullen asbstaining).

Commissioner Michelson shared that the committee still must review items on the charge list with Attorney Mednick. The committee also must review items related to pensions.

6. Appointed Boards and Commissions Committee Report: Commissioner Michael Larobina provided the committee report; the committee met December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Government Center. They reviewed items with the Social Services Commission and the Health Commission. The committee had a special meeting with the Director of Stamford Senior Center and Director of Social Services and felt there are some things that they can do with respect to the Health Commission and the Social Services Commission.
7. Elected Officials Committee Report: Commissioner Pramberger stated the committee met on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The committee brought forward four charges to remove from the master list, Charge Numbers **11,28,97** and **117**.

Commissioner Pramberger moved to reject charge **11**, as described below, Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Commissioner Pramberger noted that the Committee recommended not to change the Charter. Commissioners noted that having 9 members with 3 sets of 3 year terms made sense.

<b>Charge Number</b>	<b>Charter Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Report Status</b>	<b>Commission Action</b>
11	C1-80-5	Review having terms for Board of Education members be 4 years	The committee voted 4-0 to keep the BOE terms to three years and make no change to the existing Charter.	Charge rejected 14-0-0

The motion to reject charge **11** was approved by a vote of 14-0-0 (Commissioners Bilicznianski, Camporeale, Halpern, Kolenberg, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

Commissioner Pramberger then moved to approve Charge Number **28**, as described below. Committee Lane seconded the motion. Commissioner Pramberger noted that the Committee recommended this change to the Charter. Commissioner discussed that being Corporation Counsel for the City is complex and requires significant legal experience. Attorney Mednick noted that there is only a 10 year requirement for counsel for removal of an elected official for the Board of Representatives. He is not recommending a standard for the Board of Representatives generally. Commissioners discussed whether all of the Corporation Counsel's experience needs to be in Connecticut if they are a member of the Connecticut bar and that there are no other position qualifications set out in the Charter

<b>Charge Number</b>	<b>Charter Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Report Status</b>	<b>Commission Action</b>
28	C5-20-2	Review whether years of experience for Corporation Counsel and counsel assigned to Board of Representatives (C1-90-1) should be uniform	After discussion and deliberation, the committee voted 4-0 that years of experience for Corporation Counsel and counsel assigned to Board of Representatives should be uniform	No action taken – Returned to Committee

The motion to approve Charge Number **28** was withdrawn on the floor and sent back to the committee.

Commissioner Pramberger moved to reject Charge Number **97**, as described below. Committee Camporeale seconded the motion. Commissioner Pramberger noted that the Committee did not recommend this change to the Charter.

<b>Charge Number</b>	<b>Charter Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Report Status</b>	<b>Commission Action</b>
97	C1-70-3; C1-70-4; C1-80-1	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 reviewed and deliberated further on item 97. An initial vote failed 1-3 to approve this item. With subsequent discussion, the committee agreed to bring this item to the full Commission at its next meeting and voted 4-0 to do so	Charge rejected 14-0-0

The motion to reject charge **97** was approved by a vote of 14-0-0 (Commissioners Bilicznianski, Camporeale, Halpern, Kolenberg, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

Commissioner Pramberger moved to reject Charge Number **117**, as described below. Committee Camporeale seconded the motion. Commissioner Pramberger noted that the Committee did not recommend this change to the Charter. Committee members discussed that they were not clear about the benefit of this change. It would result in the elimination of the Board of Finance. It was noted that state statute does not require a Board of Finance.

Charge Number	Charter Section	Description	Committee Report Status	Commission Action
117		Replace Board of Representatives with City Council	The committee voted 4-0 not to pursue this item, and to move it to the Commission for a vote.	Charge rejected 13-0-0

The motion to reject charge **117** was approved by a vote of 14-0-0 (Commissioners Bilicznianski, Camporeale, Halpern, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

8. City Departments Committee Report: Commissioner Williams stated the committee met December 21<sup>st</sup> and went through all of the charges and made recommendations as to what we wanted to do with the various items. The next meeting is February 7<sup>th</sup>.
9. Land Use Committee Report: Commissioner Loeb had no report.
10. Old Business: Old Business was not discussed; All members were able ask to question during the committee reports.
11. Election of the Vice Chair: Commissioner Pramberger nominated Commissioner Larobina; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. There being no other nominations, Commissioner Larobina was selected as Vice Chair by unanimous vote.
12. Approval of meeting minutes. Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14<sup>th</sup> minutes with noted corrections. Commissioner Pramberger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
13. New Business: The next meeting will be on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.
14. Co-Chair Kolenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lane and passed unanimously.

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