

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING

June 13, 2022

PRESENT Chair Don Bell, Deb Arrieta, Richard Bates, Shelby Brown, Tom Rup, Travis Simpson, Eric Thompson, Angel Santiago and Marcia Leclerc

ABSENT

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting was called to order at 7:26 pm by Commission Chair Don Bell to take action on the proposed changes provided by the Town Council to the East Hartford Charter as contained in a document entitled Town Council Recommendations dated May 16, 2022 and vote to submit the submit Charter Revision Commission's final report, including proposed Charter amendments as required by Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-191(c).

Approval of May 31, 2022 Minutes

MOTION By Marcia Leclerc
seconded by Tom Rup
to **approve** the May 31, 2022 Charter Revision Commission Workshop Minutes.

Motion carried 9/0.

Review of Town Council Recommendations to CRC Draft Report

Chair Bell provided the Commission with the opportunity to speak in response to the recommendations provided by the Town Council during the combined meeting between the Council and Commissioners. The Commission and Council agreed in principle to modify the Charter by incorporating "Town Council" as a term throughout the document for clarity, however the process of taking action on executing the change according to statute remains in question.

The Commission reviewed CT Gen Stat § 7-191, focused on subsection (c). The Chair then read section 7-191(c) in its entirety which reads as follows:

(c) "If the appointing authority makes no recommendations for changes in the draft report to the commission within such fifteen days, the report of the commission shall be final and the appointing authority shall act on such report. If the appointing authority makes recommendations for changes in the draft report to the commission, the commission shall confer with the appointing authority concerning any such recommendations and may amend any provisions of the proposed charter, charter amendments or home rule ordinance amendments, in accordance with such

recommendations, or the commission may reject such recommendations. In either case the commission shall make its final report to the appointing authority not later than thirty days after receiving such recommendations.”

The Chair stated that the Commission has the ability to amend the Charter, but they must be in accordance with the Council recommendations in whole or to reject the recommendations in whole. The Chair feels that this recommendation should not be rejected in whole based on the technical change in question.

The Commission debated the merits of the grammatical changes of proposing changes as provided by Town Council and while the consensus at the previous joint meeting appeared to be in agreement that the technical change was supported, because no formal motion was made during that joint meeting by the Council, the Commission was unsure if the proposed change could be made effective at this point in the revision process.

The Commission reviewed § 7-191(d) which states:

d) “Not later than fifteen days after receiving the final report, the appointing authority, by a majority vote of its entire membership, shall either approve the proposed charter, charter amendments or home rule ordinance amendments or reject the same or separate provisions thereof.”

The Chair proposed that the Commission first adopt the changes proposed by the Town Council, then propose a second motion that addresses the references to “Town Council”, and then vote to submit the final report.

MOTION By Marcia Leclerc
seconded by Tom Rup
to **approve** the proposed changes to the East Hartford Charter as contained in a document entitled Town Council Recommendations dated May 16, 2022.

Motion carried 9/0.

MOTION By Rich Bates
seconded by Deb Arrieta
to **amend** the Charter Revision’s report to provide that all references to the Town Council throughout the Charter be written as the “Town Council”, and to strike from section 3.1 “hereinafter referred to as the Council.”

Motion carried 9/0.

MOTION By Marcia Leclerc
seconded by Deb Arrieta
that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-191(c) the Charter Revision Commission submit its final report, including proposed Charter amendments, to the East Hartford Town Council.

Motion carried 9/0.

The Chair expressed his gratitude again to the Commission for their thoroughness and patience in the effort to assure that the Charter is the best document it can be in service of the residents of East Hartford.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Eric Thompson
 seconded by Rich Bates
 to **adjourn** (8:22 p.m.)

Motion carried 9/0.