

**TOWN OF CROMWELL  
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 10, 2017  
7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL ROOM 222**

RECEIVED FOR FILING  
7/11/2017 at 8:54 A.M.  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
CROMWELL, CONN.

*Gloria Brendersgast, Asst.*  
TOWN CLERK

**A. CALL TO ORDER** Mike Camilleri called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following other members also present Karen Spotts, Paul Beaulieu, and Mike Cannata. Shirley Banic arrived at 7:08 p.m.

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Paul Beaulieu made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Mike Cannata. The motion was approved unanimously.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - June 8, 2017 meeting - Karen Spotts made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Mike Cannata. Mike Camilleri abstained, but the motion otherwise passed unanimously.

**D. CORRESPONDENCE** - Mike Camilleri read excerpts from an e-mail from Anthony Amenta, Charter Revision Commission member who couldn't be present tonight, sharing his thoughts on the agenda items. Mike Camilleri also read excerpts from a memorandum from Attorney Kari Olsen regarding the appointment of the Town Clerk and Tax Collector positions as proposed by the Commission. The memo concludes as follows: "Given all of the foregoing analysis, with special emphasis on the lack of any precedent to the contrary, we believe that the Town of Cromwell can adopt a Charter which changes the formerly elected positions of Town Clerk and Town Tax Collector to appointed positions with an effective date of January 1, 2018."

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS -**

Darlene DiProto, 18 Shady Lane, Cromwell. Darlene DiProto spoke in favor of having the Town Clerk and Tax Collector positions as appointed positions. She noted that the positions have become more complex over the years. Takes 3 years to certify a Town Clerk. It will be difficult to get qualified people who have the knowledge and ability to serve in the position. There are over 520+ statutes for which the Town Clerk is responsible.

Stan Stachura, 47 Geer St. Stan Stachura recommends 3 year terms for Town Council members. He believes 4 year terms do more harm than good.

Alice Kelly, 47 Willowbrook Rd, Cromwell. Alice Kelly believes that Town Clerk and Tax Collector should be appointed as of November 2019 so they can serve out the two-year terms for which they were elected.

Bob Jahn, 3 Woodside Rd - Bob Jahn noted that there it is not clear whether the annual town message referenced in section 2.03 and the annual town report noted in section 3.04(7) are the same documents.

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion and actions regarding recommendations from Town Council regarding proposed Town Charter

The Commission discussed the length of terms for all Council members including the Mayor.

Mike Cannata made a motion, which was seconded by Shirley Banic to recommend to the Town Council to consider the following two options: (1) send the full proposed revised Charter to the voters as one vote or (2) send three questions regarding the Charter to the voters (one each for the appointment of Town Clerk/Tax Collector, 4 terms for the Council members, including the Mayor, and one for the remaining revisions of the Charter). The vote passed 4-1 with Paul Beaulieu opposing. *Note:* this motion was superseded by a motion later on in the meeting.

The Commission then discussed what should be the required quorum for Council members to hold a meeting- 4 or 5 members. Karen Spotts made a motion which was seconded by Paul Beaulieu to have a quorum of 4 members. The motion was approved 3-2, with Shirley Banic and Mike Cannata opposing the motion.

The Commission discussed the annual state of the Town message and the annual report raised by Bob Jahn during public comments.

Mike Cannata made a motion, which was seconded by Paul Beaulieu to add "which will accompany the Annual Town Report set forth in Section 3.04(7)" in Section 2.03 after the reference to the Mayor's message. The motion was unanimously approved.

Paul Beaulieu made a motion, which was seconded by Shirley Banic to have 2 year terms for the Council members including the Mayor. The vote was 3-2 with Karen Spotts and Mike Cannata opposing the motion.

Paul Beaulieu made a motion, which was seconded by Shirley Banic to send the revised Charter back to the Council in its entirety without the suggested option of multiple votes on different aspects of the Charter. The motion was approved 4-1 with Mike Cannata opposing the motion.

## **2. Discussion and actions regarding next steps, including action on approved revised Town Charter to be sent back to Town Council**

Paul Beaulieu made a motion, which was seconded by Mike Cannata to recommend to the Council approval of the revised charter as discussed by the Commission this evening allowing the Council to make any non-substantive clean-up changes that they discover during their final review and to send the revised charter to the voters for the November municipal election. The motion was approved unanimously.

**G. ADJOURNMENT.** Paul Beaulieu made a motion, which was seconded by Mike Cannata to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Camilleri