

TOWN OF CROMWELL
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
APRIL 7, 2016
7:00 PM TOWN HALL ROOM 122

RECEIVED FOR FILING
4-12 2016 at 8:30 A.M.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
CROMWELL, CONN.

Lee Cannata
TOWN CLERK

MINUTES

Present: Anthony Amenta, Paul Beaulieu, Michael Cannata, Michael Camilleri, Karen Spotts, Marie Roberto, and Shirley Banic

Absent:

Also Present: Mayor Enzo Faienza, Town Manager Anthony Salvatore, Joseph Corlis

A. Call To Order

Mayor Enzo Faienza called the meeting to order at **7:02 pm**.

B. Roll Call

The above members were noted.

C. Approval of Agenda

Paul Beaulieu made a **motion** to approve the agenda. Anthony Amenta **seconded** the motion. *All were in favor; motion passes.*

D. Public Comments

None at this time.

E. New Business

1. Election of Officers

Paul Beaulieu made a **motion** to nominate Michael Camilleri for Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission. Anthony Amenta **seconded** the motion. Shirley Banic expressed interest in nominating Paul Beaulieu, but according to Robert's Rules of Order a vote needed to occur on the first nomination. *All were in favor; motion passes.*

Michael Camilleri was elected Chairman of the Charter Review Commission.

Michael Cannata made a **motion** to nominate Paul Beaulieu for Vice Chairman of the Charter Review Commission. Shirley Banic **seconded** the motion. *All were in favor; motion passes.*

Paul Beaulieu was elected Vice Chairman of the Charter Review Commission.

Anthony Amenta made a **motion** to nominate Shirley Banic for Secretary of the Charter Review Commission. Karen Spotts **seconded** the motion. *All were in favor; motion passes.*

Shirley Banic has been elected Secretary of the Charter Review Commission.

2. Schedule of Meetings

Chairman Michael Camilleri noted that the Council suggested that the Commission goal prepare the charter for the November elections. Anthony Amenta asked if there were any charges from the Mayor's office. Mayor Enzo Faienza noted that the town attorney will participate in these meetings to provide feedback and aid. Mayor Faienza said that a list of charges will be prepared for the Commission to consider.

Marie Roberto recommended the Commission schedule consistent meetings ahead of time so that the public who are interested will be able to attend. Paul Beaulieu noted that in order for the charter revision to be on the ballot it will need to be approved by August. Michael Cannata suggested bi-monthly meetings. Mayor Faienza stated that, with the lawyer to help with the wording, the process does move quickly.

A discussion ensued about the availability of each board member.

Chairman Camilleri suggested the Commission meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7 pm. The Commission decided that the next meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday May 4th at 7 pm followed by Wednesday May 18th at 7 pm. The Commission also decided that the first Public Hearing should be held during the Commission's next meeting Wednesday May 4th at 7 pm in order to receive public feedback about possible changes to the Town Charter.

Chairman Camilleri called for a motion to set the meeting schedule. Paul Beaulieu made a **motion** to have the Charter Review Commission meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm with the first meeting occurring on Wednesday May 4th at 7 pm. Marie Roberto **seconded** the motion. *All were in favor; motion passes.*

3. Discussion of Charter Revision Process and Timeline

Mayor Enzo Faienza briefly reviewed the basic steps for the charter revision process.

4. Discussion of Charter Revision

Paul Beaulieu observed that the last charter revision was very successful. Paul Beaulieu requested that some staff be made available to discuss any aspects of the charter that relate to their departments. Town Manager Salvatore said that the departments had been contacted and that several staff members had already come forward with some ideas. Chairman Camilleri requested that they be invited to the May 18th meeting to personally discuss their ideas with the Commission. Paul requested Maryann from

Finance and Karen Spotts recommended the Tax Collector and Town Clerk be invited to start at the May 18th meeting.

Mayor Faienza stated that the Commission will receive recommendations from the Town Manager and others that they can discuss but will not be required to adopt them. Mayor Faience stated that the Commission's charge is to take this charter and find ways to make it better. Marie Roberto suggested that the Commission should focus on the technical issues or inconsistencies before tackling the broader issues or procedural problems. Town Manager Salvatore stated that they will attempt to have a list of the issues that have been brought to them and the way that the problems are currently being addressed for the commission to review. Chairman Camilleri asked about significant opportunities for changes. Town Manager asked to revisit this discussion on the 18th to allow others to come forward and express their ideas. Mayor Faienza concurred that he would like to wait until the May 18th meeting to have heard from the public about their concerns.

Marie Roberto brought up how the public will have access to the Town Charter prior to the public hearing. Mayor Faience noted that the charter is online and in the library. Chairman Camilleri requested a hyperlink be included in the notice to the public.

F. Adjournment

Anthony Amenta made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Paul Beaulieu **seconded** the motion. *All were in favor; the motion passes.* The meeting was adjourned at **7:42 pm**.

Respectfully Submitted,



Abby Marchinkoski
Recording Clerk