

**CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 9, 2023
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT**

VIA ZOOM

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel.

Specific instructions and links can be found at norwalkct.gov/meetings

Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.

Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Zulma Roundtree at zroundtree@norwalkct.gov to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Patsy Brescia, Chair; Carl Dickens; Tyler Fairbairn;
Benita Watford Raleigh; Angela Wasunna;
Michael Witherspoon (6:17 p.m.); Richard McQuaid (6:55 p.m.)

OTHERS: Steven Mednick, Commission Counsel

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Brescia called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Brescia called the Roll as indicated above. A Quorum was present.

Mr. Mednick noted that Mr. McQuaid has a family obligation. His son is getting married, but he will join by phone so he can participate in the final vote.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present this evening who wished to comment.

IV. FINAL REVIEW AND DELIBERATE ON THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Mednick shared his screen and reviewed the changes that were made to the Charter since the last meeting. He reviewed scrivener's corrections and changes throughout the Charter.

Mr. Dickens noticed a Transition provision for the Board of Education. The Commissioners agreed to remove that provision.

Mr. Witherspoon joined the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Mr. Mednick highlighted Section 5-4 Hindering, Resisting or Abuse of the Mayor, Penalties. The Commissioners discussed the vagueness of this Provision.

**** MS. WATFORD RALEIGH MOVED TO REMOVE SECTION 5-4
** MR. FAIRBAIRN SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Mednick continued to review the changes that were made to the Charter since the last meeting. He briefly pointed out the section with the Library Director's position.

Mr. Mednick reviewed the section on the definition of Department Heade and Directo Reports to the Division Chiefs. The positions of Division Chiefs are now included in the revised Charter. Ms. Brescia said that she understood the idea behind creating Division Chiefs was to streamline the functions.

Mr. Mednick said the members of the Common Council raised the issue of some of the numbers under Specific Purpose Appropriation. He said he talked to the CFO who said they really have 60 days. The Commissioners agreed to go from 30 days to 60 days.

Mr. Mednick reviewed 10-21, Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Estimate, which required holding public hearings. Ms. Brescia said this is very significant and was done in response to public comment.

The last section discussed was 11-5 – Effective Date of the Charter. Following a discussion, the Commissioners agreed to an effective date of January 1, 2024.

**** MR. DICKENS MOVED THAT THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CHARTER
WILL BE JANUARY 1, 2024
** MR. WITHERSPOON SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

V. APPROVE FINAL REPORT

Mr. McQuaid joined the meeting by phone at 6:55 p.m.

**** MR. DICKENS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE CHARTER AS PRESENTED**
**** MR. WITHERSPOON SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MS. BRESCIA;
MR. DICKENS; MR. FAIRBAIRN; MR. MCQUAID; MS. WASUNNA; MS.
WATFORD RALEIGH; MR. WITHERSPOON)**

VI. DISCUSSION OF THE REMAINING STEPS IN THE PROCESS

Mr. Mednick will create the transmittal letter. Ms. Brescia asked him to include the addition of public hearings and gender neutrality throughout the document. Mr. Mednick will send the letter to Ms. Brescia and the Commissioners.

Ms. Brescia thanked the Commissioners and said she enjoyed working with everyone. She said she scheduled meetings with the First, Second and Third Taxing Districts and is working on a date with the Sixth Taxing District. She said it would be wonderful if any Commissioners would join her for these meetings. She also urged everyone to reach out to the Community to talk about the new Charter.

Ms. Brescia thanked Mr. Mednick for his hard work. Mr. Mednick said this was a wonderful group to work with and Ms. Brescia was a terrific leader.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. FAIRBAIRN MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MS. WASUNNA SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services