



City of Ansonia

253 Main Street
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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Elizabeth Lynch
Asst. TOWN AND CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

March 28, 2013

Regular Meeting

Present: John Marini, Chairman
Patrick Henri
David Knapp
William Luneski
Janet Vitarius Waugh
Lorie Vaccaro

Absent: Keicia Duffus
John Erlingheuser
Christopher Lisi

Others Present: Mayor James Della Volpe
Scott Nihill, Alderman – 6th Ward
Joan Radin, Alderwoman - 5th Ward
Charles Stowe, Alderman – 2nd Ward
Tara Kolakowski, Gov. Liaison Officer
Eileen Krugel, Grant Writer

The regular meeting of the Ansonia Charter Revision Commission was called to order at 7:17 p.m. by Chairman Marini.

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

The secretary called the roll.

There was a quorum present.

CharterRev032813

Public Session

Chairman Marini asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the Commission.

Charles Stowe
23 Granite Terrace
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Stowe read the agenda and stated that he had asked to have a resolution included on the agenda to discuss raising taxes over 1 ½ % budgeted.

Chairman Marini said that the agenda list is from the public forum.

Mr. Stowe discussed funding for the City and raising taxes. He said the City is losing grants and funding and we have to raise the taxes. He said what if it takes double the amount to meet the needs of the City. Will the taxes double in five years? He said the people have the right to vote on the budget. He said there should be a Referendum to determine if the votes are there to raise the taxes. If it is more than 1 ½ % of the projected increase, the people should be able to vote whether they want it or not or live with it. The people should have an opportunity to say yes or no if they propose to raise the taxes 3%, 4%, 5%.

Tara Kolakowski
14 Farrell Drive
Ansonia, CT 06401

Ms. Kolakowski asked what is the reasoning for Item # 18 and Item #19 on the agenda.

Chairman Marini said that the agenda is loaded and it was decided to put it on the agenda before any discussion. It was to give everyone advance notice that it would be discussed. He said they have not discussed anything that is on the agenda. These items were put there to give notice to the public that they would be discussed.

Ms. Kolakowski said she has some questions. She asked if the Commission will allow her to ask them.

Chairman Marini said the Board will have an independent discussion to talk about it but not to resolve it. They wanted to give fair notice to the public to discuss it and fair notice to decide it.

Chairman Marini said there is nothing finalized on the Tax Office. They are trying to resolve it and have it be the most transparent.

Ms. Kolakowski said you have 25 plus proposed changes. That is a lot of information for the people to get. She suggested they prioritize the top six and then take the next election for more revisions. That would be in the best interest of the City.

Chairman Marini said they are noting every idea that was raised. They especially want to be sure of what to include. He said he suggested putting all of the ideas on the agenda and letting it be at the discretion of the Board. There may be an idea they may not want to act on and there may be some of them they want to act on.

Ms. Kolakowski said she understands and the Commission is still in the infancy and this is only the fourth meeting.

Chairman Marini said they want to give advance notice before any discussion and any draft on the proposals suggested. These suggestions were taken from the public forum previously held. He said his intent is to manage it and know what is going on.

Scott Nihill
37 Berkshire Circle
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Nihill said with regard to Item #18 and #19 that Tara was speaking on, he is not in favor of shrinking down the City into three wards. The Ward Boundary Commission met and there are no changes in the wards, they are pretty equal. He said you are proposing each ward have three aldermen which is taking away the voice of the people. He said he is not in favor of term limits.

Chairman Marini said he put them on the agenda for discussion.

Mr. Nihill said he is not in favor of removing the Mayor.

Mr. Henri said you will have a City Manager and you will still have a Mayor.

Chairman Marini said there is no action yet on any item for change on the agenda. Nothing has been sent to the Board of Aldermen.

Chairman Marini asked three (3) times if there was anyone who wished to address the Commission.

There was no one.

Chairman Marini closed the public session.

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Approval of Minutes

Mr. Henri made a motion to approve as written and place on file the minutes of the Regular Meeting 2/28/13. Mr. Luneski seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Approval of Bills

Mr. Henri made a motion to pay all bills if found to be correct. Mr. Luneski seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Correspondence

1. Chief Kevin Hale re: revisions to Charter

Mr. Luneski said the Chief's correspondence is lengthy and he would like to take the time to discuss it with Chief Hale. He said the Chief has ideas and the Commission should take the time to review them with him.

Mr. Knapp made a motion to suspend with the reading of the letter. Mr. Henri seconded. All in favor, so carried.

2. Ray Tingley, Fire Marshall re: revisions to Charter & Code

The secretary read the letter received from Fire Marshall Tingley.

Chairman Marini said Mr. Tingley reached out and we should give him an opportunity to explain his thoughts on the Charter and on the code.

Mr. Knapp made a motion to accept the letter and place on file. Mr. Vaccaro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Ruling on Public Hearings

Chairman Marini said that everyone has received a copy of Mr. Blake's letter explaining the questions raised.

Mr. Henri made a motion to suspend the reading of the letter and place on file. Mr. Knapp seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Section 138 of City Charter: Request to raise the \$5000 bid amount - E. Krugel

Mr. Henri made a motion to allow Eileen Krugel to speak. Mr. Luneski seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Ms. Krugel explained the process of going out to bid for a project or item versus requesting three quotes for the project or item. When the bid limit is \$5000 and you have to "go out to bid" this must be published in the newspaper which is expensive. The City can receive three quotes for a project or item if the limit is raised and it would eliminate the cost of publication for a legal ad in the newspaper. She said since 1990 there has been a \$5000 limit for purchases however the costs for items and services has increased over the years. She said that Richard Bshara, Asst. Comptroller also concurs with her that the limit for going out to bid should be \$25,000.

Mr. Henri asked if a project costs \$25,000 you don't have to go out to bid you can just pick someone. He asked the process.

Ms. Krugel said for instance there is a \$10,000 grant and you have to go out to bid per Charter. This can be a good thing but you have to publish a legal ad which has a cost, then there is the time frame to publish and open the bids and award the bids. You may be limited on money and time. \$2500 to \$5000 you are required to get three (3) quotes. She said what she is asking is that the requirement for the bid process be brought from \$5000 up to \$25,000. If you get three quotes you pick the best of those that would best serve the City.

Mr. Henri asked how does anyone know about the project to bid on it or send in a quote on it.

Ms. Krugel said you find the best people you can and let them know what is out there.

Mayor Della Volpe said we put it on the Website and the State website.

Chairman Marini said you can still stimulate competition by doing that. He said that Ms. Krugel and Mr. Bshara would know the calculation of how much savings would be had by this change.

Ms. Krugel said on average around \$1000. She said she puts things on the State DAS website also.

Chairman Marini asked what other towns are doing.

Ms. Krugel said she didn't look. The State of Conn. number is \$25,000 which is standard for DEEP, OPM and DECD.

Mr. Luneski said are we talking tens of hundreds, of thousands of dollars in a year.

Ms. Krugel said she didn't know.

Mr. Knapp said the legal notices are high. He asked how the newspaper determines the cost for them.

The cost for a legal ad in the newspaper is by line and column size.

Mayor Della Volpe said most of the bids are generated by Public Works Dept. He said it is costing us \$2000 to \$3000 for small transactions. He said he will get a list of the items bid and the cost of the legal ads for the next meeting.

There was discussion on the type of transactions that would fall into the lower bid boundaries.

Chairman Marini said there would be decreased competition and less bidding. He is concerned there would be no legal notice to the public.

Mr. Henri said there is the State of Conn. site and the DAS site.

Ms. Krugel said yes and they would publish on these sites.

Mr. Henri asked Ms. Krugel if most of the people she deals with would know about these sites for possible bids.

Ms. Krugel said yes, the contractors all check these sites for possible projects and with Federal and State grants they are required to post on the State site and the DAS site along with the City website.

Mr. Knapp said we can still advertise a bid if we want to, it doesn't stop us from advertising because the bid limit has been raised higher.

Ms. Krugel said it will still be on the City Website.

Chairman Marini said will it still stimulate competition among the contractors.

Ms. Krugel said for \$5000 grant, the cost for advertising, etc. would use some of the money and there would be less for the project itself.

Chairman Marini said the amount we spend on bid advertising will be discussed for the next meeting. He said the Commission is not acting on this tonight at this meeting but we should move it from the suggestion stage.

Mr. Knapp made a motion to move this item to the draft list. Ms. Vitarius Waugh seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Town Clerk – Salary Position

Mr. Henri read page 4, beginning at line 12 through 22 as follows:

“Joseph Miller, 9 Roundtree Drive, Ansonia. These recommendations are based on my 12 years working for the City of Ansonia, I am now retired. The Town Clerk, the City of Ansonia is one of two Towns in the State that pays the Town Clerk a very low salary and allows the Town Clerk to keep the fees that she collects. I recommend that to be changed by increasing her salary to what other Town Clerks get paid and the fees would then go into the general fund. And we are talking a great deal of money that she collects during a given year.”

Chairman Marini said that there is someone who contacted him and wanted to be here at the meeting to voice comments and could not make the meeting this evening. There is more information on the other side of this and we can discuss it.

Mr. Henri read page 8, beginning with line 13 into the record as follows:

“Elizabeth Lynch, 15 Macintosh Lane, and I'm the Assistant Town Clerk. I just wanted to clarify a statement made prior regarding the Town Clerk's office. The Town Clerk does receive a minimal salary from the City and there are fees paid to the Town Clerk, but not all of them are retained by her.

Her account also pays a portion of my salary, and there are several accounts that are paid to the State for every document that is recorded, every land record, every vital statistic, every license, hunting, fishing. A percentage of that retains with the Town Clerk but the bulk of it is paid to the State, and I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you.”

Chairman Marini asked Mayor Della Volpe for more information on the Town Clerk's salary.

Mayor Della Volpe suggested to Chairman Marini to have someone from the Town Clerk's office come to the next meeting to discuss this because it should be addressed.

Mr. Vaccaro said Ms. Lynch said the fees are used for office equipment and other things in the Town Clerk's office.

Mayor Della Volpe said true, Ms. Bottone doesn't request any money from the City she recycles the money back into her office.

Chairman Marini said how much do we have in there.

Ms. Kolakowski said that she doesn't think Ms. Bottone is legally obligated to turn over those figures.

Mayor DellaVolpe said we are one of two towns that have this system. He said they could look into it.

Chairman Marini said it is public record. He said the Commission needs more information and he asked for a motion to table until we receive the information requested.

Mr. Henri read page 10, line 13 to line 16 as follows:

“Mr. Richard Bshara: I also had a note on the Town Clerk, that that should be looked at. We are one of only two in the State and if that procedure can be revamped it would probably be a benefit to the town.”

Mr. Knapp made a motion to table and to request additional information and a live list of purchases and expenses from Ms. Lynch. Mr. Vaccaro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Budget – 5 year outlook

Mr. Henri read page 6, line 2 to 22 as follows:

“Mr. Miller: I honestly believe that the elected officials, the Aldermen, BOAT, should have some idea of what's in line out there for five years. Do a five year budget projection, okay.”

“You don't know what the mill rate is going to be in the year '15 and '16. You have no idea, okay. You've got to do it. Right now you have a time issue. The Departments have got to submit their budgets by the end of December. They meet with the Aldermanic Finance Committee who approves it by the middle of February. BOAT gets it. They have until mid-May to do it, okay. The Charter states that the Department heads meet with the Budget Committees, both from BOAT and the Board of Aldermen. It takes up a lot of time. There are some Departments, you can eliminate the whole Department and you're not going to change the mill rate any, okay. It should be changed. The next fiscal year I would suggest budgeting like they do now by line items, and the next four years just in total by Department, and it will give you some idea as to where the mill rate is going to be, okay.”

Mr. Henri said that a five year projection is a good idea to help out with the fiscal planning – it is very beneficial.

Chairman Marini said it is wonderful to have but it is tough to get. Every year the Mayor gives a report and he must include a five year projection and it is part of BOAT to give a five year projection. He said how valid will it be to project five years. The Board of Aldermen items depreciate in value and are on a rotating system, the terms of capital items - this may be helpful.

Mr. Henri said you don't have to say who is responsible for it – it just has to be done.

Mr. Knapp said the Finance committee spends hours and hours on a one year budget for the City.

Mr. Henri said each department says here is my five year plan.

Chairman Marini said it is impossible to give a budget for five years.

Mr. Knapp said there is a five year capital improvement budget.

Chairman Marini said Mr. Henri mentioned benefits and they should be projected. In the private sector they are projected. Whether it is City Hall, Board of Education, Police or Public Works these things should be projected. They could spike down the road and this takes the surprises out as you go along.

Mayor Della Volpe said surprises!!! We had the blizzard, the hurricane, Obamacare. These are all unexpected expenses – health care costs are rising, overtime that you cannot plan for.

Chairman Marini said smart planning pays off. We have to have the correct language to make sure there is sufficient funds. We have to know what we want and make it specific.

Mr. Henri said include in the draft to “ask each department for their five year projection”.

Mr. Luneski said for Public Works, Police and Fire there are things that break down – there is a snow storm, water main break – we have to determine the effort.

Ms. Vitarius Waugh said lower the time to two years instead of five years.

Mr. Vaccaro said the department head may be reluctant to give a specific money amount. They may state on the high side versus what they feel it would cost for example pot holes, removal of sand and salt from the streets, etc.

Chairman Marini said they can predict for capital improvements. Salaries are under contract, they publish a report and it is agreed upon and that for one, two, three years this is what the salary will be. There is no guess work. This is their contract. Capital improvements, there should be a schedule to deal with them. This is forcing everyone to plan one time a year, to assess and to make a report.

Mayor Della Volpe said BOAT has a Capital Improvements line item. He suggested Chairman Marini invite the Chairman of BOAT to a meeting to discuss it with the Commission.

Mayor Della Volpe said the Capital Improvement is being addressed. Police Department does it and they are doing it very well. The City is doing that with Public Works Dept. BOAT is funding the Capital Improvements line item.

Discussion on BOAT and how they are handling the funding for capital improvements. Chairman Marini said he doesn't think BOAT should be the sole architect of capital improvements. He said the departments should do it also

Mr. Henri made a motion to table and invite the BOAT Chairman to the next meeting. Ms. Vitarius Waugh seconded. All in favor, so carried.

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Advertising Bids & Legal Notices – online/legal notices newspaper

Chairman Marini said notices for meetings is not connected with bids.

Ms. Krugel said all of ZBA meeting notices have to be published two times in the newspaper. She asked Ms. Flaherty what the procedure is for meeting notices.

Ms. Flaherty said legal notices have to be published. The land use boards follow State Statute and most of their notices have to be published i.e. Notices of Decision, public hearings, ZBA notices of meeting and amendments with the requested changes. BOAT must publish the budget in the newspaper.

Chairman Marini said the Commission cannot touch State Statutes.

Mayor Della Volpe said by Charter the BOAT meetings have to be published.

Chairman Marini said that is because they are setting the budget for the city and they have to let the people know. He said this was changed at the last Charter Revision.

Mayor Della Volpe said he will get the Commission the information.

Mr. Knapp made a motion to get the information on who publishes their own legal ads in the newspaper. Mr. Vaccaro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Term Limits

Mr. Henri said there should be term limits. The Mayor should be three terms. It is healthier and you get different people in office with more ideas and you don't see the same person settling in for one position for more than three terms. The President is limited to two terms and the congress is there forever. It is a healthier atmosphere if you limit the terms.

Mr. Knapp said if the public is happy why do we have to put someone else in office.

Mr. Henri said we are discussing all of this.

Chairman Marini said being the Chairman I want to hear all sides.

Mayor Della Volpe said there are term limits. If the public is not happy they will vote you out. If the public is happy they will vote you in.

Mr. Luneski asked if term limits is just for the Mayor's office or are there others.

Mr. Henri said he is only concerned with the Mayor's seat.

Chairman Marini said there are others.

Mr. Henri said my concern is the Mayor. The people don't know who their Aldermen are.

Mr. Vaccaro said he feels opposite. The limit is set by the people. Certainly 70% of the population wants Mayor A and it should be up to the people to vote for whom they want.

Mr. Luneski said term limits for Aldermen, would that freshen it up.

Mr. Knapp said the people vote every two years.

Ms. Vitarius Waugh said you have an election for office – go out and vote if you want to be heard. We should not have term limits across the board. She said she is not in favor of term limits.

Mr. Henri said there would be a cost savings in salary – in three terms the Mayor would be gone.

Chairman Marini said both sides of this are interesting. The senate seats were part time and there was over 50% roll over in Congress and the Senate – it became a career and there is no new blood. People are making the decision to stay in office and there is the knowledge that is there that comes with time. There is the advantage to gain experience and they are voted in. There is the qualifications and making sure the candidate is qualified before they run. Making sure they pay their taxes. We don't have candidates, most are volunteers and are not worried about making careers. The only position that is paid is the Mayor.

Mayor Della Volpe said you are acquiring knowledge over the years and the position is up to the people. If you are good, they vote you in and if you are bad they vote you out.

Mr. Luneski said term limit and you need a higher qualification to run could do damage to the City.

Mayor Della Volpe cited other Connecticut towns where the Mayor has been in office for a number of years: Shelton, 19 years, Prospect, 16 years, Wallingford 17 years. He said leave it to the people. It should not just be for Mayor but for all elected officials – let the people decide.

Mr. Henri said it is a topic the people would like to see come to vote.

Mr. Knapp said he has been an elected alderman for ten years and he never had any individual come up to him and discuss term limits. It is not an issue.

Ms. Vitarius Waugh said the real issue is the salary increases.

Mr. Henri said that is a little part of it. People are turned off in politics and will not run because the incumbent is in too long and they are afraid to run and get turned away. It is healthier for both sides.

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Ms. Vitarius Waugh said so they should get involved with their political party and get someone else to run against him.

Chairman Marini said he is against term limits but he is weighting it all but would like to hear from the public on it. He said he doesn't think term limits are appropriate but he has to hear from the public.

Mayor Della Volpe suggested a public hearing.

Chairman Marini said they will have to have a public hearing on all of the items. He said for the record on term limits it is not personal to anyone holding any particular seat.

Mr. Henri said have the Charter Revision Commission get out to the press and then we can come back and talk about it.

Mr. Henri made a motion to put Term Limits on the draft list. Ms. Vitarius Waugh seconded.

There was discussion on the vote. Mr. Knapp requested a roll call vote:

Roll Call vote:

J. Marini:	Yes
P. Henri:	Yes
W. Luneski:	Yes
L. Vaccaro:	Yes
J. Vitarius Waugh:	Yes

D. Knapp:	No
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C. Lisi:	Absent
K. Duffus:	Absent
J. Erlingheuser:	Absent

The Chairman declared the motion passed to put Term Limits on the Draft List: 5 yes, 1 no, 3 absent.

Mayor Della Volpe asked who is on the Draft List Committee.

Chairman Marini said there is no one assigned. Anyone who wants to work on it can do so.

Voting Locations and One (1) voting place

Mr. Luneski made a motion to consolidate Voting locations and one (1) voting place into one item. Mr. Knapp seconded. All in favor, so carried.

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Mr. Henri said there are 7 Wards in Ansonia and he said that consolidating them may mean moving the voting locations.

Mr. Knapp made a motion to accept the late communication from the Registrars of Voters and put it on file. Ms. Vitarius Waugh seconded. All in favor, so carried.

A discussion followed on the letter received from Mrs. Valentine and Mr. Maffeo.

Mr. Knapp said you will have people going outside of their local place to vote.

Ms. Vitarius Waugh said this is a small town and there are elderly people who will have to get to their voting place and they will have to get a ride there. This will confuse them.

Mr. Knapp said this will cause people to wait in long lines.

Ms. Vitarius Waugh said there is not a place large enough to do this.

Mr. Henri said AHS is big enough. There are absentee ballots that people could vote. He said the people will get out and vote. The Registrars are recommending to do this.

Chairman Marini said there are several hundred people in a few wards and one place does not make sense. He said will we save money and is the cost savings beneficial to the people by consolidating into one or two wards.

Mr. Luneski said there is traffic control and Police Officers for one location that have to be considered.

Mr. Henri said they are saying one location will be cheaper. They need a Plan B. All at AHS is Plan A and if something happens then go to Plan B at Mead School or Prendergast School.

Mr. Knapp said one polling place you would need four people manning each booth for each ward. That doesn't change. You will need police officers and traffic control.

Mr. Henri said you don't need as many.

Chairman Marini said financially you would need more workers. That would not be a problem. The problems that could arise are no ballots, concentrated voting can hurt. One, two, three small amounts of voters voting - you will get a savings but will it be worth the savings. The letter is saying there is a savings but what will have to be merged to attain it.

Mr. Luneski said it could create voter apathy. People vote on the way to work or on the way home and the voting place is near their home. This can cause an inconvenience and they won't

vote. The Sr. Citizen who knows where to go to vote and now it is changed. The Sr. Citizen who is handicap or a handicap individual what happens to them at a big location.

Mr. Knapp said the Sr. Citizen will not travel up to AHS.

Mr. Luneski said he agrees.

Chairman Marini said the 6th and 7th Ward should not merge. People vote on the way to work and then they would have to drive across the city to vote. He said he could see a lower turn out. He said he would like the Board to know the savings.

Chairman Marini said there are questions that have to be answered such as:

1. The number of wards involved
2. The salary paid to workers at each location
3. Machine costs
4. Memory card costs
5. If the wards merge what would happen (what ward would merge with what ward)
6. Which wards would be eliminated and combined
7. What locations would be used for voting once the wards are combined?

Chairman Marini said he would like the Registrars to make a proposal to the Charter Revision Commission on what they want to see happen.

Mr. Henri made a motion to table the number of voting locations and ask for the Registrars of Voters for a specific plan. Mr. Luneski seconded. All in favor, so carried.

WPCA bidding autonomous from the City

Mr. Henri read page 17, line 9 - 24:

“Mr. Edward Norman: You say you're bringing this to a public session but our WPCA, who is an individual Department, is almost autonomous from the City. It's created in the Charter but they had the right to go out and bond for a project without the consent of the residents and taxpayers of the City, which I thought was just a terrible thing to do.

I thought it should have gone to the people It was something that we had to do, again, based on laws set by the State, set by the Federal Government as far as clean water and keeping Long Island Sound clean and nitrogen and phosphorous rates and everything like that. But I don't think it was presented very well and I don't think it was really overwhelming supported by the folks in the City. The Board of Apportionment & Taxation sets the tax rate but then the WPCA sets their own tax rates, so”

Chairman Marini said there are some valid issues stated. It is distressing especially if Departments are doing their own thing.

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Mayor Della Volpe suggested Chairman Marini ask Corporation Counsel on this subject concerning the WPCA.

Mr. Knapp made a motion to table for an opinion from Corporation Counsel regarding Mr. Norman's statement. Mr. Henri seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Deviate from the agenda

Mr. Henri made a motion to deviate from the agenda and take up #18 Ansonia goes to three (3) Wards and #19 Each Ward will have three (3) Aldermen. Two (2) from each party will run for office and the top three (3) get the seats. Mr. Luneski seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Ansonia goes to three (3) Wards

Mr. Henri said that this was covered by the Registrar of Voters letter. He said if there is a ward vote he would still like to see three wards or less. He said based on three wards there should be three aldermen or you could have five aldermen. He said the top three with the most votes get in that way there is diversity and you get the minority (party) representation instead of being – this guys been in for a long time. This will put interest in running but it is an uphill battle. With minority representation there will be checks and balances.

Mr. Knapp said to Mr. Henri that he (Henri) got involved and ran for office.

Mr. Henri said yes.

Mr. Knapp said let the people decide on Election Day.

Ms. Vitarius Waugh said it would be open more and encourage more people that they do have a say. More people will try to run if the person in there will not be there.

Mr. Henri said we will have checks and balances.

Ms. Vitarius Waugh said there will be more aldermen.

Mr. Henri said the people will get involved if they knew it wasn't "Mission Impossible".

Mr. Knapp said they can get involved, they can run for office, they should come forward.

Ms. Vitarius Waugh said she is in the second ward and Phil is in the second ward and she said she would like to run if she knew there was another position and another seat available she would possibly run for office.

Mr. Knapp said that didn't stop the people from running for office. They were not worrying about getting both parties at the table. You have to run if that is what you want to do.

Mayor Della Volpe said he understands minority representation but you have to go out and earn it. Our Charter has been in effect since 1888 and the way it was set up was to govern the City. It is a good Charter and there are checks and balances in it. He said to Chairman Marini that he ran against all odds and moved from the 3rd ward to the 7th ward and he made his place, he made in roads and that is the democratic process. You have to earn the right to sit at the table. You should not be given the right to sit there – you have to earn it. He said there is history in this city both ways. In 1969 there was one Democratic alderman.

Chairman Marini said he always thought it had to be earned in terms of guaranteeing a seat. It should be the voters who elect. There are shrinking wards. The participation on Election Day is a low turnout in some of these wards. The wards should be as even as possible. He said the suggestion is to take and make smaller wards.

Mayor Della Volpe said Ansonia had less wards and they changed it.

There was discussion on the size of the wards in the city. Mayor Della Volpe suggested they involve Corporation Counsel.

Mr. Henri made a motion to table this discussion on items #18 and #19 until we hear from Corporation Counsel. Mr. Vaccaro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Knapp asked if the Commission can move to # 24 on the agenda: Any other business to come before the Commission.

Any other business to come before the Commission

Chairman Marini said that the secretary will add "Referendum/Changes to the budget" to the agenda for next month.

Mr. Henri made a motion to add "Referendum/Changes to the Budget" to the agenda for next month. Ms. Vitarius Waugh seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Henri said that he has invited someone from the Connecticut Town & City Management Association to our meeting next month to speak on the benefit/pros and cons of a City Manager.

Mr. Henri made a motion to move #15 "Ansonia goes to a City Manager to run the City" to after the Correspondence on the agenda. Ms. Vitarius Waugh seconded. All in favor, so carried.

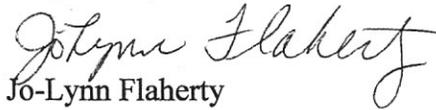
Mr. Luneski said that the Commission should speak with Chief Hale and Fire Marshall Tingley also.

Mr. Henri made a motion to invite Chief Hale and Fire Marshall Tingley to the next meeting. Mr. Vaccaro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Adjourn

Mr. Knapp made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Mr. Vaccaro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 7:15 p.m.