

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
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*Elizabeth L. Lynch*  
TOWN AND CITY CLERK  
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

Christopher Lisi  
*Chairman*  
William Luneski  
*Vice Chairman*

## MINUTES

### SPECIAL MEETING, TUESDAY, July 29, 2014 ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS 6:00 PM

The Charter Revision Commission held a special meeting on Tuesday, July 29, 2014. The meeting began at 6:00 P.M.

Roll call:

Christopher Lisi	present
Dan King	present
Horace Behrle	present
Beverly Tidmarsh	Late 6:25
Joseph Jeanette	present
William Luneski	present
Matthew Edo	absent
Lorrie Vaccaro	present
Joseph Jaumann	present
John Izzo	present

9 present, 1 absent  
A quorum was present.

Mr. Lisi opened the meeting at 6:00. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Lisi asked if anyone would like to make a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Mr. Luneski made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jaumann. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Lisi then opened the meeting up to the public. There was no one that wished to speak. Mr. Izzo made a motion to close the public session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jeanette. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Lisi then stated that the Commission should then address the Budget process. Corporation Council

Marini stated that there will be a “red-line” version of the proposed Budget process before the next meeting of the Commission. He stated that the members should attempt to create as close to a final version at this meeting as possible.

The first correction is to change the number of members from 8 to 7. Mr. King stated that he believes that the issue was that the members would have staggered appointments when they first get appointed and then they would serve 3 years. The suggestion was that three members would be appointed for four years. Two members would be appointed for three years. Two members would be appointed for two years. The first line in paragraph two of section 38 will be changed to one unaffiliated voter.

The next section is referring to Section 40. Paragraph two the word “immediately” is to be added before the word “needed. Council Marini stated that if it’s an emergency where it is a health and safety issue, and it’s impractical to get everyone together, then the budget transfer can be approved by a joint approval of the Mayor, the Chairman of BOAT and the President of the Board of Alderman. Mr. Luneski stated that an example of this would be a blizzard. There is an additional line that is to be added to the last paragraph of Section 39 that states, “Such transfers do not need approval by BOAT and the Board of Aldermen. There was also a suggestion that this type of transfer would be considered “old money” as compared to “new money or “new appropriations” so that it is easier to discuss and to distinguish.

Council Marini then addressed when should the BOAT meetings be held? He suggested that the meetings be held the week before the Board of Aldermen meetings, possibly the first Monday of the month. There was a long discussion regarding when the meetings should be held.

Mr. Jaumann stated that in Section 44 under Aldermen, there is no contingency plan if they fail to approve the budget. There is no language that states that if the budget is not passed by the deadline, that the budget remains the same as the previous fiscal year. Council Marini stated that if you read the last paragraph of section 44, it does address this issue. Mr. Jaumann suggested that they should make that paragraph subsection 5 of Section 44.

Council Marini then stated that he will make sure the corrections that were discussed will be incorporated into the red-line draft.

Mr. Behrle made a motion to request that Corporation Council Marini take all of the Commissions corrections and create a final version. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vaccaro. All were in favor of the motion.

The members discussed the time line of the rest of the meetings. Council Marini stated that by the third week of August, they will have to have a public hearing and subsequent regular meeting. In this way they will be able to make all of the deadlines.

There was a discussion regarding the reduction of the wards and the amount of money that the city would save per election.

There was then a long discussion regarding the pension issue. The members didn’t feel that they really could do anything to correct this issue at this point in time. It was suggested that the Aldermen may be able to issue an ordinance or resolution to remedy this situation.

The commission then moved on to discuss the proposed reduction of the Wards. Mr. Luneski stated that in the existing Charter under section 3a the Ward Boundary Commission was developed and created in 1992. It gives the responsibility of creating the wards to that Commission. Charter Revision does not have to create new wards if they choose to reduce the number of wards. He then stated the Charter states that the updated boundaries need to be placed in the Charter. This means that Charter Revision would need to be in effect next year as well to make that change after the Ward Revision Commission meets. He further stated that he believes that this Commission just has to “get the ball rolling” and decide what they want to do regarding the Wards. Mr. Jaumann stated that he feels that the only thing that this commission needs to do is decided how many wards to have. The members then discussed the various locations and how many aldermen would there be in each ward.

Mr. Izzo made a motion to consolidate the wards from seven down to three. Ms. Tidmarsh seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Behrle made a motion that each of the new wards be represented by three aldermen elected by popular vote. There will be a total of nine Aldermen. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jaumann. All were in favor of the motion.

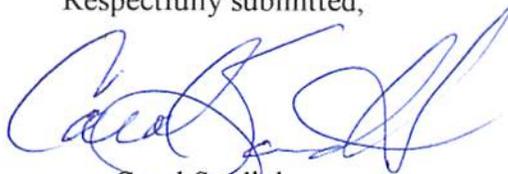
Mr. Lisi then moved onto the Charter Cleanup. Council Marini stated that in a week to two weeks the members will receive a word copy of the Charter with all of the corrections and additions included. He suggested that the members have another meeting in two weeks. He then stated that the members should think about when they would like to have their public hearing. The next regularly scheduled meeting is on August 13<sup>th</sup>. The members will have a Public Hearing on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 and a Special meeting at 7:30.

There was no other business to come before the commission at this time.

Ms. Tidmarsh made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jaumann. All were in favor of the motion.

The meeting ended at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Sardinha  
Secretary