



City of Ansonia

253 Main Street
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

CITY HALL

253 Main Street

Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

Telephone (203) 736-5930 FAX (203) 735-5422

Lorri Vaccaro
Chairman
David Blackwell Jr.
Vice Chairman

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, August 10, 2015 ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS 8:15 PM

The Charter Revision Commission held a Special Meeting on Monday, August 10, 2015. The meeting began at 8:30 P.M.

Roll call:

Lorri Vaccaro	present
David Blackwell Jr.	present
Sue Guliuzza	present
Joe Cassetti	present
Leonard Duffas	present
Maritza Clas	present

6 present, 0 absent
A quorum was present.

Chairman Vaccaro declared the meeting open at 8:30. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Vaccaro stated that they need to set the rate of pay for the Recording Secretary. Mr. Blackwell made a motion to pay the Recording Secretary \$125 per meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cassetti. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Vaccaro then suggested that they review the changes to the Charter as proposed by the Board of Aldermen. The first suggestion was to create a permanent savings account for worker's compensation benefits, employee retirement benefits and post-employment benefits. He stated that he felt that this was a fiscally sound idea. It would eliminate the city being blindsided by worker's comp claims and it will allow the city to put money into these funds for worker's comp as well as retirement payouts, vacation and sick accruals. It will help the city in the long run.

The second suggestion is to eliminate the position of city treasurer. He stated that this position seems to be a

ceremonial position for the city. He stated that in the city of Middletown just eliminated the treasurers position in 2014. Many of the duties can be performed by the Comptroller and the Finance Department.

The third item is to require an annual contribution to be made to the city pension fund. Mr. Vaccaro stated that this was spoken about during the public hearing. He further stated that this was a prudent decision to make.

The fourth item is to require an itemized record of all city and school spending to be available on the city's website. He stated that this item is the epitome of transparency. It would be on the web site to show exactly how the city's money is being spent.

He then entertained discussion regarding any of the items.

Mr. Blackwell stated that in regard to the savings account for the worker's compensation, he feels that it's a great idea that we are being proactive in this. His only question is can we make it or will it be made a certain amount of money each year or will it be up to someone's discretion or a certain amount of money each fiscal year or whatever? Mr. Vaccaro stated that they could ask Corporation Council to draft some language in regard to this item for the commission to adopt. He further stated that he would be hesitant to set a specific figure so as not to lock the city into possibly creating a hardship for the city if the budget isn't able to support that figure.

Mr. Cassetti made a motion to request that Corporation Council draft some language for all four items so that the details would be specified to be completed by the next meeting of this commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blackwell. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Vaccaro asked if anyone had anything to discuss regarding anything that was brought up during the Public Hearing.

Mr. Cassetti asked if there was any clarification on why the Police Commission does not have any members of the Board of Aldermen or why the other Commissions do have aldermen on them. Mr. Blackwell stated that he believes that it's a part of the Charter. He explained that the Charter specifies (at least for ARMS) that there will be 3 members of the Board of Aldermen as members of the Commission for ARMS. He doesn't believe that it is structured the same way for the Police Commission.

Mr. Vaccaro then stated that he feels that all of these suggestions are fiscally responsible and are what is best for the city.

Mr. Duffus asked in regard to the annual contribution for the pension, who makes the contribution? Does the city? He was told that it would be city funded. Mr. Cassetti asked if previous administrations had done anything in regard to the pension. He was told that there was no funding at all in previous years. Corporation Council John Marini stated that no contribution had been made into this fund for over a decade. The way this is normally calculated, usually they look at the members that are in the plan and a figure is calculated called the Annual Required Contribution (ARC). It is supposed to represent the Annual contribution to make the pension solvent. By not funding this pension, it has become insolvent. If someone were to retire, the city would have to take the payment directly out of the city's funds. This would take the rest of the budget and throw it into disarray. There is no way to plan for this. The city did fund the pension in 2014 for the first time when the Board of Aldermen voted to allocate money to start to bring the pension to being solvent.

Mr. Vaccaro asked if the Charter Revision Commission would have to name a specific figure at this time? He was told that they just need to state that the city is to make an annual contribution to the fund. Council Marini did suggest that the Commission come up with a specific figure to be contributed into the pension to go directly into the Charter. Mr. Cassetti asked if this is a matched pension by the employees or not? Council Marini stated that we are speaking about the city's share of the pension funds. He further explained that most of the city employees

were moved over to the state pension system. It's a small group (32) of employees that didn't. In the long run, this should keep city taxes down.

Mr. Cassetti stated that Ms. Lynch raised a concern about the number of members there are on this Commission. Council Marini stated that when using Roberts Rules the question of breaking ties are addressed.

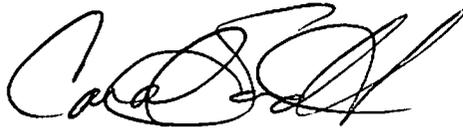
Mr. Blackwell then asked as far as the pension funds are concerned, will this pension be phased out? He was told that this pension is frozen. There will not be any additional people added to this pension. They may want to establish a Review Board to oversee the pension.

Mr. Vaccaro then asked when the members could meet next. Mr. Cassetti made a motion to set the next meeting to be held on Monday August 17 at 6:30. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blackwell. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Cassetti made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blackwell. All were in favor of the motion.

The meeting ended at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Sardinha', written in a cursive style.

Carol Sardinha
Secretary