

**Charter Revision Commission
Special Meeting
June 13, 2012
Council Chamber- Room 304**

Minutes

Present: Robert Cornish, Jo Rosinski, William Brayne, Robert Michalic, Robert Berube

Absent: Daphne Adams, John Gasparini

Staff Present: Robert Lee, Town Manager, Jonathan Chomick, Town Attorney, Kelly LePage, Transcriber

1. Call to Order

The special meeting was called to order at 8:35 p.m. by Chairman Cornish.

2. New Business

Discuss Public Hearing Comments

Pg 14 – Section 5 – Duties of Town Council on Budget

A discussion followed regarding a comment made about the budget and how much time the Town Council will have to finalize the budgets following the second vote. There was concern that no length of time was determined. It was pointed out that in section five, it clearly states that it must be within thirty (30) days.

The petitions were also discussed due to comments being made regarding the Commission not giving the public what they have requested. One petition, that had 142 signatures, requested the budget process to be looked into, and the other which received 18 signatures, requested that the budget process continue until it is passed by the public. One Commissioner stated that he heard many concerns that having two votes would cause a division among the town. He, as well as the other Commission members, feel the new process would give the public a chance to give their opinion and allows them more of a voice.

After discussion, it was decided that the presented budget process changes will stand and be submitted to the Town Council as is.

Pg 15 – Section 6 – Budget Town Meeting

Eligibility to Vote - During the Public Hearing, the Commission was requested to look into the eligibility of a Non-US citizen voting on the budget. With further analysis of the final paragraph in the section, it was determined that someone who is not currently a United States Resident, cannot vote on the budget because they aren't a resident and therefore cannot be an elector which is a registered voter.

Pg 19 – Section 5 – Eminent Domain

A discussion followed about eminent domain. It was determined that much of the public doesn't understand that the Town already had the authority of eminent domain even

before being included in the Charter. A debate began about changing the language that stated the number of votes required to pass to a referendum. The debate was between five or unanimous. In the end, it was decided that the language would be updated to include, "shall be approved by five (5) votes on a resolution of the Town Council and a simple majority vote at a referendum."

Filling Vacancies

A short discussion began on filling vacancies on the Town Council and the four (4) votes needed to fill. The section will remain as is.

Section 14 – Investigation

Many comments from the public hearing were discussed regarding investigations. The differences between inquiries and investigations were discussed as well. Within this section of the Charter, with the way it has been amended currently, it only allows the individual Council Members the right to make inquiries (ask questions) about financial documents regarding the Board of Education. Any and all other requests must be made upon request of the entire council.

It was also mentioned that if there were feelings that a member was being a nuisance, they could always be brought in front of the Ethics Commission.

Draft 16 Corrections

- Grammatical error on page four in section 5 ('of' to 'on')
- Page 19, Section 5 Eminent Domain, removal of the line, 'for public use.'

Motion is made to change 'of' to 'on' in Section 5 Procedure (pg 4), removal of 'for public use' in Eminent Domain (page 19), and eminent domain must be approved by five affirmative votes by Mr. Berube.

Second by Mr. Michalic

All in Favor 5, All Opposed 0, Motion Passes Unanimously

Draft seventeen (17) will be submitted to the municipal clerk to be given to the Town Council on Monday, June 18, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Michalic

Second by Ms. Rosinski

All in Favor 5, All Opposed 0, Motion passes unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

RECEIVED

JUN 18 2012

Cara A. Shetty
TOWN CLERK

Minutes are a summary of the meeting held and therefore may not include all aspects of the meeting.