

**CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
Town of Wallingford**

**Regular Meeting
April 13, 2009**

A Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Charter Revision Commission was held on Monday, April 13, 2009, at the Wallingford Town Hall, Room 315, Wallingford, Connecticut.

Seated from the Commission was Jeffrey Knickerbocker – Chairman, Suzanne Wright – ViceChair, Kate Wall, Debbie Gross, Vincent Cervoni, Hank Toman, Ray Lilley, Robert Applegate, and Recording Secretary Sonja Vining

Absent: Ray Rys

Chairman Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rosemary Rascati, 482 North Main Street, spoke on the Board of Ethics. She feels that the key is the Code of Ethics and not in how the members are appointed.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

April 6, 2009 - Regular Meeting

Ms. Wall stated that there was a spelling correction on Page 5. Ms. Wall made a motion to approve the Minutes of the April 6, 2009 – Regular Meeting as corrected. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wright and passed.

3. REPORT BACK FROM LEGAL OFFICE REGARDING PHOTOCOPYING OF DRAFT:

Attorney Small reported that the draft could be copied in the town hall, central services. Copies would be distributed to the Town Clerk's office, the library and it would also be posted on the town web page..

**4. COMPILE RECOMMENDATIONS TO SEND TO TOWN COUNCIL:
How Presented on Ballot:**

There was discussion of what items should be separated out on the ballot. Five issues that the Commission would like to see separated out are the Mayoral veto, the issue of the Town Clerk, the Board of Ethics, the Board of Education having 3-year terms and all other.

Attorney Small recommended that Chairman Knickerbocker include these items in his report to the Council.

MR. KNICKERBOCKER: MOTION IN HIS REPORT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL HE WOULD MAKE THE RECOMMENDATION THAT IT CONSIDER THESE FIVE THINGS BEING SEPARATED: THE MAYORAL VETO, THE TOWN CLERK SELECTION, THE REVISIONS MADE TO THE ETHICS SECTION OF THE CHARTER, THREE YEAR TERMS FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ALL OTHER ITEMS.

MS. WRIGHT: SECOND

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Action Recommendations:

Chairman Knickerbocker brought up for discussion action recommendations that the Commission discussed as they went through the Charter. They have talked about recommending to the Council that they revise the Code of Ethics. They also discussed recording habitual absences of town employees to the Council and ethics training for town employees.

MR. KNICKERBOCKER: MOTION THAT HE INCLUDE IN HIS REPORT THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL CONSIDER REDOING THE CODE OF ETHICS, DRAFTING AN ORDINANCE TO REPORT HABITUAL ABSENCES, AND REQUIRING ETHICS TRAINING FOR TOWN EMPLOYEES.

MR. CERVONI: SECOND

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

5. DISCUSS PUBLIC HEARING THAT WILL OCCUR APRIL 27TH:

Chairman Knickerbocker reviewed how the public hearing would be conducted. There would be copies of the Revision draft available at that public hearing.

6. ANY CHANGES TO DRAFT PRIOR TO PUBLIC HEARING:

The Commission reviewed the draft page-by-page and noted corrections.

MS. WALL: MOTION TO ADD TO DRAFT CHAPTER II, SECTION 6, LINE 69 A SENTENCE THAT READS “APPOINTEES MAY CONTINUE TO SERVE UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE APPOINTED AND QUALIFIED.”

MS. WRIGHT: **SECOND**

VOTE: **UNANIMOUS**

MS. WALL: **MOTION THAT DRAFT CHAPTER III, SECTION 5, LINE 93 HAVE THE WORD “SELECTMEN” DELETED.**

MS. WRIGHT: **SECOND**

VOTE: **UNANIMOUS**

MS. WALL: **MOTION THAT DRAFT CHAPTER III, SECTION 6, LINE 100 BE CHANGED TO READ “AND BY POSTING ON THE TOWN WEB PAGE, AND IN THE TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE”**

MS. WRIGHT: **SECOND**

VOTE: **UNANIMOUS**

MR. LILLEY: **MOTION THAT DRAFT CHAPTER III, SECTION 6, LINE 100 REPLACE “IN SAID TOWN” WITH “WITHIN THE TOWN”.**

MR. TOMAN: **SECOND**

VOTE: **UNANIMOUS**

MS. WALL: **MOTION TO CHANGE DRAFT CHAPTER III, SECTION 9, LINE 193 TO READ “THE HOURS OF THE REFERENDUM SHALL BE THE SAME AS THE HOURS OF A REGULAR ELECTION.”**

MS. WRIGHT: **SECOND**

VOTE: **UNANIMOUS**

MR. CERVONI: **MOTION TO CHANGE DRAFT CHAPTER III, SECTION 11, LINE 201 TO READ “SECTION 6” INSTEAD OF “SECTION 8”.**

MR. TOMAN: **SECOND**

VOTE: **UNANIMOUS**

MS. WALL: **MOTION TO ADD TO DRAFT CHAPTER III, SECTION 8, LINE 154 A SENTENCE TO READ “THE HOURS OF THE VOTE ON THE INIATIVE SHALL BE THE SAME AS THE HOURS OF A REGULAR ELECTION.**

MS. WRIGHT: **SECOND**

VOTE: **UNANIMOUS**

MR. KNICKERBOCKER: **MOTION TO CHANGE DRAFT CHAPTER VITALI; A. TO BECOME SECTION 1. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN ATTORNEY; B. TO BECOME SECTION 2. APPOINTMENT OF CORPORATION COUNSEL; C. TO BECOME SECTION 3. APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL ATTORNEYS AND D. TO BECOME SECTION 4. HIRING OUTSIDE COUNSEL.**

MS. WRIGHT: **SECOND**

VOTE: **UNANIMOUS**

MR. KNICKERBOCKER: **MOTION TO REVISE THE TABLE OF CONTENTS TO REFLECT THE CHANGES TO THE DRAFT.**

MR. LILLEY: **SECOND**

VOTE: **UNANIMOUS**

MS. WALL: **MOTION THAT DRAFT CHAPTER XV, SECTION 9, LINE 118 BE CHANGED FROM “FIVE (5)” TO “SEVEN (7)”**

MS. WRIGHT: **SECOND**

VOTE: **UNANIMOUS**

MS. WALL: **MOTION THAT DRAFT CHAPTER XV, SECTION 11, LINE 134 BE CHANGED TO READ “ELECTRIC, WATER OR THE SEWER DIVISION” AND LINE 138 BE CHANGED TO READ THE SAME WAY.**

MS. WRIGHT: **SECOND**

VOTE: **UNANIMOUS**

MS. GROSS: **MOTION THAT DRAFT CHAPTER XVI, SECTION 7 HAVE A SENTENCE ADDED TO THE END TO READ, “THE TOWN AUDIT SHALL BE PUBLISHED ON THE TOWN WEB PAGE.”**

MS. WALL: **SECOND**

VOTE: **UNANIMOUS**

MS. WRIGHT: **MOTION THAT DRAFT CHAPTER XVIII, SECTION 4A. READ “THE BOARD SHALL HAVE THE POWER OF INVESTIGATE ANY ALLEGATION OF UNETHICAL CONDUCT, CORRUPTING INFLUENCE, ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OR VIOLATIONS OF THE CHARTER OR THE CODE OF ETHICS LEVIED AGAINST ANY OFFICIAL, OFFICER, APPOINTEE OR EMPLOYEE OF THE TOWN.”**

MR. LILLEY: **SECOND**

VOTE: **ALL MEMBERS VOTED “YES” BY A ROLL CALL VOTE EXCEPT MR. TOMAN WHO VOTED “NO”.**

MS. WRIGHT: **MOTION THAT DRAFT CHAPTER XVIII, SECTION 5A, LINE 44 READ “CONDUCT, CORRUPTING INFLUENCE, ILLEGAL ACTIONS, AND A VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER OR”**

MR. KNICKERBOCKER: **SECOND**

VOTE: **UNANIMOUS**

MS. WALL: **MOTION THAT DRAFT CHAPTER XIX, SECTION 8 BE DELETED.**

MR. LILLEY: **SECOND**

VOTE: **UNANIMOUS**

There was some discussion of the revision date of the Charter. The Commission would like to see the effective date be January 1, 2010.

7. ADS/AVAILABILITY REQUIREMENTS OF DRAFT PRIOR TO HEARING:

Attorney Small stated that she would prepare the ad for the public hearing.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lilley made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Applegate and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonja Vining
Recording Secretary
Town of Wallingford
Charter Revision Commission
April 13, 2009