



Charter Revision Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 16th, 2021

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Virtual Meeting – Zoom

I. Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Chairman James Woulfe at 7:02pm

II. Roll Call

Name	Position	Attendance
James Woulfe	Chair	Present
Raul De Jesus, Jr	Vice Chair	Present
John Gale	Secretary	Absent
Alexander Aponte	Commissioner	Absent
Arunan Arulampalam	Commissioner	Absent
Steve Bonafonte	Commissioner	Absent
Vicki Gallon-Clark	Commissioner	Present
Kamora Herrington	Commissioner	Absent
Kenneth Kennedy	Commissioner	Present
Kathleen Kowalyshyn	Commissioner	Present
Melvin Medina	Commissioner	Present
Yadira Rivera	Commissioner	Absent
Bruce Rubenstein	Commissioner	Present
Eon R. Smith, Esq.	Commissioner	Absent

- a) Quorum was not met at the start of the meeting when roll call was taken.
i) Also Present: Attorney Steve Mednick,

III. Chairman Update

- a) Chairman Woulfe remarked that Atty. Mednick is still working on drafting the changes that the commission is to vote on at a future meeting.
b) Atty. Mednick spoke about his experience using a consensus driven approach for drafting charter changes.

IV. Conversation with Attorney Mednick regarding changes to Chapter X of the Charter

- a) Atty. Mednick described several of the changes that have been proposed by the commissioners. These changes include the addition of a general cooperation agreement between the branches of government in the budget process. Also included are proposed changes to dates in the budget process, and the distribution of the budget.
b) Commissioner De Jesus recommends against specifying a specific department for the distribution for the physical copy of the budget, for wider distribution.
i) Atty. Mednick suggested adding a clause that states it is distributed “as the mayor and City Council see fit.”



- c) Chairman Woulfe questioned the use of the term, “media,” in distribution of the budget.
 - i) Atty. Mednick clarified that this was meant to refer to, “social media.
- d) Atty. Mednick discussed several of the suggested changes for what is to be included by the mayor in budget estimates. He specifically discussed including collective bargaining agreements and how much of the budget is affected by collective bargaining contracts.
- e) Atty. Mednick spoke about proposed changes to the budget message and the inclusion in the annual city address. He also described a proposed change that the mayor must explain any assumptions that went into financial forecasts.
 - i) Commissioner Gallon-Clarke asked if the budget priorities could be included in the budget message.
- f) Atty. Mednick discussed the inclusion of a budget message that must be presented by the Board of Education to accompany their budget.
- g) Atty. Mednick provided an overview of the remaining proposed changes to be required of the mayor in the budget and requirements of the City Council to hold public hearings.
- h) Commissioner Gallon-Clarke requested that Atty. Mednick create a one-page outline that describes the proposed changes to dates in this section.

V. Approval of Minutes from September 9th, 2021 meeting.

- a) Quorum was met.
- b) A motion was made and properly seconded by Commissioner De Jesus and Commissioner Kennedy.
- c) Chairman Woulfe entertained discussion on the matter.
- d) Chairman Woulfe called a voice vote for the motion to approve the September 9th, 2021, meeting minutes.
- e) Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Adjourned at 8:08pm¹

- a) Atty. Mednick remarked that the next meeting will be a panel discussion on the Board of Education on September 28th at 7pm.

¹ This meeting was recorded by Hartford Public Access Television. A digital recording of the meeting can be found at the following link- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTIxFhOKI3w>