

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
JULY 12, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: Harry Weichsel, Charles Valentino, Ruben Felipe, Cathleen Simpson (5:27 p.m.)

OTHERS: Council Member Susan Brannelly, Council Member Angel dePara, Atty. Mark Anastasi

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Felipe called to order at 5:20 p.m. A quorum was not present.

UPDATE AND PRESENTATION BY COUNSEL.

Atty. Mednick said that he had distributed a document of the Notes on the Final Report. He said that the intent is to review and approve the most recent document changes in preparation for the final report. A calendar of the remaining steps was included on the first page. Atty. Mednick listed the remaining steps.

He then proceeded to give an overview of the changes and corrections that had been made to the document.

There was a discussion about the sheriffs. Atty. Mednick said that the proposed Charter would give the sheriffs the same powers as the constables. Since there are no longer any State Sheriffs, this is the best way to handle the matter without changing the title of the office in the middle of a term.

Ms. Simpson joined the meeting at 5:27 p.m. A quorum was now present.

Following some discussion, it was agreed to include the having the title of the positions of "Sheriff" to "Constables" after the 2014 election.

A draft of the final report will be sent out before the last Charter Commission meeting on July 23rd.

The Committee continued their review of the changes in Chapters 6 & 7. Atty. Mednick presented a summary of the changes in Chapter 7 to the Commission.

The discussion then moved to Chapter 8. Mr. Felipe said that Council President McCarthy had taken back his recommendation to modify the terms of the incumbent Fire and Police Chiefs. Therefore, this language will remain as it currently is in the draft.

Regarding Chapter 9, Atty. Mednick said that the Commission had made the requested changes by the Council, such as the changes when the budget should be submitted to the Council.

Atty. Mednick said that there was a note included in the draft Charter about the library and the 2/3 rds majority needed for budget approval. He then handed out a copy of the updated notes to the Commissioners present.

He also pointed out that there were some definitions that were not used in the Charter at all but wished to leave the language as is.

Attorney Anastasi joined the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**** MR. VALENTINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 6TH, AND JULY 9TH AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MR. FELIPE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DELIBERATIONS, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION ON THE FINAL REPORT.

Discussion followed about the details for the presentation of the final document.

Atty. Anastasi said that he wished to review the section regarding the sheriffs. Atty. Mednick gave a brief run down on the issue and that he did not believe it was possible to change the title of the job in mid term. Atty. Mednick and Anastasi will confer with Atty. Maley when he is available on this subject

**** MR. VALENTINO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DRAFT PROPOSED CHARTER AS PRESENTED BY ATTY. MEDNICK.**

**** MR. FELIPE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REVIEW OF THE BALLOT QUESTION

Atty. Mednick said that he would begin drafting a transmittal letter for review by the Chair. The Commission members agreed that they felt Proposed Ballot Question #5 was the best one. Discussion followed regarding the best way to proceed after the final vote.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. VALENTINO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. FELIPE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services