

Minutes of the 17th Charter Revision Commission Government Committee
Monday, January 30, 2012

Present: Vincent J. Freccia; Josh Fedeli; Susan Nabel; Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Rich Roseman,
Other Charter Commission Members Present: Gail Okun, Rosanne McManus
Visitors: Frank Vartulli, 2 other guests

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Chairman Freccia.

The Committee discussed the charges listed under Item 2 of the agenda.

Regarding Charge 16, it was agreed by consensus to recommend no change to the charter language regarding the Corporate Counsel being a part-time, full-time or contract position.

Regarding Charge 87 and Charge 13, the Committee agreed to consider recommending language to maintain the Labor Negotiation position under the Legal department, and to recommend transferring some functions of Personnel/Human Resources into the Department of Administration. The Committee will request Mr. Hibson to attend the next meeting to speak to this charge.

Regarding Charge 102 : the Committee agreed that the charter language seems clear regarding Corporate Counsel representing city officials. The Committee requests through the Board of Representatives that a member of that Board respond to Chair Freccia to clarify the BOR charge on this point.

Charge 103: Committee consensus is not to recommend such a mechanism.

Charge 114: The Committee agreed that there should be a provision in the Charter to require BOR approval prior to the city entering into an easement.

Charge 117a: The Committee agreed to refer to its counsel to advise with clarification of the impeachment process.

Charge 96: The Committee agreed to recommend no change to the Charter regarding a procedure.

Charge 112g: The Committee agreed to refer this charge to its counsel.

Charges 22 and 23: After a lengthy discussion, Committee members agreed that the Charter language regarding the duties of the Director of Operations in C5-30-2 is in conflict with the City WPCA ordinance and/or state statute. The Committee would like to have its counsel revise the language regarding the Director of Operations relative to the WPCA and further to require the City and the WPCA to resolve current practical conflicts by contracting with each other as permitted under current law, for the services the City now provides to the WPCA.

The Committee took a brief recess from 7:25 to 7:35 p.m.

Agenda item 6 was a discussion of the Request to Consider an addition to the Charter submitted by Mr. Vartuli. Josh Fedeli had researched the concept of a Resident's Bill of Rights and found similar documents in cities such as Spokane, Louisville and No. Miami Beach. The Committee agreed that the spirit and concept of the document are appealing but differed on whether such a document belongs in the charter and also expressed concerns on whether its tenets could be enforced appropriately. Josh Fedeli will bring examples to the next meeting and the Committee will continue to discuss.

Chair Freccia stated that Mr. Hibsen (City of Stamford Human Resources) and Mr. Vartuli would be invited to speak at upcoming meetings. The next meeting of the Government Committee will be Monday, February 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Josh Fedeli moved to approve the 1/18 minutes of the Govt. Committee, seconded by Dudley Williams; approved by 4 members with Rich Roseman abstaining.

Dudley Williams moved to approve the 1/23 minutes, seconded by Rich Roseman, passed unanimously

At 8:45 p.m., Rich Roseman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Josh Fedeli. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Nabel

This meeting is on video - [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)