



City of Bristol
 Charter Revision Commission
 Regular Meeting, Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 6:30 pm
 Bristol Public Library, 5 High Street, Bristol
 Minutes

Attendees: Chair Jon FitzGerald, Commissioners Harold Kilby, John Krampitz, Jonathan Mace, Isaiah Miller, Michele Roalf, and Laurie Scotti

Staff: Attorney Wyland Dale Clift
 Attorney Jeffrey Steeg
 Attorney Tom Conlin
 Attorney Richard Lacey

1. Chair Jon FitzGerald called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
2. Introduction of Commissioners – the Commissioners introduced themselves.
3. Discuss and approve the minutes of the public hearing held on March 5, 2019 and take any action as necessary.

Commissioner Scotti made a motion to approve the minutes of the public hearing of March 5, 2019, Commissioner Roalf seconded the motion, all voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

4. Discuss and approve the minutes of the special meeting held on March 5, 2019 and take any action as necessary.

Commissioner Mace made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 5, 2019, Commissioner Kilby seconded the motion, all voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

5. Public participation regarding revisions to the charter
 - Memo from the Mayor dated March 25, 2019 was read by Jon FitzGerald.
 - Tom Barnes, City Treasurer. Mr. Barnes spoke about making the position of Treasurer an appointed versus elected position. This position needs someone with the skill set to fill the role. He answered questions and supplied additional information. This is a part-time position.

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There was no other public participation.

6. Discuss replacing "director of personnel" with "director of human resources" in sections 46A (9) and take any action as necessary.

Commissioner Kilby made a motion to replace "director of personnel" with "director of human resources" in sections 46A (9). Commissioner Scotti seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

7. Discuss revising Section 2 (Construction of the charter) to add a subsection that "director of personnel" and "personnel director" mean director of human resources.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to revise Section 2 (Construction of the charter) to add a subsection that "director of personnel" and "personnel director" mean director of human resources. Commissioner Roalf seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

8. Discuss possible revisions to Section 48A (Water department - - Sewage Treatment) of the charter and take any action as necessary.

Attorney Clift reviewed his draft for Section 48A. Section 48 is a special act charter provision so we don't want to amend it. The solution is to make a new subsection to make an assignment of Water Pollution Control functions to the Water Department. He reviewed each part of this proposal with explanations. He received some input from the Superintendent and Comptroller, however, they were unable to attend this meeting.

(a): This section states the authority of the City to have a sewage treatment plant and a system of pipes and conduits.

(b): This states there is to be a Bristol Water Pollution Control Authority which shall be comprised of the Board of Water Commissioners, which is entrusted with the general supervision of water pollution control, subject to the charter and ordinances of the City of Bristol. He wanted to make clear this is not a special act. This can be subjected to other charter provisions and ordinances.

(c): This is where the Superintendent of the Water Department will also have the title of Superintendent of Water Pollution Control. It also states the governing body of the Water Pollution Control.

(d): This section is in parallel to Section 48.

(e): This section is similar to Section 48 – same procedure with regard to Water Pollution matters.

(f): One change Attorney Clift would like to make: the Comptroller advised that the Water Department is an enterprise fund but the Water Pollution Control is a special revenue fund.

The next part of that sentence reads "as directed by the City Comptroller." A change has been recommended by the Water Department Superintendent which is different than the one recommended by the Comptroller. The Superintendent recommends "as directed by the Superintendent with the assistance of the City Comptroller." Attorney Clift summarized points to keep in mind. He explained all the issues and things to be considered. The Comptroller had a number of concerns which he reviewed. These were issues of economy and finance. The two positions could not be here tonight but they should speak to this issue.

He continued reviewing his draft and noted where there may be questions. This is all very similar to some language that you will see in #48.

(g): This section mirrors Water Department with respect to Water Pollution Control functions. The last sentence in this section should be checked out – to what extent this does happen.

(h): This section mirrors the Water Department functions but with respect to the Water Pollution Control.

(i): A big change from the wording in #48 (k) in the last sentence. Under 48 - the Board of Finance may make **recommendations** for changes but may not actually change the budget items. 48A says the Board of Finance **may make changes** to any budgetary items pertaining to water pollution control.

(j): He explained how this is different from how it is done currently.

(k): This is similar to #48 with changes as appropriate to sewer usage.

(l): Same – similar to #48.

Commissioner Roalf asked if Corporation Counsel could provide at the next meeting an idea of what the cost savings would be to the City to combine the payroll services.

Commissioner FitzGerald suggested a change to (c): "his/her/their" to be "which."

9. Discuss possible revisions to Section 45 (Police department and board of police commissioners) and to Section 53(d) of the charter and take any action as necessary.

Commissioner FitzGerald said this pertains to the memo from the Mayor. He asked Corporation Counsel to obtain information from neighboring towns such as Meriden, New Britain, West Haven, Hamden, and Manchester.

10. Discuss possible revisions to Section 46A (Police department – Merit system) of the charter and take any action as necessary.

Police Chief Brian Gould had some comments. He has been researching similar towns. Some towns have commissions and some don't. Some with commissions have differing duties. Some of the language conflicts with their collective bargaining agreement. He would like the language to be cleaned up and in line with their collective bargaining agreements. He has reviewed this with the H.R. Director and is working with the Mayor and Corporation Counsel to create suggested language. Ordinances are also being reviewed.

He provided examples and reasons for changes. Commissioner FitzGerald said that this was reviewed several years ago and provided some information on why the changes were not made at that time. Additional comments were made by Attorney Clift. Commissioner FitzGerald explained the concern.

11. Discuss possible revisions to Section 46B (Chief of police) of the charter and take any action as necessary.

Corporation Counsel will get back to the Commission on this.

12. Discuss possible revisions to Section 44A (Building department) of the charter and take any action as necessary.

Commissioner FitzGerald said that this came up at the last meeting. He referred to the memo from Guy Morin dated March 4.

Commissioner Scotti made a motion to remove the lines "The building official or building official's designees shall be the clerk agents of the zoning commission and the zoning board of appeals. The building official shall be the chief zoning enforcement officer of the zoning commission" from Section 44A. Commissioner Roalf seconded the motion, all voted in favor and the motion passed.

13. Discuss comments and potential topics for charter revision raised during public participation and take any action as necessary.

Commissioner FitzGerald said that there was a recommendation today to make the Treasurer an appointed instead of elected position. He said he would invite the Democratic and Republican town chairs to the next meeting. He also asked Corporation Counsel to check with other towns. In addition, this would not take effect until 2021. No action was taken on this item.

14. Discuss the charter and proposed charter revisions raised by the commissioners of the charter revision commission and take any action as necessary.

None.

15. Old business

Commissioner FitzGerald reiterated taking out Section 48A entirely and it would be redone. There was no other old business.

16. New business

Commissioner Roalf inquired would they have to prioritize questions like last time so not to have too many questions on the ballot?

17. Discuss meeting dates and agendas and take any action as necessary.

The next meeting is April 16th in City Hall Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m.

Robert Longo joined the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

18. Adjourn

Commissioner Mace made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Kilby.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cooper
Recording Secretary