



City of Bristol
 Charter Revision Commission
 Regular Meeting, Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 6:30 pm
 City Hall Staff Lounge, 2nd Floor, 111 North Main St., Bristol
 Minutes

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

Absent: Isaiah Miller

Staff: Attorney Wyland Dale Clift
 Attorney Jeffrey Steeg
 Attorney Tom Conlin
 Attorney Richard Lacey
 Mayor Zoppo-Sassu
 Superintendent Robert Longo

1. Chair Jon FitzGerald called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Introduction of Commissioners – the Commissioners introduced themselves.
3. Discuss and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 16, 2019 and take any action as necessary.

Commissioner Roalf made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 16, 2019, Commissioner Mace seconded the motion, all voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

4. Public participation regarding revisions to the Charter.

There was no public participation.

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

Attorney Clift distributed the proposed changes footnoted "Draft Dated 05/07/2019 Rev 1". All the underlined portions (including the item letters of each) are new. There are a couple of changes to this draft: In (c): the word "Department" should be added after "Water Pollution Control" (3rd line from bottom). In (f): at the top of page 2 – "special revenue funds" has been added and "city comptroller" was added to the last line. These were as discussed at the last meeting.

Robert Longo spoke and explained the reason for his requests. It makes it more understandable to the public and the customers. He said the Commissioners should be referred to as "Water and Sewer Commissioners." It makes everything much easier. Logo, letterhead, will all change. He has requested that anywhere where it says "Water Pollution Control Authority" that it be changed to "Sewer", so instead of Water Pollution Control Department it would be Sewer Department. Attorney Clift has substitute the word "Department" for "Authority" in this draft but

did not make the other changes. Water Pollution Control Authority was changed to Water Pollution Control Commission. Now it will change to "Sewer Department" and "Sewer Commission." Mr. Longo pointed out that all employees will fall under one umbrella – that was the original plan that it would be the Water and Sewer Department. Other towns where it is combined also do it this way.

Commissioner Kilby made a motion to change the title of Sec. 48A from Water Pollution Control Department to Sewer Department as well as where this title appears throughout the Section and to change Water Pollution Commission in all places it appears in Sec. 48A to Sewer Commission. Commissioner Mace seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed.

6. Discuss possible revisions to Section 12 (City offices; elective) and Section 18 (The treasurer) regarding the appointment of the city treasurer and take any action as necessary.

Commissioner FitzGerald distributed a draft of the needed changes which would change the position of "treasurer" to an appointed position. . These changes would become effective after the election. He explained the process and the changes.

Commissioner Scotti made a motion to recommend revising Sec. 12 (a) by removing ", a treasurer" from the first sentence and Sec. 18 by adding "(d)" which would explain the system to appoint a treasurer. Commissioner Kilby seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed.

7. 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.

Attorney Clift said he still found a couple of places that referred to the "Director of Personnel" and it was changed to "Director of Human Resources." He provided a handout and reviewed all the proposed changes. Discussion on Sec. 45. (a) – Commissioner FitzGerald has provided a rewrite of this section – "the board of police commissioners shall consist of five electors of the city, one member of the city council, and the mayor who shall be a member ... thereof."

Other changes to Sec. 45: (f) changes per handout – deletions are bracketed and additions are underlined. No further changes there. (g): "for just cause" was added. Commissioner FitzGerald pointed out the word "captain" – should "and captain of the department" be deleted? Attorney Clift confirmed this would be deleted. Commissioner FitzGerald also recommended for consistency that where "chief" appears it should say "chief of police."

Commissioner Krampitz made a motion to revise Sec. 45 with the changes as discussed, seconded by Commissioner Scotti. All present voted in favor and the motion was passed.

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

There are recommended changes to sub-sections 4, 9, and 11.

Additionally wherever "personnel" appears it would be changed to "human resources."

Sub-section 4: Recommendations are to get rid of all the gender pronouns ("his/her" would be "the") and where "board of police commissioners" appears it should say "chief of police" – add "of police." The sub-section ends with "...the highest rating." The entire portion of factors and weights is deleted as shown by the brackets.

Sub-section 9: Add "of police" in two places, in addition to the deletions and additions as shown. There were no additional comments.

Sub-section 11: Commissioner FitzGerald pointed out the following change that needs to be made: First sentence: after 46A(7) delete the word "and" and place a comma, then "46A(9) **and 46B** with "and 46B" being added. The words "the rank of" also are to be deleted. It would read "In lieu of Section 46A(4), 46A(6), 46A(7), 46A(9) and 46B above, the following shall apply to testing for non-bargaining positions only." Addition comment: the word "only" is unnecessary.

Commissioner Kilby made a motion to refer the proposed recommendations for revisions to 46A to the City Council. Commissioner Roalf seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed.

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

Commissioner FitzGerald explained the proposed revision was to take out everything that exists and add the underlined section.

Back to 45 (g) - Attorney Clift spoke about a state statute which talks about dismissal of the chief of police and wants to add something that shows that we are not trying to supersede this. Attorney Lacey added information. Discussion. After the phrase "for just cause" should be added "in accordance with Connecticut general statutes." This would apply only to chiefs.

Commissioner Kilby made a motion to add the clause "in accordance with Connecticut general statutes" as discussed, Commissioner Mace seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed.

46B. There were no additional comments. In the new section (9th line down) where it says "the may nonetheless may" the first "may" should be changed to "mayor."

Commissioner FitzGerald referred to section (3) and the two sentences that begin on line 9 "The candidate shall be offered...and city council." These were added fairly recently to the Charter. These two sentences he would like to keep. These can be kept as sub-section 2 as the new section is sub-section 1.

Commissioner Roalf made a motion to revise Section 46B of the Charter to accept the two sentences discussed as sub-section 2 and to add the proposed new section as sub-section 1 with the correction of the word "may" in line 9 to "mayor". Commissioner Scotti seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed.

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

There was none.

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

There was none.

12. Discuss old business and take any action as necessary.

There was no old business.

13. Discuss new business and take any action as necessary.

There was no new business.

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

The next meeting is May 29. Jon suggested that the Public Hearing be held on May 29th as well and there would be no need for the meetings in June.

Commissioner Mace made a motion to schedule the Public Hearing for May 29, 2019 followed by the regular meeting to consider the comments made at the public hearing. Commissioner Scotti seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed.

15. Adjourn

Commissioner Roalf made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Krampitz. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cooper
Recording Secretary