



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

**Special Meeting Minutes of Charter Revision Commission
July 7, 2022 at 7pm**

The minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting.

The Charter Revision Commission held a meeting July 7th, 2022 in the multi-purpose room of the Senior Center 8 Simpson St., Newtown, CT.

Mr Buzzi called the meeting to order with a salute to the flag at 7:01pm.

Present: Andrew Buzzi Chair, James Gaston Vice-Chair, Scott Davidow, Anthony Filiato, and Prerna Rao

Absent: Elias Petersen and Dennis Brestovanski

Also Present: Jeff Capecci Chair of Legislative Council.

No Public for comment.

Communication – LeReine Frampton attached

Mr Gaston moved to approve the minutes of April 22, 2022 with Mr Filiato 2nd. Approved

Mr Buzzi invited Mr Capecci to participate in the discussion. All members had copies of Attachment D Resolution of the Newtown Legislative Council recommendations to the Charter Revision Commission and the Resolution Worksheet. (both documents are attached) These items were found by Attorney Steve Mednick upon review of the draft report submitted to the Legislative Council. Attorney Mednick specialized in Charters. Mr Buzzi explained the next step in the process. Mr Buzzi suggested addressing each item individually in order.

1 Town Department:1-25(a)(7)

**Ms Rao made the motion to accept :
2nd by Mr Gaston**

Town Department: The term “Town Department” shall include, for example, the office of the Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Assessor, Registrar of Voters, Public Works Department, Board of Education, and any other town Body to which funds are appropriated in the Town Budget and any other body or group which is designated a Town Department by the Legislative Council on or before October 1st in the year prior to the adoption of the Town Budget. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Education shall be exempt from the duties or functions required of Town Departments under the Charter, only to the extent such duties or functions would violate specific provisions of the General Statutes applicable to boards of education and the administration of such entities.”

Mr Gaston 2nd the motion – Motion approved

2 Rules: 2-01(c)

**Mr Gaston moved to accept the motion on the resolution worksheet with Mr Filiato 2nd. There was a lengthy discussion and Mr Filiato Moved to amend the motion with Mr Gaston 2nd. The motion to amend was accepted
New motion:**

All elected and appointive Town Bodies may make rules for the conduct of their meetings and the manner for accomplishing their duties. Such rules shall be filed with the Town Clerk. A Special Act, the Connecticut General Statutes, or the Charter, as applicable, shall prevail in any conflict in rules created under this section.

Motion approved.

3 Building Appeals Board: 2-5(d)(4), etc...

After discussion the Commission decided to recommend the language found in the draft report.

4 Notice Period: 5-10(a)

Mr Davidow made the motion to accept:

Where regulations of the Legislative Council are authorized by this Charter, they shall be adopted, amended or repealed by majority vote of the Legislative Council, consisting of at least six (6) affirmative votes. Any proposed regulations, amendment or repeal shall be referred to the Board of Selectmen for comment or consultation prior to action. A similar referral shall be made to the Board of Education or other Town Body if its interests are affected. Referrals can be acted on by the Legislative Council after 30 days.

Mr Gaston 2nd the motion – Motion approved

5 Appropriations: 6-35(b); 6-35(c)

Mr Filiato made the motion to accept:

(b) A request for an Emergency Appropriation may be initiated by the First Selectman or by the Legislative Council. A request for a Special Appropriation may be initiated by the First Selectman with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Education, or by the Legislative Council. The request shall include an estimate of the funds required, the reasons therefore, and a proposed method of financing. Methods of financing include, without limitation, issuing notes or bonds of the Town or laying a special tax on the Grand List last completed. The Finance Director shall prepare a Financial Impact Statement for request for Special Appropriations.

(c) If the First Selectman initiates an Emergency Appropriation request, the appropriation may be approved by a majority vote of the Legislative Council. If initiated by the Legislative Council, the Emergency Appropriation must be approved by the affirmative vote of at least eight (8) members of the Legislative Council.”

Mr Davidow 2nd the motion. After a very lengthy and lively discussion, Motion was passed with a 3-2 vote.

6 Budget Timing: 6-20(d)

Ms Rao made a motion to accept:

No later than Twenty Two (22) days before the Annual Town Budget Referendum in April, the Legislative Council shall approve the proposed Town Budget to be submitted for final adoption at the Annual Town Budget Referendum (the “Town Budget”). If the Legislative Council shall not have approved a proposed town Budget on or prior to said date, then the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education Budgets shall be submitted for adoption at the Annual Town Budget Referendum.

Mr Gaston 2nd the motion. Motion approved

7 Budget: 6-20(f)(2)

After a lengthy discussion the Commission decided to recommend the language found in the draft report.

8 Fairfield Hills Authority: 2-231

Discussion and checked the Special Act created for Fairfield Hills. Special Act names Fairfield Hills Authority so it cannot be changed. After discussion, the Commission decided to recommend the language found in the draft report.

- 9 Police Commissioners: 2-160(a)**
Mr Gaston made a motion to accept:

Summary of General Responsibilities: The Board of Police Commissioners shall maintain a Police Department in the Town and shall appoint a Chief of Police. In addition, the Board of Police Commissioners serves as the traffic authority of the Town and may act as a Civilian Police Review Board, with the authority to issue subpoenas if so enacted by ordinance.

Ms Rao 2nd the motion – Motion Approved.

- 10 Interim Vacancies: 2-30(d)**
After discussion, the Commission decided to recommend the language found in the draft report.
- 11 Special Appropriations: 6-3(d)(1)**
After discussion, the Commission decided to recommend the language found in the draft report.
- 12 Emergency Powers:**
After discussion the Commission decided to recommend the language found in the draft report.

Mr Buzzi thanked the Commission for their dedication and hard work and the members thanked Mr Buzzi for his leadership and hard work.

Mr Buzzi adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

LeReine Frampton, clerk

attachments