

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

March 2, 2022

A Public Hearing of the Charter Revision Commission was held on March 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bristol Public Library, 5 High Street, Bristol, CT. Members present: Chairman Jon Fitzgerald, Vice Chairman Calvin Brown, Commissioners Richard Carter, John Lafreniere, Melanie McKinley, and Michelle Roalf. Present via Zoom: Daniel Micari. Absent: None.

Also Present: Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano
Tom Conlin, Richard Lacey, and Edward Krawiecki from City of Bristol Corporation Council.
Sharon Krawiecki and Kevin McCauley from City of Bristol Registrars Office

1. Call to order the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Jon Fitzgerald.

2. Introduction of commissioners

3. To receive written communications and public comment concerning revisions to the charter referred to the commission by the City council.

- A. To revise the charter to replace the current 2-year term for the office of mayor with a 4-year term for the office of mayor.
- B. To revise the charter to require multi-party representation on the city council.

Thomas Ragaini, 651 Lake Ave, Unit 38, addressed the commission stating that he was a Councilman for 8 years, stated if you add 3 council members then you need to also add 3 to the Board of Finance. Stated Mayoral term should stay at two years.

Mary Fortier, 163 Goodwin Street, addressed the commission stating that she was a Councilwoman for 8 years, listed her concern with the Board of Finance as well. Not opposed to minority representation, Opposed to changing Council Election at large. Not opposed to a four year mayor term, makes sense to have time to get things done, the second year is spent most of the time campaigning, making you a less effective Mayor.

Mayor Caggiano addressed the commission stating he was solely for a four year term for Mayor, Term limits is another issue that gets brought into it. He believes voters spoke in 2013 for eight year term limit, he is requested 2 four year terms no longer 4 two year terms. Four year term for Mayor is good governance with a two year Council term.

4. Receive public comments concerning revisions to the charter.

Sharon Krawiecki and Kevin McCauley address the Commission requesting the charter be changed to remove the date from the map listed in the charter section 12, districts, would like it to say the most recent map. Reviewed current maps and the updated maps issued from the State of CT, census. Went over the updated and changed council districts to make them equal.

Commissioner Brown asked if the Committee had any responsibility in validating the state map? Sharon Krawiecki stated no.

5. Receive written communications concerning revisions to the charter.

None.

6. Close the Public Hearing

At 7.:26 p.m. a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Roalf. Motion passed unanimously. Public Hearing was closed.

Respectfully Submitted
Janet Letourneau
Recording Secretary

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

MARCH 2, 2022

A Special Meeting of the Charter Revision Commission was held on March 2, 2022 immediately following the Public Hearing at the Bristol Public Library, 5 High Street, Bristol, CT. Members present: Chairman Jon Fitzgerald, Vice Chairman Calvin Brown, Commissioners Richard Carter, John Lafreniere, Melanie McKinley, and Michelle Roalf. Present via Zoom: Daniel Micari. Absent: None.

Also Present: Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano
Tom Conlin, Richard Lacey, and Edward Krawiecki from City of Bristol Corporation Council.
Sharon Krawiecki and Kevin McCauley from City of Bristol Registrar's Office

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 7:27 p.m. by Chairman Jon Fitzgerald.

2. Introduction of Commissioners

3. Discuss and approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 17, 2022 and take any action as necessary

A motion was made by Commissioner Lafreniere and seconded by Commissioner Carter to approve the February 17, 2022 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion of possible revisions to the charter to replace the current 2-year term for the office of mayor with a 4-year term for the office of mayor and take any action as necessary.

Commissioner Brown stated that a 4 year term for mayor makes sense for good governance, but to keep a 2 year term for Councilmembers.

Chairman Fitzgerald stated that voter turnout concerns him, for presidential races we get 80%, for Governor 60% and for Mayoral we get 40%. He suggested reaching out to other towns to see how it works for them.

Commissioner Roalf stated she voted against it last time because of the recall rights and that will need to be researched as well.

Chairman Fitzgerald asked the Registrar's office to look at past ballots to see where voters stood.

Commissioner Micari would be in favor of staying with 2 year term because of recall rights.

5. Discussion of possible revisions to the charter to require multi-party representation on the city council and take any action as necessary.

Commissioner Fitzgerald requested that Corp. Counsel would research with CCM how multi-party representation works in other towns.

6. Discuss comments and potential topics for charter revision raised during the public hearing and take any action as necessary.

Chairman Fitzgerald stated that he does not agree with the change of removing the dated map from the charter.

Sharon stated that the reason they wanted the date removed was because they would have to go to the public every 10 years to have the maps changed.

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

Commissioner Brown asked the Commission to consider the transition team and the time the mayor is elected and sworn in is only a week.

Chairman Fitzgerald stated that many years ago he did poll the previous mayors and they felt it was fine.

Mayor Caggiano stated in his experience it was a quick turn around and stressful time. But at the same time if the transition is too long, then the previous Mayor can take action and changes that the voters may be against. He suggested maybe a month long transition.

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

March 23 7:00 p.m will be a Special Meeting. A special meeting cannot have old and new business you can only be specific items on the agenda.

June 15 will be another Public Hearing, work should be completed by May 25th.

9. Adjournment.

At 7:53 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Roalf and it was unanimously voted to:

“Adjourn.”

Respectfully Submitted
Janet Letourneau
Recording Secretary