

City of Derby

Charter Revision Commission

Joseph DiMartino
Beverly Moran

Arthur Gerckens
Adam Pacheco
James Stadt

Robert Hughes
Sheila Parizo

Charter Revision Commission-Special Meeting
Aldermanic Chambers, City Hall
1 Elizabeth Street, Derby, CT
July 18, 2016

1. Call to Order.

Ms. Parizo called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Parizo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Arthur Gerckens, Joseph DiMartino, Robert Hughes, Adam Pacheco, James Stadt and Sheila Parizo were present. Beverly Moran was absent. Attorney Welch was also in attendance.

4. Public Portion

Chief Narowski – Discussed his issues with the presented language for Charter Section 66. He stated that the word “shall” is the strongest legal term and it compels you to do something. There may be situation where they are not able to comply with this language. He also discussed the “reliable” bidder language compared to a “qualified” bidder. He also suggested that purchasing stay with the department head, but add that at a certain dollar amount the finance director is to authorize those purchases.

Art Gerckens –Stated that they usually hold moments of silence at Board of Aldermen meetings, but in consideration of timeliness, he requested that the Commission hold a moment of silence for the officers in Baton Rouge.

5. June 29, 2016 minutes.

Excerpt from previous meeting: Mr. Hughes motioned to accept the minutes with the spelling change on Item 10 change to “write”, seconded by Ms. Moran and the motion carried.

These minutes were approved at the previous meeting, but Mr. Hughes said it wasn’t on the agenda.

A new motion was made by Mr. Hughes with the same changes and Mr. Stadt seconded. The motion carried. Mr. DiMartino abstained.

6. July 6, 2016 minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. Hughes to approve the July 6, 2016 minutes and Mr. DiMartino seconded. The motion carried.

7. Discuss other items for consideration by Commission

Mr. Pacheco discussed combining the Board of Aldermen and Board of Apportionment and Taxation. Mr. Hughes feels there is not enough time to make a change of this magnitude and it should be taken up at a later date. He feels the same about the purchasing issue. The Commission decided they will not address combining Boards at this time.

The Board also discussed the current \$1,000 bid threshold. Chief Narowski stated that currently bidding was needed for purchases over \$5,000, however, it was learned during the meeting that the Charter was never changed. Mr. Gerckens said that it was purchases over \$10,000 per a Board of Aldermen resolution. The Commission is going to propose that the bid threshold be \$15,000.

The Commission continued to discuss purchases and bidding regulations. Ms. Parizo asked to add that purchases be made with the finance director's approval. Chief Narowski still would like the word "shall" removed and/or changed. He stated that the wording doesn't allow him to purchase off the State bid list if it's under the bid threshold. The Commission disagreed with Chief Narowski's take on the wording. Chief Narowski said there is no way for the department to abide by these terms and he will be forced to violate the Charter. For example: if he runs out of a gas at a conference, he's not allowed to make a gas purchase without the purchasing agent's approval. Another example is that officers receive a clothing allotment per the Collective Bargaining Agreement to purchase items as they need and these changes will violate the union contract which will cause future labor actions. Mr. Pacheco said he is concerned that Chief Narowski is the only department head who has an issue with these changes. Chief Narowski says he's the biggest city department and does the most purchasing.

Mr. Gerckens said they should take the Chief's recommendations into consideration. Attorney Welch is going to rework the proposed language and forward the changes to the Commission for discussion at a future meeting.

The Commission continued to review other changes such as adding that the Mayor will appoint a Board of Ethics Committee within 30 days and if the deadline isn't met then the Board of Aldermen will make the appointments.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:03 PM by Mr. Stadt, seconded by Mr. DiMartino and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Kuskowski

These minutes are subject to the Board's approval at their next scheduled meeting.