



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, John F. Scott, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter.

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Scott and Councilor Streeter
Members Absent: Councilor Sheets

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnyan.

3. **NEW BUSINESS**

2007-0132

Charter Revision Commission

Discussed

Mayor Watson noted this meeting was set up to conduct interviews with individuals interested in serving on a Charter Revision Commission. The statutory 30-day time limit to establish the Commission ends on May 31st. Councilor Streeter reported on a Republican Town Committee (RTC) meeting held last night. He noted the statutory requirements for Charter Revision Commission membership. The RTC asked that they be able to interview the Republican candidates so that they can nominate people for the Commission.

Town Manager Oefinger noted that if the Council does not establish the Charter Revision Commission by May 31st, it would have to start the process all over again as there is no way to extend the time period.

Mayor Watson reiterated the statutory requirements for establishing the Commission. Twenty people have expressed an interest in serving. All but one have shown up tonight for the interview. The consensus of the Council was to conduct the interviews on an individual basis. Councilors O'Beirne and Scott recused themselves from the interviews since they are candidates.

After the interviews, the Committee of the Whole recessed for its regular meeting at 7:07 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 8:13 p.m.

Discussion followed on extending the appointment of the Commission for 30 days and the size of the Commission. The consensus of the Committee was to continue with the appointment now, and to appoint a nine member Charter Revision Commission. Councilor Kolnaski asked that the process be identified and it was decided that the Mayor would tally Councilors' suggestions.

The Town Manager noted that Charter revision is going to be very intense work over a long period of time, and people may drop out during the process. Additionally, the group may wish to form task groups during the project. Once the Commission is established, the Council can not change its direction. Town Manager Oefinger suggested that it would be helpful to the Charter Revision Commission to receive direction from the Town Council on issues to look at. Councilor

Bond suggested that Councilors review the Charter to identify specific areas of interest and forward those suggestions to the Mayor.

Mayor Watson and Councilor Schmidt reversed their thoughts on appointing the Commission now, and supported extending the appointment. Discussion followed on letting the time period for appointing the Commission expire and starting the process again.

Mayor Watson asked Councilors to submit a list of nine names meeting the appointment guidelines to him by June 1st.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 7 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Scott and Councilor Streeter
Opposed: 1 - Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

4. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Scott, to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.