

**DERBY BOARD OF ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN SPECIAL MEETING**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020**

**JOAN WILLIAMSON ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS**

**MINUTES**

President Joseph L. DiMartino called the Special Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. all rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

Present: Joseph L. DiMartino, President, Thomas Donofrio, Sarah Widomski, Camille Grande Kurtyka, Ronald M. Sill, Robert Hyder, Charles Sampson

Absent: Barbara L. DeGennaro, Jim DiMartino

Also Present: Andrew Baklik, Chief of Staff, Keith A. McLiverty, Finance Director, Edward Armeno, Director – Derby Public Works, Edward Abel, Superintendent - WPCA, Walt Mayhew, City Treasurer, Marc J. Garofalo, Town & City Clerk

**PUBLIC PORTION**

Mr. DiMartino asked three times if anyone wished to address the board. Hearing no requests, the public portion was closed.

**CHARGE TO CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**

Mr. DiMartino said at our last meeting we discussed some items that we would like to have the Charter Revision Commission review. As everyone is not present this evening we will discuss this and we'll have one more meeting to review. Mr. Sampson said he has put together some recommendations that he would like to see possibly be discussed by the Charter Revision Commission. He said he is bringing this before the board this evening as he will not be in attendance at next month's meeting.

Mr. Sampson suggested the following items for the Charter Revision Commission to review:

**Elections** – specifically the Mayor. Mr. Sampson feels that a two-year term for a Mayor is extremely difficult. He said the Mayor is actually a year and a half into the first term before you receive an audit on your budget to make sure everything went right. The first year in you're dealing with items that were left over from the prior administration and you really don't have a lot of changes that you can make since items such as the budget is already in place. Mr. Sampson said he also believes the Mayor position should be full-time with a full-time salary. The first term should be at least a four-year term then discussions can be held to see if that would work noting he wouldn't mind seeing it changed to four-year terms forever. Mr. Sampson said he also feels that the Mayor's position should come with a vehicle.

**Treasurer** – Mr. Sampson said this is nothing against anyone in the room. He said it is his opinion that the Treasurer needs to have specific capabilities, noting that Derby has been lucky with everyone who has ever been elected into this position of having those capabilities. As this is an elected position anyone can run for this position. Mr. Sampson said the Treasurer's position is extremely important to the City – they give us direction on investments, financing that the City needs to do. He said he has a problem with just having someone elected to this position without any fiscal knowledge – that's a problem. Mr. Sampson said he feels that we would be setting ourselves up for a downfall. He said we can look at two options – A. putting requirements on that position or B. no longer have it an elected position and make it an appointed position.

**Sec. 28/52/70** – Mr. Sampson said he knows this is a pet peeve of our Town & City Clerk – our Charter says that items have to be published in a newspaper. We should be able to look at social media and publish items electronically. Placing items in the paper is a cost to the City. Mr. Sampson asked Ms. Finn about the cost of items. Ms. Finn said the City is basically keeping the New Haven Register in business, noting that the cost of Legal Notices and various other notices is ridiculous.

**Section 29 (Annual Appropriation for Certain Charities)** – Mr. Sampson asked why do we give Griffin Hospital \$1,000.00 per year per our Charter. He said they already receive a significant tax break from the City. Mr. Sampson said this item needs to be reviewed and stated he would rather give the money to the Derby Neck Library since they actually perform a service for the City.

**Section 41/43/44 (Vacancy in office of Chief of Police or Officer)** – Mr. Sampson said our Charter states that the Chief of Police only needs an associate degree to be the Chief. He said that is so outdated it's pathetic noting that he has been a Police Officer for thirty years and you can't get near a Chief of Police position with at least a minimum of a bachelor's degree. Mr. Sampson said our Charter also allows for the progression if the Deputy Chief doesn't meet the qualifications a Patrolman can take the test for Chief of Police – this doesn't happen anywhere, but it has happened in Derby. He said there is also the section that says full-time officers will be hired from the Supernumerary pool. We haven't done that in years and it is outdated language. Mr. Sampson said lateral transfers also need to be reviewed with the Chief having the discretion as to where to start them. This would also save the City approximately \$150,000 as they would not have to go through the Police Academy.

Mr. Donofrio said we would need to look at the lateral transfer and have the Chief recommend a salary but not have the final say noting it could go before a board, Police Commission so there would be no favoritism.

Mr. Joe DiMartino said he would like to see waivers discussed again – to have a majority vote and not have it need to be a unanimous vote. Mr. Donofrio said he agrees totally with this especially after the citizens elect you into the position.

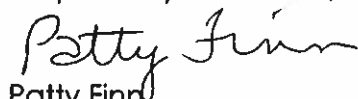
Mr. Garofalo said if the board is looking to have this on the ballot for November it has to be done sixty days before the election. He noted we've had problems in the past with summer vacations in order to have the meetings. Mr. Garofalo said the best thing to do

is limit the items that you present them with. Mr. Baklik said one other item that we've talked about internally is the role of the Board of Aldermen as it relates to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation. He said maybe the idea of a Board of Taxation and a Board of Aldermen as separate entities is an antiquated idea and maybe a combination of those two where the Board of Aldermen has an arm of a finance subcommittee – I don't know what that would look like but perhaps we can explore it. Mr. Sill said that's what they do in Ansonia. It was also noted that Shelton does it this way. Mr. Sill said we could also look at having that be a four-year term.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. Hyder to adjourn the Special Meeting at 6:25 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Patty Finn  
Recording Secretary

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF  
ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN AT THEIR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING.**