

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JULY 9, 2012.**

**ATTENDANCE:** Cathleen Simpson, Co-Chair; Charles Valentino; Harry Weichsel,  
Ruben Felipe (6:14 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Atty. Steven Mednick; Atty. Ed Maley

**OTHERS:** Council Member Angel dePara; Council Member Susan  
Brannelly

**CALL TO ORDER.**

Ms. Simpson called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. A quorum was not present.

Atty. Mednick said that there were a few issues that still needed some tweaking. Some of those issues were in the Bond Section. The Council members had some questions about the list of officials that were included in the list that required bonding. A brief discussion followed. Atty. Maley pointed out that the list contained officials who handled cash. Atty. Mednick said that the ability to change this list was in the Charter, so it should be handled via the Ordinances.

The next issue mentioned was the concern around the Mayor or Council President being out of state for 24 hours. Atty. Maley said that there were two issues, the fact that the Mayor would still be in communication with the city administration, while the second one is a simple issue of notification. Mr. Valentino said it was his understanding that the issue was whether the President of the Council should be the one who was on the scene of an emergency and speaking to the media. Discussion followed.

*Mr. Felipe joined the meeting at 6:14 p.m. A quorum was now present.*

Ms. Simpson gave Mr. Felipe a brief overview of the discussion under way regarding the issue of notifying the Council President if the Mayor was out of state for more than 24 hours and what this would entail. Mr. Felipe pointed out that if the Mayor is out of town, he would not be necessarily out of communication.

Mr. Weichsel said that he had concerns about a scenario where the Mayor was out of State and the CAO and the COS disagreed on emergency issues. Atty. Mednick said that the Commission could not address this issue at this time, due to the fact that the Commission could only discuss issues that the Council had concerns about. However, any future Charter Commission could address the issue.

**\*\* MR. FELIPE MOVED TO MOVE FORWARD WITHOUT INCLUDING A REQUIREMENT THAT THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT BE NOTIFIED IF THE MAYOR IS OUT OF THE STATE FOR MORE THAN 24 HOURS.**

**\*\* THE MOTION FAILED DUE TO A LACK OF A SECOND.**

**\*\* CV MOVED TO PROVIDE NOTIFICATION TO THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT IF THE MAYOR WAS ABSENT FROM CITY FOR MORE THAN 24 HOURS.**

**\*\* THE MOTION FAILED DUE TO A LACK OF SECOND.**

Atty. Mednick then reviewed the areas where the Council had expressed concerns and clarification was needed that included the following:

- The section on removal regarding potential crimes that was committed after the official has taken office.
- Some clarification regarding the Board of Education section.
- Poor performance criteria being established in advance.
- Emergency section regarding the rationale of the Mayor having the ability to spend up to 1% of total budget without council approval.
- In the event of a three hour emergency council meeting, there was a question about the council members being able to phone in for the meeting.
- The restriction regarding serving in a position for three years prior to appointment for members of the Civil Service Board and the BOE. It was agreed that the currently serving members would be exempt from this.
- Reducing the number of Commissioner on the Parks Commission from 8 to 7 in order to facilitate obtaining a quorum more easily.

The removal of the limit of service for the Fire Chief and Police Chief was the next issue discussed. Mr. Felipe asked if this could be discussed in more depth until another meeting. Another meeting will be scheduled for later this week.

- The restoration of the 2/3rd majority for the budget approval.
- The submission of the budget date be moved forward from the first week of April to the last week in March.

Atty. Mednick said that Rev. Olson had requested that the Council President should preside over the City Council meetings. The Commission briefly discussed it and decided that this was not a good idea at this time.

**\*\* MR. VALENTINO MOVED TO DIRECT ATTY. MEDNICK TO RESPOND TO THE ISSUES AS DISCUSSED IN THE MEETING.**

**\*\* MR. FELIPE SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commission then discussed scheduling an additional meeting date. It was suggested that Thursday at 5:00 p.m. be scheduled.

Atty. Mednick then distributed copies of potential wording for the ballot question. While it is not a Commission responsibility, Atty. Mednick said he always presents the Commission with some potential ballot wording for the Commission to consider. The Commission can then make their recommendation to the Council regarding the wording of the ballot question.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. VALENTINO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* MR. WEICHSEL SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services