

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2016 AT 6:30 P.M. IN
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET,
CHESHIRE CT 06410.**

Present

Charter Revision Commission Members: Town Council Members Paul Bowman and Michael Ecke; David Borowy, Kim Cangiano, Michael Laden, Matt Levine, Barbara McWhirter, Sandy Mouris, Mark Shumilla, Susan Stanley, Kevin Wetmore

Absent: Robert J. Oris, Jr. Town Council Chairman

Staff: Town Manager Michael A. Milone; Town Attorney Alfred Smith; Exec. Assistant to the Town Manager, Arnett Talbot.

Public Hearing Subject Matter

**CONSIDERATION OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN CHARTER
AND POTENTIAL REVISIONS**

1. ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll for the Charter Revision Commission and a quorum was determined to be present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

2. EXPLANATION OF HEARING PROCEDURE AND AGENDA

Ms. McWhirter explained that this public hearing will follow the format for public hearings of the Town Council. She stated that the Charter Revision Commission was appointed by the Town Council with the charge to review the Town Charter, and issue a report by June 1, 2017 with recommended revisions, if any. The Commission wants and welcomes input from the citizens about revising or maintaining the Charter. There will be additional public hearings (3 or more) held during the revision process.

Ms. McWhirter opened the public hearing.

3. READING OF LEGAL NOTICE

The clerk read the legal notice into the record.

4. PRESENTATION ON HEARING SUBJECT

Ms. McWhirter gave a short presentation on the hearing subject...the review of the Town Charter, and the process which the Commission would follow.

5. QUESTIONS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR.

**6. PROPONENTS AND OPPONENTS STATEMENTS ALTERNATELY
EXPRESSED.**

7. REBUTTAL AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR.

Cindy Kleist, 251 Lancaster Way, read the first amendment of the U. S. Constitution into the record. She cited Section 7.1(d) of the Town Charter, and stated her recommendation for more than one referendum on the town budget when there is a change made to the operating budget. Ms. Kleist believes it is unconstitutional to have one referendum, and asked the Town Attorney to look into this to determine its legality. She will also contact the ACLU on this section of the Charter.

Darf Kleist, 251 Lancaster Way, spoke about wanting the Charter to include a Police Commission to supplement the Public Safety Commission. He stated the Cheshire Police Department is a para-military organization and a commission should be staffed with outsiders.

David Veleber, 402 Hayledge Court, commented on Section 2-2, Town Council and Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Veleber is satisfied with the existing form of government, Town Council and Town Manager, and stated it is working well. He talked about 2 or 4 year terms of office for the Council, and supports the current 2 year terms of office, as it is a more direct representation of the citizens. Mr. Veleber does not support doing away with district Council seats, and believes they should be maintained as they represent local districts in Cheshire. When people have concerns or problems, they can contact their district Councilor. With regard to Planning and Zoning Commission seats, Mr. Veleber supports the 6 year terms of office for 3 members, 4 year terms for 3 members, and 3 year terms for 3 members...as this provides a long term view of the Town and what is happening and being approved for the Town.

Briena Schain, 62 Hilltop Road, spoke at the prior public information session in support of the current form of government in Cheshire, and believes it works well for the operation of the Town. She also supports district seats on the Town Council as people develop a closer relationship with district officials. Ms. Schain thanked the Commissioners for their time, effort, and hard work in reviewing the Town Charter. In her closing remarks, Ms. Schain stated there is a need to "beef up" the public access channel for the Town of Cheshire.

Bill Delianne, 40 Southwick Court, commented on the public access channel and agrees there should be more programming which would be better for town government.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Bowman; seconded by Mr. Levine.

MOVED to adjourn the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk