



**CITY OF DANBURY**  
**CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**

155 DEER HILL AVENUE  
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Location: Room 3C City Hall

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BY: *Bl*

Minutes from Monday, September 8, 2008

**Commissioners Present:** Carlo J. Marano, Robert L. King, Peter N. Buzaid, Carlo J. Marano, Joan S. Mead, Mary Comstock, Paul E. Swenson, Diane R. Servello and Mary M. Cronin

**Commissioner Absent:** Edward T. Torian

1. The commission discussion and accepted the minutes from the August 25, 2008 meeting with certain corrections.
2. The commission heard input from the public:
  - Joel Urice** Spoke about the Planning Commission and represented that current members of the planning commission do not like the idea of combining the Planning and Zoning Commissions; He spoke in favor of referendums as in the representative form of government the representatives don't always do what the populace wants; the current requirements are too difficult to get a referendum..;
  - Al Robinson** Is opposed to Mayor's proposal for City Clerk's duties and believes it should be a civil service position He also believes Commission should hear directly from Councilmen Tom Saadi and Greg Seabury
  - Warren Levy** discussed two proposals he submitted for the replacement position to perform the City Clerk's duties..
  - Paul Rotella** Discussed the two proposals submitted for the City Clerk's duties and advocated that the appointment be made by the Council alone; he also spoke about §6-9 that it was important the council voted on the appointments; §3-4 that it was important for the council be apprised of settlements even those covered by insurance; Gifts less than \$1,000 should come before the Council it is part of the tradition in Danbury; § 2-3 should delete reference to legislative body.
  - Lynn Waller** pointed out that the referendum requirements are very hard and to make the right to go to referendum meaningful the % of electors signatures needed must be significantly reduced to make realistic in the short 30 day time window allowed. Spoke of her concern about the language in §7-8 about public improvement assessments.
  - Mary Tieholz** Spoke in favor of 21 members on the council and in favor of the 4 year term for elective offices as elections are very expensive. She believes that there would be greater participation if terms were lengthened and the longer terms would help all elective offices with continuity and greater institutional knowledge of elected officials.
3. The commission had discussion about the City Clerk's position and where duties would go if position was simply eliminated. The Commission **unanimously voted** that the position of City Clerk should be eliminated from the Charter.
4. The commission had discussion regarding a replacement position to perform the duties of the City Clerk and **voted 6 to 1** to eliminate the position of Assistant City Clerk. In Favor: BUZAID, COMSTOCK, KING, CRONIN, MEAD AND SERVELLO; Opposed: SWENSON.

5. The Commission had discussion and **voted unanimously** to rename the Personnel Department the Department of Human Resources;
6. The Commission had discussion and **voted unanimously** to change the name of the Health and Housing Department to Health and Human Services Department
7. The Commission had discussion about changes to the Parks Department and Public Works Department and received a report from its counsel, Eric Gottschalk.
8. The Commission had discussion about reducing the percentage of electors signatures required for a referendum and **voted 4 to 3** to leave that unchanged by rejecting a motion to reduce the percentage of signatures to 10% In favor: SWENSON, SERVELLO and KING; Opposed: COMSTOCK, CRONIN, MEAD and BUZOID.
9. The Commission had discussion with its Counsel about language drafted for § 6-9 and § 3-4

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 9:25PM.

Submitted: September 22, 2008

By: Peter N. Buzaid Secretary