

AGENDA

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at [norwalkct.org/meetings](https://www.norwalkct.org/meetings)



Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Jordan Schantz at jschantz@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 16, 2022

IV. LEGAL ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN THE CURRENT CHARTER: Presentation by Corporation Counsel Mario Coppola

V. GENERAL AND CAPITAL FUND BUDGET PROCESS AND OPERATIONS: PANEL DISCUSSION

A. Henry M. Dachowitz, Chief Financial Officer

B. Hon. Greg Burnett, President of Norwalk Common Council; Chair of Finance and Claims Committee

C. Hon. Darlene Young, Majority Leader Norwalk Common Council; Chair of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs Committee

D. Attorney Edwin Camacho, Chair of the Board of Estimate and Taxation

VI. COMMENTS BY COMMISSION COUNSEL

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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ATTENDANCE: Patsy Brescia, Chair; Mayor Harry Rilling; Carl Dickens; Tyler Fairbaim; Benita Raleigh; Angela Wasunna

OTHERS: Thomas Livingston, Common Councilmember; Steve Mednick, Attorney

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Brescia called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Brescia called the Roll as indicated above.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 2, 2022

**** MR. FAIRBAIM MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED
** MS. WASUNNA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

IV. MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Rilling thanked everyone for their willingness to serve on this Commission. He said that encouraging people to get involved is part of the Charter Revision process. He expressed his hope that the public will become involved in the process.

Mayor Rilling noted that the current Charter is convoluted and needs more clarity.

Mayor Rilling asked Mr. Livingston if he had any comments. Mr. Livingston said he was here this evening to watch and help where he could.

V. PRESENTATION BY CORPORATION COUNSEL

There was no presentation this evening.

VI. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Mr. Mednick discussed the proposed schedule that was distributed to the Commission members. He said the objective is to come up with a readable and workable document. He said he hopes representatives from Finance and the Common Council will be able to attend their next meeting.

At the following meeting, Mr. Mednick said he hopes to have a broad discussion and have a draft of the first three Articles of the Charter. In addition, he would like to get direction from the City's Bond Counsel. He also proposed inviting Mr. Joe DeLong, the Director of CCM to give a talk at the January 18th meeting. At the end of that meeting, they can open it up for public comment on Articles 1, 2, 3 and 10. The objective would be for preliminary public review for those sections. Mr. Mednick said it would be useful to periodically get feedback from the public.

In February they would start working on the elected officials and look at comparative data. From there they would move on to boards and commissions. Mr. Mednick noted this is an aggressive schedule, but it can change. He discussed structures for boards and commissions.

Mr. Mednick said he and Ms. Brescia discussed getting agendas and content out early enough so Commission members would have enough time to review the material before the meeting.

VII. COMMENTS BY COMMISSION COUNSEL

Ms. Brescia said they are all anxious to get started and that they want to cleanse the current Charter of anything that is passe. In addition, they want to add gender neutral language to the Charter. She suggested that beginning at the next meeting, they go through the Charter line by line. Mr. Mednick said how they debate the Charter will be up to the Commission. He

recommended that the Commissioners read everything he provides to them. In response to Ms. Brescia's suggestion to go through the entirety of the Charter and eliminate a lot of the extraneous language, Mr. Mednick said he felt the best way would be to review the Charter, chapter by chapter. He recommended the incremental approach. Mr. Livingston said that made sense.

Mr. Mednick said he will contact Mr. Coppola and ask him about attending a subsequent meeting. He noted that all changes will be annotated.

Mr. Dickens asked if they could see other Charter Revisions that Mr. Mednick worked on. Mr. Mednick said he will send those to the Commission members.

Following a discussion about the December 21st meeting, the Commissioners agreed to hold the meeting as scheduled.

Mr. Dickens expressed concern about people not being informed about the Charter Revision. Mayor Rilling made some suggestions on how to inform the public. Mr. Livingston added that he spoke with Ms. King and Ms. Williams about getting a page on the City's website. He said that as they get going, there will be more interest in this. He said it was important to get people interested and engaged in this.

Mr. Fairbaim said he would encourage Common Council members to communicate with the people in their districts. He suggested presenting articles showing what changes have been made. Mr. Livingston suggested circulating the calendar so people have a sense of what is coming.

Mr. Mednick said there should be a link on the City's website showing their agenda. He also said they should post Chapter 10. He said there should be an active attempt to engage members of all political parties. Mr. Dickens said he wants to be sure that everyone is aware of what work is being done.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Brescia wished everyone a nice Thanksgiving.

**** MS. WASUNNA MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MR. DICKENS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk
Charter Revision Commission
November 16, 2022
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