

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TOWN COUNCIL/CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

June 13, 2022

PRESENT Town Council: Chair Richard Kehoe, Vice Chair and Charter Revision Commission Chair Don Bell, Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson (Via Teams), Minority Leader John Morrison, Councillors Angie Parkinson, Awet Tsegai, and Harry Amadasun, Jr., Councillors and Commissioners Thomas Rup and Travis Simpson

Charter Revision Commissioners: Deb Arrieta, Richard Bates, Shelby Brown (via Teams), Eric Thompson, Angel Santiago (via Teams), and Marcia Leclerc

ABSENT

CALL TO ORDER

The Joint Special Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Town Council Chair Richard Kehoe to review the Town Council's recommendations to the Charter Revision Commission Draft Report. The Chair announced the exit locations in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §29-381.

Charter Revision Commission Chair Don Bell then called to order the Charter Revision Commission members at 6:35 pm.

Chair Kehoe took a moment to acknowledge the passing of former East Hartford Mayor Melody Currey. The Council and Commission took a moment of silence to honor Ms. Currey.

Chair Kehoe briefed the Councillors and Commissioners on the revisions made in the Charter Revision Commission's draft report that was provided to the Council in April. The Chair then made note of additional recommendations that the Council provided back to the Commission in May, highlighting changes that included (1) the removal of pronouns and using titles and position names instead; (2) more consistency in references to Town Council; (3) clarity of meaning of "office of profit under town government"; (4) a provision to move the first council meeting in November after a Municipal Election to a Tuesday when there is a conflict with Veterans Day holiday; and (5) section references within the Charter were made more uniform and accurate. Chair Kehoe then opened up the meeting for questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Bates requested clarification of why the Town Council would be referred to as "the Council" within the Charter. *Chair Kehoe explained that in Section 3.1 the Charter specifically states that going forward in the document, the Town Council would be herein after referred to as "The Council."* Therefore, the Council made recommendations to remove the word "Town" for uniformity. Commissioner Bates proposed that all references should be defined as "Town Council" for clarity. The

