



TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
WORKSHOP

2021 AUG 13 PM 1:46

TOWN CLERK  
EAST HARTFORD

AUGUST 10, 2021

PRESENT Deb Arrieta, Richard Bates, Don Bell, Shelby Brown, Tom Rup,  
Angel Santiago, Travis Simpson and Eric Thompson

ABSENT Marcia Leclerc

ALSO Richard F. Kehoe, Town Council Chair  
PRESENT

CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order at 6:15p.m. by Don Bell.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 27, 2021 Organizational Meeting

MOTION By Eric Thompson  
seconded by Angel Santiago  
to **approve** the July 27, 2021 organizational meeting minutes.  
Motion carried 8/0.

The Chair explained the Commission was provided with Charters from other towns to review and offer guidance for the Commissioners to consider. While only one person spoke at the public hearing, there will be other opportunities for the public to weigh in with any concerns or recommendations.

The Commission discussed whether the Charter should list all the departments or provide some other mechanism for allowing future mayors and councils to consolidate or change the organization of town departments. The chair noted that West Haven allows department changes by ordinance, Middletown does not list any town departments deferring to ordinance while others list the departments in great detail. The Commission asked if there were success stories of department consolidation or shared services leading to cost savings and efficiencies.

The Commission discussed the appointment and termination of directors and whether there should be a town manager or chief operating officer. The Commission members asked for the following information relative to this topic: (1) information on why Hartford changed from city manager to strong mayor; (2) having a former town manager discuss his/her experience; (3) salary and compensation of a town manager and hiring criteria.

The Commission deferred discussion on the mayor term of office (2 years v. 4 years) pending discussion on town manager/COO.

The Commission discussed budget by referendum changes and decided it may not need to pursue this further given it has not been an issue.

The Commission wanted to review a board of education report examining future demographic trends and also to consider a periodic review of the town charter.

The Commission asked if any other town had staggered terms for Town Council.

The Commission asked for background on the conflict of authority for the Personnel Appeals Board.

#### ADJOURNMENT

MOTION      By Eric Thompson  
                  seconded by Deb Arrieta  
                  to **adjourn** (8:10 p.m.).  
                  Motion carried 8/0.