

## **Town of Ridgefield Charter Revision Commission (CRC)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**May 11, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.**

### **Town Hall Annex Conference Room #2**

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription. A video of the meeting is available on the Town's website.

Members Present: Bob Cascella, Rebecca Mucchetti, Michael Rettger, Todd Zagorec, Kim Welton, Laurie Christiansen, Tom Lansen, Derick Schirm, and Mike Lordi (by phone)

#### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Mucchetti at 6:30 p.m.

#### **2. Public Comment**

No public comments.

#### **3. Continued Discussion and Possible Vote on Open Items**

- a) The CRC discussed the proposal to establish a Fire Commission with Jerry Myers, Chief of the Ridgefield Fire Department. Chief Myers felt there would be limited benefits in establishing a Fire Commission. He also felt establishing a Fire Commission could create inefficiencies and potential issues. Following the discussion, Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to decline to recommend the proposal to establish a Fire Commission. Motion carried 9-0. (Tracker Item A-49\*)
- b) The CRC discussed how, if approved, the Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and Treasurer positions would transition from elective to appointed. Mr. Rettger moved, and Mr. Schirm seconded a motion to recommend revising Section 9-17 of the Charter to incorporate the following "with respect to the offices of Town Clerk, Tax collector, and Town Treasurer, should one or more of these offices be changed from an elected to an appointed position of the Town pursuant to amendments to this Charter approved by the electors in 2023, such change or changes shall take effect upon the expiration of the term of office of the applicable official or officials elected at the Town election in November 2023, or upon an earlier vacancy in such office. Motion carried 9-0. (Tracker Item I-28) *(note: following the meeting, it was recognized that the correct section in the draft amended Charter is 9-20)*

#### **4. Continued Discussion of the Draft Report**

Mr. Cascella moved, and Ms. Christiansen seconded a motion to modify the agenda to include a discussion of Sections 3, 4, and 5 of the draft report. Motion carried 8 -0-1. Mr. Lordi abstained.

Mr. Rettger reviewed changes to Section 3 of the report. Mr. Rettger proposed a new alternate version of the Charter's redline to present the changes to Article XI.

The CRC agreed that the report should lead with the redline version. The clean and redline versions will be available online; only the redline will be printed.

Ms. Welton reviewed changes to Section 5 of the report.

Mr. Rettger and Ms. Welton reviewed Section 2 of the report.

Ms. Christiansen reviewed changes to Section 1 of the report. The CRC agreed on additional wording changes to the section.

Mr. Cascella moved, and Mr. Lansen seconded a motion to send the draft report as revised to a public hearing and for publication. Motion carried 9-0.

## **5. Communications**

Ms. Christiansen reviewed ideas for content to offer the Ridgefield Press for the coming week.

## **6. Review of Action Item**

Ms. Welton reviewed the remaining open action item regarding the "drop-down" rule. This item will remain open.

## **7. Old Business**

None

## **8. Correspondence**

None

## **9. Planning Future Calendars**

Ms. Mucchetti reported that she had provided notice for the public hearing on May 20, 2023, and a special meeting on May 20, 2023, following the public hearing. The CRC will decide on May 20, 2023, if a special meeting is required on May 23, 2023. The CRC will have its regular meeting on May 18, 2023.

## **10. Minutes – Review and Approval**

Motion to approve as amended the minutes of the May 4, 2023, meeting by Mr. Schirm, seconded by Mr. Cascella. Motion carried 8 -0-1. Mr. Lordi abstained.

## **11. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn at 8:38 p.m. by Mr. Cascella, seconded by Mr. Schirm. Motion carried 9 - 0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Lordi, Recording Secretary

\* Tracker: The Change Request Tracker is a document that lists recommended changes received by the CRC.