



**SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE  
TOWN COUNCIL  
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT  
MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2011  
7:30 P.M.  
WATERTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER  
(Former Heminway Park School)  
61 Echo Lake Road  
Watertown, CT 06795  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Elaine Adams  
Richard DiFederico  
Katherine Duplissie  
Richard Fusco  
Linda Masayda  
Raymond Primini, Chairman  
Paul Rinaldi  
Mary Ann Rosa, Vice Chairman  
Thomas Winn

**ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Attorney Joe Summa

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman Primini called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Roll Call**

Ms. King, Secretary executed the roll call.

**4. Discussion and action on the 2011 Charter Revision Commission Final Report.**  
(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard DiFederico) move to accept the Final Report of the 2011 Charter Revision Commission.

**Linda Masayda** I thought about it and I will get my chance to vote and each one of us will have our opportunity to vote on these items. There has probably been no bigger community contribution than the charter revision meetings and it is probably the closest we have gotten to government by the people and for the people. Who are we to sit here and say what they can and can't vote on, this is a democracy let the people vote and we will get our chance.

**Mary Ann Rosa** I spoke very strongly against 406 at the council meeting as you know. I still personally have issues with it but after listening to Attorney Summa who answered a lot of my concerns and also coming from the same concept as Linda that I represent the people but I don't speak for them so I am going to vote to allow this to go forward for the public to vote on.

**Paul Rinaldi** when we first went into this whole process I had my doubts. I can appreciate what they did and I can agree one hundred percent with everything they did. It took a lot of work and let the public decide.

**Elaine Adams** I would like to voice my disagreement with the four year terms for council members. Mary Ann I thought about what you said regarding experience, we sat in on the Board of Ed and did they listen to us, the inexperienced the answer is no. When it comes down to tonight let the people decide but come the election I am going to be voting no to that question. I am also disappointed that they did not deal with minority representation or the three, three, three. (Inaudible)

**Richard Fusco** I disagree with that, there are one or two questions that I don't like but because I have to vote on it as a group, I would have to vote no for the whole process. So I think it is more important we vote on each one to see where we stand.

**Katherine Duplissie** as far as the extended terms being the most inexperienced one here I can't imagine having an entire council of inexperienced members and to have some experience sitting around the table for people to say no this is how we do it that is very important. You can't just every 4 or 2 years have a completely new council. I thought that was the right move and I will agree with everyone that we should let the people decide.

**Mary Ann Rosa** the public should know that they looked at a lot of different things. The summary chart that was given to us shows seven items that they recommended modifications for. I think those should be listed in the minutes of this meeting each one of them was considered by the council and then 8a through 8j were changes that appeared to be from what I can see housekeeping changes. Just given the amount of time and effort to do all of these items they should be commended for a lot to accomplish in a very short time and they worked very diligently at it. It would have been nice to address some of the other issues but obviously I don't believe they had time to do it appropriately. I would like at this meeting to enter into the minutes my gratitude to the commission for their efforts.

## 2011 Watertown Charter Revision Commission Summary Chart of Proposed Amendments by Issue

<b>Issue #</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Recommend Modification</b>	<b>Sections Modified</b>
<b>Issue 1.</b>	<b>Staggered Four year Terms for Town Council</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 202, Sec. 301,</b>
<b>Issue 2.</b>	<b>Consideration Of Charter Review Every Ten Years</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 306</b>
<b>Issue 3.</b>	<b>Clarify language re Town Attorney Selection Procedure</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 401</b>
<b>Issue 4.a</b>	<b>Alternate Members for Police Commission</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 404a</b>
<b>Issue 4.b</b>	<b>Nominations By Appropriate Town Committee</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 404b</b>
<b>Issue 4.c</b>	<b>Clarify budget review by Police Commission</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 404c.2</b>
<b>Issue 4.d</b>	<b>Clarify Chief of Police Removal only for just cause pursuant to State statute; Approval of Town Manger</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 404g, 404h</b>
<b>Issue 4.e</b>	<b>Police Commission to meet once a month</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 404i (NEW)</b>
<b>Issue 5.</b>	<b>Procedure for Removal of Appointees</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 406 (NEW)</b>
<b>Issue 6.</b>	<b>Provides updated dollar amounts and exceptions for utilities and emergencies</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 602, Sec.704, Sec.707</b>
<b>Issue 7.</b>	<b>Expediting Referenda Process Eliminating Budget Town Meetings; Month to Month Expenditures</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 702, Sec. 703, Sec. 710</b>
<b>Issue 8.a (Editorial)</b>	<b>Eliminated Reference to Appendix A Transition Ordinance</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 202e*</b>
<b>Issue 8.b (Editorial)</b>	<b>Changed “not inconsistent” to “consistent”</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 404c.1.</b>
<b>Issue 8.c (Editorial)</b>	<b>Changes “town-owned“ to “Town owned”</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 603</b>
<b>Issue 8.d (Editorial)</b>	<b>Changes “with” to “in accordance with”</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 604f</b>

<b>Issue 8.e</b> <i>(Editorial)</i>	<b>Changes “file” to “filed”</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 608</b>
<b>Issue 8.f</b> <i>(Editorial)</i>	<b>Changes “mail” to “send”; Eliminate 7 day language</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 705</b>
<b>Issue 8.g</b> <i>(Editorial)</i>	<b>Eliminate “and the Probate Court”</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 707</b>
<b>Issue 8.h</b> <i>(Editorial)</i>	<b>Changes “III” to “111”</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sec. 708</b>
<b>Issue 8.i</b> <i>(Editorial)</i>	<b>Eliminate Board of Education Implementation Language</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Appendix A</b>
<b>Issue 8.j</b> <i>(Editorial)</i>	<b>Relettering “B” to “A” - Add missing phrase in V.1 - Delete “No.” in V.5</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Appendix B, Sec. V.1, Sec.V.5</b>
<b>Issue 9</b>	<b>Elimination or limitation of Referenda Process</b>	<b>No</b>	
<b>Issue 10</b>	<b>Elect members of Planning and Zoning; Term Lengths; Term limits</b>	<b>No</b>	
<b>Issue 11</b>	<b>Minority Party Representation on Boards</b>	<b>No</b>	
<b>Issue 12</b>	<b>Alternate form of Government</b>	<b>No</b>	

**Raymond Primini** I would like to congratulate and give my sincere appreciation to the Charter Revision Commission for what they did and I think one of my biggest fears that there was going to be 25 or 30 items to vote on and I am amazed they got it down to 8. (Inaudible) Section 406 I talked to Attorney Summa and members of the boards and commissions and they like the idea. We had nothing in place before and nothing to really go by (inaudible) the main issues were well perceived and accomplished (inaudible). I am going to have Mary Ann read each one at a time to vote on.

**Thomas Winn** Section 406 are there other towns just like ours that have similar...

**Attorney Joe Summa** not only towns and city’s but non profits.

Motion passed unanimously

**5. Discussion and action on setting referendum questions on the 2011 Charter Revisions.**

**2011 Proposed Charter Revision Ballot Questions**

**Question 1.**

**Shall the Charter be revised to provide for four year staggered terms for Town Council members? (*Charter Sections – 202, 301*)**

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard DiFederico) move to approve question one be sent to referendum.

Aye: 8 Adams, DiFederico, Duplissie, Masayda, Primini, Rinaldi, Rosa, Winn

Nay: 1 Fusco

Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

**Question 2.**

**Shall the Charter be revised to require the Town Council at least every ten (10) years to consider and discuss whether a Charter Review Commission should be appointed to review the Charter? (*Charter Section –306*)**

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard DiFederico) move to approve question two be sent to referendum.

Discussion: none

Motion passed unanimously

**Question 3.**

**Shall the Charter be revised to clarify the procedure for selection of the Town Attorney? (*Charter Sections – 401*)**

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard DiFederico) move to approve question three be sent to referendum.

Discussion: none

Motion passed unanimously

**Question 4.**

**Shall the Charter be revised to:**

- A) **provide that the Police Commission have alternate members, meet once a month, have individuals for vacated positions be nominated by appropriate Town Committee: and**
  
- B) **clarify the budget review procedure and procedure for removal of the Police Chief? (Charter Sections – 404a, 404b, 404c.2, 404g, 404h, 404i (New))**

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard DiFederico) move to approve question four be sent to referendum.

**Elaine Adams** the way the charter reads now is that whatever political party started the term it would stay with that political party for the five years is that still in here?

**Attorney Joe Summa** yes, the nominees would come from the town committee from which the vacant position is vacated.

Motion passed unanimously

**Question 5.**

**Shall the Charter be revised to provide for a uniform procedure for the removal of Appointees to Commissions and Boards who “fail to fulfill the minimum duties of the Appointee’s position or engage in misconduct detrimental to the best interests of the Town”? (Charter Sections – 406 (New))**

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard DiFederico) move to approve question five be sent to referendum.

Discussion: none

Aye: 8 Adams, DiFederico, Duplissie, Masayda, Primini, Rinaldi, Rosa, Winn  
Nay: 1 Fusco  
Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

**Question 6.**

**Shall the Charter be revised to update dollar amount limitations to reflect current monetary values and provide exceptions for utilities and emergencies? (Charter Sections – 602,704,707)**

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard DiFederico) move to approve question six be sent to referendum.

Discussion: none

Motion passed unanimously

**Question 7.**

**Shall the Charter be revised to expedite the referendum process and clarify language restricting the Town to the previous year's budget until new a budget is approved? (*Charter Sections – 702, 703, 710*)**

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard DiFederico) move to approve question seven be sent to referendum.

Discussion: none

Motion passed unanimously

**Question 8.**

**Shall the Charter be revised to replace outdated, missing, incorrect or inappropriate language with appropriate wording? (*Charter Sections – 202e\*, 404c.1, 603, 604f, 608, 705, 707, 708, AppendixA, Appendix B Sec.V.1 and V.5*)**

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard DiFederico) move to approve question eight be sent to referendum.

Discussion: none

Motion passed unanimously

**6. Discussion and action on setting a referendum date to consider the 2011 Charter Revisions.**

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard DiFederico) to set the referendum date to consider the questions approved to be held on November 8, 2011 along with the general election to be held on that date.

Discussion: none

Motion passed unanimously

**7. Discussion and action regarding a resolution authorizing explanatory text on the 2011 Charter Revisions questions.**

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard Fusco) to authorize a resolution regarding explanatory text on 2011 Charter Revision Questions.

**Katherine Duplissie** my concern is this is a little vague.

**Mary Ann Rosa** it says that the information will be available to the public and that is the idea of the resolution.

**Elaine Adams** I think I know where Kace is going with this that the office of the Town Clerk is authorized to prepare and I don't expect the town clerk to prepare explanatory text. As far as distributing them yes but anytime you explain what these mean it should come from charter revision or...

**Attorney Joe Summa** I think technically because it is an election the referendum is coming through the town clerk and their concern was that some of the questions could get complicated and some of them are self explanatory but there may be one or two that just by reading the question you don't know what it is. The only option available to the public now you would go on the website and actually look at the change. (inaudible). You may have an explanation sheet on a particular question or two that is available to the public through the town clerk's office.

**Paul Rinaldi** I think it is a good idea, in the past there have been a few projects that have been presented to the town and materials have been prepared not in favor or not against just the facts are down you can pick it up and read through it to have some working knowledge.

**Attorney Joe Summa** I think it is appropriate that it also be approved by the Town Council prior to it going out, technically the charter commission ceases to exist.

**Katherine Duplissie** shouldn't we have some continuity and it is rather vague. I think we should be able to bring explicit and in lemans terms and to have a date as to when they are available.

**Attorney Joe Summa** so all this says is I am sure if any is needed, if the Town Clerk and the Town Attorney are looking at it and say we should have a better explanation for this and have a sheet that shows what the amounts are and that is the kind of thing that you are talking about. I think you can pass that as is with the understanding that whatever this document is...

**Mary Ann Rosa** it has to come back to us for approval.

**Elaine Adams** it does not say that.

**Attorney Joe Summa** let it come before you so you can see what the specifics are.

RESOLUTION OF TOWN COUNCIL  
(authorizing explanatory texts and materials for bond referenda)

Item 7.

RESOLVED, that the Office of the Town Clerk is authorized if necessary to prepare and distribute concise explanatory texts regarding the questions for the approval or disapproval of the 2011 Charter Revisions as approved on August 22, 2011 by the Watertown Town Council meeting agenda to be submitted to the electors at the November 8, 2011 referendum vote, and the Town Manager is authorized, in such official's discretion, to prepare and distribute additional explanatory materials regarding said questions, such texts and explanatory materials to be subject to the approval of the Town Attorney and the Town Council and to be prepared and distributed in accordance with Section 9-369b of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2011

Raymond Primini, Chairman  
Watertown Town Council

At a regular meeting of the Watertown Town Council held on August 22, 2011 the foregoing Resolution was moved for adoption by Councilwoman Mary Ann Rosa. The resolution was supported by Richard Fusco.

Motion passes unanimously

**8. Adjourn**

Motion: (Richard DiFederico sec. Richard Fusco) to adjourn the Special Meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Discussion: none

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

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Raymond F. Primini, Chairman  
Watertown Town Council

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Susan King, Clerk