

# Charter Review Commission

Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2011

## **Members in Attendance:**

Pauline Dillard

Brigidanne Flynn

Jack Penney

Mary Ann Prokosch

Barbara J. Smith

Susan Smith (late)

Charles Woodard, Chair

## **Members Absent:**

Isaac Diggs

Tom Murphy

## **Staff:**

Corporation Counsel Michelle Kelson

Administrative Assistant Ann Kuzmik

Chairman Charles Woodard called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of the July 28, 2011 meeting were approved as written, with the Chair abstaining as he was not present for that meeting.

## **Agenda Items:**

Adoption of changes to “technical amendments” regarding implementation of the charter revisions and affecting Charter sections C1.21, C.3.10, C3.10, C3.11, C3.22, C5.00 and C5.01 (approved at the 6/23/11 meeting) and the Commission’s final report (approved at the 7/28/11 meeting). A summary of the changes follows:

In the report, the The report was amended to remove the stipulation that the term of office of the incumbent Mayor and all council members would terminate on December 31, 2013 was removed). Text was added to state that no election shall be held at the 2013 general election to fill the two (2) Council member positions whose terms expire on December 31, 2013. ; that tThe Mayor and the two (2) council members elected at-large at the November 2011 general election would continue to serve in those positions until the expiration of their terms on December 31, 2015. At the, and that at the November 2015 general election, these three (3) at large offices would be filled for four (4) year terms commencing January 1, 2016.

(P. 6 of the report, text added): The The report was also amended to say that cCharter changes relating to the establishment of the ward system, the election and composition of the City Council and the appointment, replacement and removal of the City Manager shall be effective upon their adoption by the voters of the City of Newburgh at the November 8, 2011 general election, provided, however, that the increase in the number of Council members from five (5) to seven (7) shall take effect on January 1, 2014.

The previously approved proposed Charter revisions (P. 20, “Revisions to the City Charter to be presented to the Electorate): **Section C1.2.1** Removal of text and change in wording were changed to to reflect the effective date of the implementation of the ward system, the increase in Council, and the expiration of terms (as follows): as noted above.

(P.21)

### **C.3.00 Municipal Officers Enumerated**

Grammatical and punctuation changes to first report

(P.24) Changes to Effective Date of Charter Revisions as amended above. (text below)

“The Charter changes set forth in Sections C1.20, C.121, C3.10, C3.11, C3.22, C5.00 and C5.01 shall be effective upon their adoption by the voters of the City of Newburgh at the November 8, 2011 general election. The Charter changes set forth in C. 3.00 and C4.00, if adopted by the voters of the City of Newburgh at the November 8, 2011 general election, shall become effective on January 1, 2014.

Other minor grammatical and punctuation changes were made.

**MOTION:**

Brigidanne Flynn moved that the Commission adopt the proposed changes to Sections C1.20, C.121, C3.10, C3.11, C3.22, C5.00 and C5.01 as noted above. Mary Ann Prokosch seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the members who were present.

**MOTION:**

Brigidanne Flynn moved that the Commission adopt the proposed amendments to Mr. Steinman’s final report. Mary Ann Prokosch seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the members who were present.

**Next Steps:Other Business:**

Discussion followed on the format of the Aug. 4, 2011 presentation to Council and public hearing on Aug. 11. Tom Murphy volunteered to serve as moderator of the Public Hearing.

Barbara Smith shared her personal mission statement regarding the Charter Review Commission (see below):

“The Charter Review Committee exists to facilitate the use of a Local Government Efficiency Grant for the purpose of reviewing the current City Charter to improve local governance.

The Committee will promote communication among the residents on issues affecting the privileges and responsibilities of the municipality, including the form of government and how it is implemented, as well as departmental duties and recommendations to revise the Charter if time permits and the outcome voted on by the Committee.

Upon satisfactory completion the charter revisions will be put to the vote of the people, this committee will be dissolved having met or exceeded their objectives.”

The Media subcommittee will meet and decide on a signage design prior to the next meeting of the full Commission. The next Charter Review Commission meeting will be Thurs. Aug. 18 at 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 83 Broadway.

1- Corporation Counsel Michelle Kelson noted that the meeting was to conduct. 2 very important pieces of business- the City Charter Commission Report has been amended to reflect the proposed changes in the method of implementation of the election of the ward seats and the effective date of the technical provisions should they be approved by the voters

2- Changes to C-121 (p.20 of the report) and the effective date provision (p. 24), and to approve the report as it has been revised.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Charter Review Commission will be Aug. 18, 2011 at 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers.