

31ST BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES CITY OF STAMFORD

President
JEFF CURTIS
Clerk of the Board
MEGAN COTTRELL

Majority Leader
NINA SHERWOOD
Minority Leader
MARY L. FEDELI

ACTION REPORT

President Curtis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and read the call of the meeting:

I, Jeff Curtis, President of the 31st Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, Connecticut, and pursuant to Section C2-10-4 of the Stamford Charter, hereby call a Special Meeting of said Board of Representatives at the following time and place:

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

6:30 p.m.

by computer, tablet, or smartphone at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83107764614> or www.zoom.com – Webinar ID - 831 0776 4614 or
by phone 1-646-558-8656 – Webinar ID - 831 0776 4614.

to consider and act upon the following:

1. [CR31.014](#) RESOLUTION; Approving the Submission to the Electors of the Proposed Amendments to the Charter at the November 7, 2023 Election.
08/23/23 – Submitted by Reps. Curtis and Bewkes
2. [CR31.013](#) RESOLUTION; Establishing the Charter Revision Questions for the November 7, 2023 Ballot.
08/30/23 – Submitted by Reps. Curtis and Bewkes

INVOCATION: Led by Rep. Bonnie Kim Campbell

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Led by President Jeff Curtis.

ROLL CALL: Conducted by Clerk of the Board Megan Cottrell. There were 37 members present and 3 members absent or excused (Reps. Adams, Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Jean-Louis, Ley, Matheny, Mays, Miller, Moore, Morson, Patterson, Pavia, Pollack, Roqueta, Saffic, Sandford, Shaw, Sherwood, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, Dakary Watkins, David Watkins, and Weinberg were present; Reps. Pierre-Louis, Shinn, and Walston were absent. Reps. Pierre-Louis and Walston joined immediately after roll call. Rep. Shinn joined the

meeting at 6:58 p.m., for a total of 40 members present. Also present was Attorney Mednick. Rep. Gilbride left the meeting at 10:52 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS: Conducted by Clerk of the Board Megan Cottrell.

1. If you need assistance with Zoom during the meeting, please call: [REDACTED] to speak with IT. Please do not call other members of the Board or the Board office. If you are having problems speaking or hearing with your computer, you can always access the meeting through a telephone by dialing the phone number on the Agenda - 1-646-558-8656, and using the Webinar ID on the agenda: **848 7455 8071**. Please call or text IT at [REDACTED] or text the Clerk at 475-489-5435 to let us know you are coming on, with the phone number you are using, and we will make sure you are able to speak during the meeting.
2. If you do not respond during a roll call vote, your name will be called 2 more times after the conclusion of the vote. If you do not respond, you will be assumed to have left the meeting and your name will not be called on the next roll call vote.
3. If you decide to leave the meeting, you must text the Clerk when you leave. If you need to leave the meeting for a short period, text the Clerk when you leave and return. Members who do not text the Clerk when they leave the meeting will be presumed to be present for all consent items.

PRESENTATION: Jeff Curtis and Bradley Bewkes Co-Chairs, 2021-22 Charter Revision Committee

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| 1. CR31.014 | RESOLUTION; Approving the Submission to the Electors of the Proposed Amendments to the Charter at the November 7, 2023 Election.
08/23/23 – Submitted by Reps. Curtis and Bewkes | APPROVED
BY ROLL
CALL VOTE
24-16-0 |
|-----------------------------|---|---|

¹A motion to approve Item No. 1 was made by Rep. Bewkes and seconded by Rep. Sherwood.

²A motion to amend Item No. 1 to change the date from November 7, 2023 to November 5, 2023 was made by Rep. Jacobson and seconded by Rep. Goldberg.

³After extensive discussion, a motion to move the question was made by Rep. Campbell, seconded by Rep. Cottrell, and failed by a roll call vote of 13-26-0 (Reps. Coleman, Cottrell, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Garst, Jean-Louis, Matheny, Pavia, Roqueta, Sherwood, Stella, Summerville, and Dakary Watkins in favor; and Reps. Adams, Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Curtis, Fedeli, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Moore, Morson, Patterson, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Shinn, Tomas, Walston, David Watkins, and Weinberg opposed).

Discussion on the proposed motion continued.

¹ Video Time Stamp 00:17:38

² Video Time Stamp 00:41:25

³ Video Time Stamp 01:24:25

⁴The motion to amend Item No. 1 to change the date from November 7, 2023 to November 5, 2023 failed by a roll call vote of 16-24-0 (Reps. Adams, Fedeli, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Shinn, David Watkins, and Weinberg in favor; Reps. Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Garst, Jean-Louis, Matheny, Moore, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Roqueta, Saftic, Sherwood, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, and Dakary Watkins opposed).

⁵The motion to approve Item No. 1 was approved by a roll call vote of 24-16-0 (Reps. Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Garst, Jean-Louis, Matheny, Moore, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Roqueta, Saftic, Sherwood, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, and Dakary Watkins in favor; Reps. Adams, Fedeli, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Shinn, David Watkins, and Weinberg opposed).

2. [CR31.013](#) RESOLUTION; Establishing the Charter Revision Questions for the November 7, 2023 Ballot. 08/30/23 – Submitted by Reps. Curtis and Bewkes **APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE 24-15-0**

⁶A motion to approve Item No. 2 was made by Rep. Bewkes and seconded by Rep. Pierre-Louis.

A motion to amend Item No. 2 to change the question language as follows (and read into the record) was made by Rep. Bewkes and seconded by Rep. Pierre-Louis.

~~Shall the electors of the City of Stamford approve and adopt the Charter changes as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission and as approved by the Board of Representatives? Shall the Charter be revised to clarify and make it easier for the public to understand, have access to and hold more accountable Stamford's government by the following: (a) create more opportunities for the public to participate in government; (b) clarify, define and make more understandable certain common terms in the charter; (c) require clear reporting and accountability for legislative, legal and fiscal matters; (d) include recognition of diversity, equity and inclusion ("DEI") as an important goal for the City; (e) end the practice of allowing members of decision-making boards and commissions to remain in office beyond the expiration of their term; (f) clarify the requirement that certain appointed executive officials live in Stamford, subject to a waiver provision; (g) allow the Board of Representatives to obtain legal services, as necessary, as do other local legislative bodies in Connecticut (h) create new charter boards and commissions to promote the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act/DEI, mental health, housing and harbor management; and, (i) reorganize the budget process to permit residents to voice their opinions and concerns in a pre-budget public hearing, require publication of a budget calendar and ensure compliance with state law?~~

⁷A motion to amend the text as read into the record as follows was made by Rep. Ley and seconded by Rep. Morson:

⁴ Video Time Stamp 02:45:35

⁵ Video Time Stamp 02:50:00

⁶ Video Time Stamp 03:01:00

⁷ Video Time Stamp 03:08:00

~~Shall the Charter be revised to clarify and make it easier for the public to understand, have access to and hold more accountable Stamford's government by the following:~~

Shall the electors of the City of Stamford approve and adopt the Charter changes as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission and as approved by the Board of Representatives which include the following:

(a) ~~increases public notification requirements; create more opportunities for the public to participate in government;~~

(b) clarifyies, defines and make more understandable certain common terms in the charter;

(c) ~~requires the Mayor to immediately report to the Board of Finance and the Board of Representatives all legislative items and proposals, including but not limited to those which may impact the governance or financial well-being of the City, whether introduced by the City or otherwise; require clear reporting and accountability for legislative, legal and fiscal matters;~~

(d) revises the preamble to include ~~recognition of~~ diversity, equity and inclusion ("DEI") as an important goal for the City;

(e) ~~amends the appointments process for City boards and commissions to include timeframes, and transfers power of nomination to the Board of Representatives if the Mayor does not secure an appointment with the Board of Representatives during the specified timeframe; end the practice of allowing members of decision-making boards and commissions to remain in office beyond the expiration of their term;~~

(f) clarifyies the requirement that certain appointed executive officials live in Stamford, subject to a waiver provision;

(g) supplements the Board of Representatives' current ability to hire outside counsel by adding the ability to hire full-time inside legal counsel, reporting to the Board of Representatives and independent of the City's Corporation Counsel; ~~allow the Board of Representatives to obtain legal services, as necessary, as do other local legislative bodies in Connecticut~~

(h) ~~establishes create new four new Charter charter boards and commissions (1) Mental Health, (2) American with Disabilities Act / Diversity Equity and Inclusion, (3) Housing, and (4) Harbor Management to promote the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act/DEI, mental health, housing and harbor management;~~ and,

(i) reorganizess the budget process to ~~permit residents to voice their opinions and concerns in~~ include a pre-budget public hearing; and require publication of a budget calendar ~~and ensure compliance with state law?~~

⁸The motion to approve Rep. Ley's amendment failed by a roll call vote of 17-22-0 (Reps. Adams, Cottrell, Fedeli, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Shinn, David Watkins, and Weinberg in favor; Reps. Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Coleman, Curtis, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Garst, Jean-Louis, Matheny, Moore, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Roqueta, Sherwood, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, and Dakary Watkins opposed).

⁸ Video Time Stamp 03:41:20

⁹A motion to break the question into 9 separate questions was made by Rep. Watkins, received multiple seconds, and failed by a roll call vote of 15-24-0 (Reps. Adams, Fedeli, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, David Watkins, and Weinberg in favor; Reps. Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Garst, Jean-Louis, Matheny, Moore, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Roqueta, Saftic, Sherwood, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, and Dakary Watkins opposed).

¹⁰A motion to move the question on the amendment proposed by Rep. Bewkes was made by Rep. Sherwood, seconded by Rep. Cottrell, and approved by a roll call vote of 27-12-0 (Reps. Adams, Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Garst, Jean-Louis, Matheny, Moore, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Roqueta, Saftic, Sandford, Sherwood, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, Dakary Watkins and Weinberg in favor; Reps. Fedeli, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Pollack, Shaw, Shinn, and David Watkins opposed).

¹¹A motion to approve the amendment made by Rep. Bewkes, was approved by a roll call vote of 24-15-0 (Reps. Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Garst, Jean-Louis, Matheny, Moore, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Roqueta, Saftic, Sherwood, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, and Dakary Watkins in favor; Reps. Adams, Fedeli, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Shinn, David Watkins, and Weinberg opposed).

¹²The original motion to approve Item No. 2, as amended was made, seconded, and approved by a roll call vote of 24-15-0 (Reps. Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Garst, Jean-Louis, Matheny, Moore, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Roqueta, Saftic, Sherwood, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, and Dakary Watkins in favor; Reps. Adams, Fedeli, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Shinn, David Watkins, and Weinberg opposed).

President Curtis adjourned the meeting at 11:17 p.m.

This meeting is on [video](#)

⁹ Video Time Stamp 03:53:13

¹⁰ Video Time Stamp 04:23:15

¹¹ Video Time Stamp 04:31:08

¹² Video Time Stamp 04:42:53