

PAWTUCKET CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

MEETING

January 19, 2009

A meeting of the Pawtucket Charter Review Commission is held Tuesday, January 19, 2010, at 6:00 p.m., in Room 303, City Hall, 137 Roosevelt Avenue, Pawtucket, RI.

Present – Chairperson Tavares, Commissioners Babiec, Brissette, Butler, Hovarth, McGill, McKittrick and Tirrell.

Absent – Commissioners Plitt, Sawyer and Spinola.

Chairperson Tavares presides.

The Commission conducts a public input period, at which Stephen Kapalka of 10 Vineyard Street, Pawtucket presents provisions from the Warwick, East Providence and Cranston City Charters and presents several recommendations, including eliminating Councilor at Large positions and increasing the number of council districts to nine; requiring a majority of the Council to call a special election to fill a Council vacancy within 180 days of a general election; and limiting borrowing against future revenue to 80% of anticipated revenue.

The reading of the minutes of the Charter Review Commission Meeting of January 6, 2010 is dispensed with and the minutes are APPROVED as submitted by the Secretary by unanimous vote.

The Commission Takes up the following:

Discussion regarding questions and answers arising from previous meetings.

Several questions still do not have satisfactory answers. Chairperson Tavares requests letters be sent to the Mayor in his position as Director of Public Safety and to Angel Garcia in his position as Personnel Director with specific questions relating to their departments and to the Legal Department with questions relating to the history of certain charter provisions.

Review of Article II, Chapter 1- Discussion regarding the filling of vacancies on the Council;

Discussion regarding the basis for establishment of council districts;

Discussion regarding the purpose of At-Large members of Council;

Discussion whether time requirement for Council's administrative meeting should be omitted.

Review of Article II, Chapter 2 – Discussion regarding reading, posting and inspecting proposed ordinances.

Review of Article II, Chapter 3 – Discussion regarding inclusion of pension payments in the annual budget;

Discussion regarding requiring Council approval for School Department contracts.

Review of Article II, Chapter 4 – Discussion regarding witness testimony before the Council.

Review of Article II, Chapter 5 – Discussion regarding appointment of Judges and qualifications for appointment;

Discussion regarding Constables;

Discussion regarding limits on auditors' contracts to audit city books.

Review of Article II, Chapter 6 and Article V, Chapters 1 – 2 – No Discussion.

The meeting is adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Margaret-Mary Belliveau Hovarth, Secretary