

SPECIAL MEETING HELD MONDAY, MAY 26, 1969 TO
ACT UPON FINAL REPORT OF 9th CHARTER REVISION
COMMISSION ON MATTERS REFERRED BACK TO THAT
COMMISSION BY BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES AT THEIR
MEETING HELD APRIL 14, 1969

A Special Meeting of the 10th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford was held MONDAY, MAY 26, 1969, at 9 o'clock P.M. in the Board's meeting room, Municipal Office Building, 429 Atlantic Street, Stamford, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order by the President, John C. Fusaro, at 9 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG: The President led the members in the pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL was taken by the Clerk. There were 29 present and 11 absent at the calling of the roll. However, several members arrived shortly after, changing the roll call to 34 present and 6 absent. The absent members were:

Paul J. Kuczo, Sr. (D) 1st District
Robert M. Durso (D) 5th District
Joseph Pensiero (D) 9th District
Paul D. Plotnick (D) 16th District
George E. Russell (R) 17th District
Watson M. Horner (R) 19th District

THE PRESIDENT read the following "Call" of the meeting:

BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES
Municipal Office Building
429 Atlantic Street
Stamford, Connecticut

May 19, 1969

TO: All members of 10th Board of Representatives

FROM: John C. Fusaro, President

SUBJECT: "Call" of Special Meeting to ACT UPON FINAL REPORT OF
9th CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION TO BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES

I, JOHN C. FUSARO, President of the 10th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, do hereby call a SPECIAL MEETING of said Board in accordance with the provisions of Section 202 of the Charter and Section 7-191 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, to be held in the Board of Representatives' meeting rooms, Municipal Office Building, 429 Atlantic Street, at 9 o'clock P.M. on MONDAY, MAY 26, 1969 for the following purpose:

To consider and act upon the FINAL REPORT of the 9th CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION and to act upon proposed Charter changes to be submitted to referendum at the next general election.

Special Meeting held Monday, May 26, 1969

John C. Fusaro, President
10th Board of Representatives

vf

P.S. Please bring your
copy of Charter Revision
Commission Report dated May 10, 1969.

THE PRESIDENT set the "ground rules" at this time. He said we would not be allowed to take apart any Proposal, as it must either be accepted or rejected; in other words, we will not be able to modify or change any Proposal. Next, he said, in order to approve any Proposal to the Referendum, it will require a vote of 21.

MR. BROMLEY spoke at this time, but could not be heard, as he failed to turn on his "Mike".

MR. HEINZER said he would like to have his exception to the ruling of the Chair noted.

THE PRESIDENT turned over the floor to Mr. Georgoulis, Chairman of the Charter Revision Committee.

MR. GEORGOULIS said as the members will recall, at their special meeting held April 14, 1969, this Board made certain recommendations which were forwarded to the Charter Revision Commission. He said these were reviewed by the Charter Revision Commission, and their Chairman, Michael Nagurney, invited the Committee to meet with them, which invitation was accepted and the following are the results of their deliberations.

He reminded the members that they have all received a copy of Mr. Nagurney's letter dated May 10, 1969, addressed to the President of this Board. He requested the members to make reference to that letter. He also suggested that the members refer to the Proposals as submitted in the report to this Board dated March 3, 1969 from the Charter Revision Commission.

PROPOSAL NO. 2

Sec. 525 - Requirements of hearings; approval or disapproval of sub-division proposals. (Intent to make more efficient the operation of the Planning Board).

MR. GEORGOULIS said, as the members will recall, this proposal ties in with Proposal No. 20, and the Committee agreed to return this to the Commission for further study and asked that reference be made to Proposal No. 20, which was approved by the Commission, and also to Proposal No. 1, which was rejected by the Commission. He said Proposal No. 2 was rejected by them, as they want it "as is" but they did take corrective action on Proposal No. 20. He said on Proposal No. 20 the Commission did accept the changes that this Board recommended.

Special Meeting held Monday, May 26, 1969

PROPOSAL NO. 20

Sec. 553.3 (new section) - Referral of proposed amendments to the regulations or zone boundaries to Planning Board. (Intent is to limit hearings before the Planning Board on the same or substantially the same matters to not more than once in twelve months.)

For the reason that both Proposal No. 2 and Proposal No. 20 are substantially the same, Mr. Georgoulis asked that discussion be on both Proposals and they will be treated together.

MR. GEORGOULIS (referring to Proposal No. 20) said this Board made these suggestions: In the last line of Sec. 553.3, we changed the majority vote to a two-thirds vote of the Zoning Board and also added the following to the end of this Section: "Upon request to the Planning Board by either the applicant or the opponent, a meeting shall be held by the Planning Board with such applicant and/or opponent before it shall render a decision." He explained that this is the request that was made by this Board and the Charter Revision Commission included their recommendations.

MRS. PONT-BRIANT said she has a question. She said at the public hearing there was a reference to the General Statute - 83-a and that it was not in agreement with it. She asked if the Committee looked into this.

MR. HEINZER said that was clarified.

VOTE taken on Proposal No. 2. APPROVED.

VOTE taken on Proposal No. 20. APPROVED.

PROPOSAL NO. 5

Sec. 574 - To authorize City to make a charge for Tax books.

MR. GEORGOULIS said the Charter Revision Commission did not make any change on this. He said this Board recommended that an Ordinance be adopted, but according to the Home Rule Act, we either have to accept this or reject it, and cannot alter it in any way.

MR. HEINZER reminded Mr. Georgoulis that this also refers to Aerial maps and their sale - Proposal No. 135. He said the Charter Revision Commission said this probably could be done by Ordinance; however, they would not take the responsibility of deleting it from the Charter at this point. He said they left it up to this Board as to whether or not it should be deleted from the Charter and replaced with an Ordinance.

MR. RYBNICK said this cannot be done by Ordinance and during the past two years the fiscal Committee has been studying this charge for tax books and found out that it must be a Charter change and cannot be done by Ordinance.

Special Meeting held Monday, May 26, 1969

MR. GEORGOULIS said that is the interpretation the Committee also got.

MR. HEINZER said as long as it is in the Charter we cannot do this by Ordinance, but if we take it out of the Charter, then we can do it by Ordinance.

MR. RYBNICK said all you are deleting is the charge for the tax books.

MR. GEORGOULIS said it is his understanding that if the Board rejects this tonight, whatever is now in the Charter remains there, so we either accept it or reject it.

MR. HEMINGWAY said we want to be quite clear on this and that is if we accept this proposal as written by the Charter Revision Commission, it gives the Board of Representatives in the future, the right to alter the text of what is now in the Charter. He asked Mr. Georgoulis if this is what he means.

MR. GEORGOULIS said no - that this is merely a charge for the tax books, and they no longer will be for free.

MR. HEMINGWAY said he would like to say that the Fiscal Committee feels there should be a fair charge to the citizens of Stamford who feel they need this book - and it is not a Sears Roebuck catalog, but we are giving them out as if they were.

MR. GEORGOULIS said the Committee agrees.

MR. BOCCUZZI asked who is going to set the charge for the tax books in the future - the Board of Representatives - the Commissioner of Finance, or who?

MR. GEORGOULIS said most likely it will be the Tax Assessor. He said usually a copy is sent to the legislative body, which is the Board of Representatives, for approval.

VOTE taken on Proposal No. 5. APPROVED.

PROPOSAL NO. 6

Chapter 54 and Chapter 59 - To consolidate the Board of Recreation and the Park Commission into the COMMISSION ON PARKS AND RECREATION.

MR. GEORGOULIS said this proposal was returned in the form in which it appeared in our March 3, 1969 report from the Commission, with the exception that the term "Commission on Parks & Recreation" wherever it appeared, was changed to "Parks and Recreation Commission".

MR. HEINZER said he would like to see this deleted for the same reasons this Board rejected it the last time. He said he believes most of the members still feel the same way about this, that is, that they don't want to place both of these under one department and that is what we will

Special Meeting held Monday, May 26, 1969

be doing if we accept this proposal.

MR. COPERINE said he also wants to go on record as opposing this.

MR. RYBNICK said nothing is being said about whether there should or should not be a Superintendent - they are just combining the Parks and Recreation Departments and at any time they can come into the Personnel Commission and ask for a Superintendent of Parks and a Superintendent of Recreation and the Personnel Commission can create these jobs at any time. He said he sees no reason for alarm about combining these two Commissions.

MR. GEORGOULIS said he would like to clarify this - that it has nothing to do with the two jobs of Superintendent of Parks and Superintendent of Recreation - that they are merely combining the two Commissions into one. He said he stands to be corrected on this. (Reading from the March 3, 1969 Commission Report) he said it says: "... after July 1, 1971, a Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, consolidating the positions of Superintendent of Parks and Superintendent of Recreation...."

MR. KELLY said he sat in on several meetings and as he understands it, the two jobs - one in the Park Department and one in the Board of Recreation - are to be eliminated and there is no incentive for anybody who has been working there for 30-35 years in either department to come up to the Superintendent's level and that is his main objection and for this reason he is opposed to it.

MRS. PONT-BRIANT said she would be against it because she feels the City needs two separate individuals to handle these jobs, as the departments are growing rapidly and expanding and to consolidate their duties under one head, she feels is wrong.

MR. CHIRIMBES called attention to Sec. 595.1 referring to vacancy in these jobs - that they shall remain vacant until July 1, 1971. He said this is very definite and he feels these jobs should be left the way they are.

MR. HEMINGWAY said he is in favor of seeing these two departments combined because he thinks the City suffers from a proliferation of Boards and Commissions and here is an opportunity to consolidate them.

MR. ALSWANGER said it may be fine to combine them, but he feels we need an expert in recreation as well as an expert in parks - that this is a big City and we do need to keep them separate.

MR. KAPLAN said he thinks the Charter Revision Commission has effectively prevented the merger of these two boards by adding unwise and unnecessary language. He said he is confident that the Board will reject this proposal, and simply because the Commission would not listen to the Board of Representatives when they made it clear at the last meeting.

MR. MILLER urged that Proposal No. 6 be deleted because he feels that parks and recreation are two separate functions and should stay that way.

Special Meeting held Monday, May 26, 1969

MR. SCOFIELD said the Charter Revision Commission went counter to the Board's wishes on this matter - that we wanted two department heads and one Commission. He said he will vote against this.

After considerable further debate, Mr. Russbach MOVED THE QUESTION. Seconded and CARRIED.

VOTE taken on Proposal No. 6. FAILED TO CARRY, lacking the necessary quorum of 21.

PROPOSAL NO. 12

Sec. 921. Concerning repeal and new section, the purpose of which is to provide for REFERENDUM on any appropriation, ordinance, or resolution of the Board of Representatives.

MR. GEORGOULIS said this was sent back to the Commission with the recommendation that they re-write it, which they did.

MR. GUROIAN spoke in favor of referendum, saying he feels the only way to interest people in government is to make them partake in it. He said he felt that it did not detract from the legislative body, and that the people should have the right of referendum.

MR. DEUTSCH said a referendum could be a fine thing, but unfortunately this proposal is too broad and for this reason he is opposed to it, and he fears it would tie the hands of the Board.

MR. CHIRIMBES spoke in favor of referendum.

MR. HEINZER said when this was discussed before, Mr. Kaplan took issue with the proposal because it was too broad. He said he went before the Charter Revision Commission and they spent about two hours trying to tighten this up and provide the provisions that most of the representatives who opposed referendum at the April 14th meeting wanted incorporated in it. He said it is about as restrictive as you can make it now.

MR. KAPLAN said this is somewhat tighter than the one first proposed. Nevertheless, he said he still is opposed to it. He said if it had been limited just to ordinances he would have supported it. He pointed out the abuses that could occur in fiscal matters, leaving the City in a position where they might go ahead and incur contracts and later have it go to referendum and find they had incurred bills for things they could not go ahead and obtain, it having been defeated in referendum. He said the City might find itself in a catastrophic position, with large lawsuits against it. He also stressed that the proposal was not sufficiently spelled out to cover all ramifications that could occur.

MR. CONNORS pointed out that we have a deadline in the Budget for July 1st of the fiscal year. He asked what would happen if people objected

Special Meeting held Monday, May 26, 1969

to certain appropriations - they would have the right to take it to referendum after the City had gone ahead and obligated itself to contracts, etc. He said they could get the City in a bind and in the meantime how could you run the City? He said if you are going to have referendums, why not, then, go back to the old Town Meeting form of government, if that is what people want.

MR. JOHN BOCCUZZI asked if in the case of the adoption of the Budget, the Fiscal Committee came out with a sizeable reduction, say in the budget for the Board of Education, in turn, if the Board of Education so desired, could go out and get the PTA's to do the lobbying, bring in 15% of the registered voters, call for a meeting, and of course, nobody is going to vote against education, and would reinstate the cuts that the Board of Representatives made. He said he wants to know if this could happen under the referendum.

MR. GEORGOULIS replied, "yes" this could happen.

MR. BOCCUZZI said he wants to go on record as being against this proposal.

MR. RUSSBACH spoke in favor of referendum. He said there are plenty of cities and towns all around us with the power of referendum and nothing terrible is happening to the country. He said perhaps some members feel this is taking away their prerogative as legislators. He said he thinks that 15% of the registered voters is a lot of people, and agreed that the proposal is not perfect, but is a step in the right direction, and feels that the majority of the people in this city want referendum.

MR. GRISAR said he feels there is no reason for this Board to pass imperfect legislation which will only lead to confusion in the future.

MR. COPERINE spoke in favor of referendum, saying it gives the people a chance to express their likes and dislikes on any question.

MR. BROMLEY said he previously had been in favor of the concept of referendum and had hoped that the Charter Revision Commission would make certain changes that would make it acceptable. He said the way it has come back, he does not feel that appropriations are a fit subject for referendum unless you have a provision that the appropriation itself would be the subject for a referendum, which is the case in some municipalities, such as a bond issue to build a school, which would be the referendum question - either "yes" or "no". He said if the case occurs where an appropriation is made and then sometime thereafter a referendum is taken on the appropriation which was previously approved and denied in referendum, it leaves the City in a quandary where contracts have been let and the City is liable for suits to be brought against it. He said this is not fiscal integrity.

After considerable further debate, MR. FEDAK MOVED THE QUESTION. Seconded and CARRIED.

MR. RUSSBACH MOVED for a ROLL CALL VOTE. There being a sufficient number of members in favor, it was taken.

Special Meeting held Monday, May 26, 1969

The following ROLL CALL VOTE FAILED to carry, by a vote of 16 in favor and 17 opposed. (21 votes needed to carry):

THOSE VOTING IN FAVOR:

CALDER, Otto (D)
 CAPORIZZO, William (R)
 CHIRIMBES, Peter (R)
 COPERINE, Frank (D)
 COSTELLO, Robert (D)
 DOMBROSKI, Edward (D)
 GUROIAN, Armen (D)
 HEINZER, Charles (R)
 JOSS, James, Jr. (D)
 MILLER, Frederick (D)
 MORRIS, Thomas (R)
 MURPHY, William (D)
 RUSSBACH, Daniel (R)
 RYBNICK, Gerald (D)
 SCOFIELD, Edward (R)
 TRUGLIA, Anthony (D)

THOSE VOTING IN OPPOSITION:

ALSWANGER, Herman (D)
 BOCCUZZI, John (D)
 BOCCUZZI, Theodore (D)
 BROMLEY, Robert (R)
 COLHOUN, Richard (R)
 CONNORS, George (D)
 DEUTSCH, Chester (D)
 DIXON, Handy (D)
 FEDAK, Robert (D)
 GEORGOULIS, George (D)
 GRISAR, Richard (D)
 HEMINGWAY, Booth (R)
 KAPLAN, Howard (D)
 KELLY, Stephen (D)
 PALMER, Jack (R)
 PONT-BRIANT, Lois (R)
 RICH, John (R)

PROPOSAL NO. 13

Sec. 708 - Clarification and strengthening in regard to Contract Limitations by repealing old section and inserting a new

MR. GEORGOULIS said this was restudied and redrafted and is in regard to Conflict of Interest.

MR. HEINZER said the Board requested a redrafting and strengthening of this section and as it has come back to this Board it was weakened rather than strengthened. He said it was their intention to change this, but it was the ruling of the chair that this cannot be changed in any way at this time, but must either be approved or rejected as sent back to this Board by the Charter Revision Commission. He asked for rejection, as the way it now stands in the Charter is much better protection than the new version before the Board tonight.

MR. KAPLAN said he agrees with the previous speaker, because the proposal now before us definitely weakens Sec. 708 and does not clarify it, and all it does is take the "guts" right out of it.

MR. RUSSBACH spoke in opposition. He said he thinks this only legitimizes conflict of interest.

VOTE taken on PROPOSAL NO. 13. There being only one vote in favor, it FAILED TO BE APPROVED.

Special Meeting held Monday, May 26, 1969

PROPOSAL NO. 21

Sec. 552.1 - To be deleted as it now appears and a new one inserted.

Sec. 553.1 - To be deleted as it now appears and a new one inserted.

MR. GEORGOULIS said this was returned to the Charter Revision Commission, with the following amendment to the version as it appears in the March 3, 1969 report of the Commission:

"In new sections 552.1 and 553.1 strike out the words:

'..... be required to

"In each section the sentence will then read:

'The Zoning Board shall not hear any application.....
etc.'

VOTE taken on Proposal No. 21. APPROVED.

PROPOSAL NO. 23

Sec. 306. (new) - To extend medical and hospitalization benefits to full time officials. (Mayor, Town Clerk and Registrars of Voters)

MR. HEINZER said the reason this was not approved was because they felt this could be done more appropriately through an Ordinance, or some other way and that it did not belong in the Charter. He said he would like to caution the Board about putting too many things like this in the Charter, because the Charter is a sort of "Constitution" of our City and to have things about whether somebody should or should not get medical benefits do not belong in a Charter, and it makes it entirely too cumbersome. He suggested this not be approved again on that basis.

MR. CHIRIMBES said he feels this deserves merit and no one seems to be seeking elective office that doesn't get some kind of a little benefit of this order. He said he feels our elected officials who get a salary should also be compensated with this type of "fringe" benefit.

MR. DEUTSCH said he agrees with Mr. Heinzer that we shouldn't be cluttering up our City Charter with this kind of thing and feels he is correct in saying it should rather be handled by Ordinance.

MR. SCOFIELD said he feels it is worthwhile, but does not belong in the Charter.

MRS. PONT-BRIANT said she also agrees and notes that this proposal is to be extended to full time officials and only mentions four and there are other full time officials besides the ones that are mentioned. She said there are others not under Civil Service who are possibly not covered by insurance, and it might be discriminatory in that way.

Special Meeting held Monday, May 26, 1969

MR. HEINZER said he does not think that candidates for the office of Mayor worry about fringe benefits, such as hospitalization and medical coverage.

MR. GRISAR said if this is for full time employees, he would like to note that the Registrars of Voters are not now working full time.

MR. CONNORS said for everyone's information, there is now a Bill pending before the Legislature which will make the Registrars of Voters a full time job.

PROPOSAL NO. 29

Sec. 426 (new) - School nurses and school dental hygienists.

MR. GEORGOULIS said this proposal was returned with the two last lines amended and the new section, as amended, will read as follows:

"The school nurses and the school dental hygienists shall be subject to the provisions of the Civil Service as it applies to Classified Employees, except that they shall perform their duties directly under the rules and regulations of the Board of Education. They shall negotiate working conditions and salary as Classified Employees of the City."

MR. HEINZER said he would like to refer back to a public hearing that was held on these Charter revisions. He said the nurses had originally proposed this Charter revision and when they appeared before the Board at the hearing they said if there was any danger that they might lose their pensions by virtue of this change, they did not want to see it go through. He said it now looks as if this is allowed to go through the way it is, there is a very strong possibility they may lose their pensions that they have built up over many years, and doubts if they would want this amendment to go through if that is the case. He suggested this be rejected.

MR. KAPLAN requested a recess at this time. (10.20 P.M.)

THE RECESS was declared over at 10.25 P.M. and the members resumed their seats.

MR. KAPLAN MOVED the question. Seconded and CARRIED.

VOTE taken on Proposal No. 29. FAILED TO CARRY, lacking the required number of votes.

PROPOSAL NO. 35

Sec. 423 - Concerning Director of Health.

MR. GEORGOULIS said this proposal was returned in the form in which it appears in the Charter Revision Commission's report of March 3, 1969,

Special Meeting held Monday, May 26, 1969

with the amendment that the title "Health Commissioner" wherever it appears is changed to "Director of Health". Also, Item 2 as it appears under procedure in the March 3, 1969 report is now deleted.

VOTE taken on above proposal. APPROVED.

PROPOSAL NO. 80

Sec. 620.1 to be amended - City Tax District (To include a certain area of the City in the City Tax District)

MR. GEORGOULIS said this proposal has been returned in the form in which it appeared in the original report from the Commission, dated March 3, 1969, with the amendment to follow, namely: "This amendment will become effective as of September 1, 1970".

MR. MORRIS said, speaking on behalf of the Big Five Volunteer Fire Department, they feel this is being very unfair to the volunteers that the minute industry or a high value building is built for us to change the Fire Districts. He said this was not suggested by the Stamford Fire Department - they weren't interested in acquiring it, and was introduced by a lawyer and he does not know the reason why. He said the volunteer Fire Departments rely upon the "C" Tax District and these lines have been in existence for many years and has always been agreeable to everyone. He said he feels it would be unfair to incorporate fire district lines just in order to acquire certain tax structures.

MR. RICH said he was apprised before the meeting tonight that this is legal, but is certainly the most blatantly immoral, unethical and civically downright stupid thing to do. He said we try very hard to attract industry to the City and the Lord & Taylor controversy was one of the hottest issues this City has ever seen. He said we are very proud to have Olin Mathieson move to Stamford and the General Electric Credit Corporation also. He said these complicated maps "spell" out the acquisition of these three large commercial taxpayers to a tax district in which they were not placed when they negotiated and made plans to move to Stamford. He said whether it is "legal" or not, it is a very immoral piece of legislation and he urged a vote against it.

MR. TRUGLIA said he is definitely opposed to this piece of legislation. He said he feels it is nothing more than an attempt to break up the fine work that has been done by the volunteer fire departments of the City. He said if this is done we will find in the future that there is no work for these volunteer fire departments and over the years they have been doing a very excellent job. He urged this legislation be turned down, as it is nothing more than a subtle attempt to destroy the Big Five Volunteer Fire Department.

MR. HEMINGWAY said he agrees with the previous speakers and would like to point out that the added revenue which may be gained by this attempt will probably be well eaten up by the added expense of setting up a new fire station and manning it with a new staff of men, as well as other

Special Meeting held Monday, May 26, 1969

costs which are not now borne directly by the City.

MR. RUSSBACH said he also supports this; however, he would not feel too badly if we didn't have another Olin Mathieson or a General Electric or a Lord & Taylor. He said he thinks the dubious blessings of having things like this are not too great and that the liabilities outweigh the assets because the taxes they pay as opposed to the services they require, the City of Stamford winds up at the short end of the stick.

MR. DEUTSCH said he agrees with Mr. Truglia that when the tax rate was published, the "C" District was favored with a much lower increase than any other District and the reason was that the fire department costs were much lower. He said he is against extending facilities which are not necessary.

MRS. PONT-BRIANT said in reference to a fire, which seems to be more important, she was informed by the Fire Marshal that conferences were held with both Olin Mathieson and Lord & Taylor prior to their coming to Stamford and going over the setup with the volunteer fire department, everything was proven satisfactory, with insurance underwriters and with both stores, with complete sprinkler systems installed, and the fire coverage provided by the volunteers have proven more than ample and the need for a different fire department is not necessary.

MR. KAPLAN said it is his understanding that the only service we are talking about is fire protection, because there are already sewers in this area and they would not be serviced by City refuse collection. He said it is quite apparent that in the rejection of this proposal, there is going to be a substantial saving of money to these companies. He said he would therefore assume that they will be contributing large sums of money to their volunteer fire departments who service their area.

MR. CONNORS said the point everyone is overlooking is that the City Fire Department, if there happens to be a fire on Long Ridge Road, will move and if they get there first they take over until the other fire department arrives. He said he thinks the City could derive a lot of taxes out of this because right on the corner of Chestnut Street, the City is thinking very seriously of building another firehouse which is only a short distance away from Olin Mathieson and Lord & Taylor. He said if we can increase our tax load he does not think this is wrong.

MR. CAPORIZZO MOVED THE QUESTION. Seconded and CARRIED.

VOTE taken on Proposal No. 80. REJECTED.

PROPOSAL NO. 113

Chapter 59 - Add new Section 598 - To restrict disposition of land owned or purchased by the City with proceeds of bonds except by approval of public referendum

MR. GEORGOULIS said this was returned to us in the form in which it

Special Meeting held Monday, May 26, 1969

originally appeared in the March 3, 1969 report from the Charter Revision Commission. He said this proposal automatically tied in with the referendum, and since the referendum question was rejected, he would assume that this would be rejected also. He read the proposed new section, as follows:

"No property owned by the City and used for park purposes may be sold or otherwise transferred, except after approval for such sale or transfer by public referendum."

MRS. PONT-BRIANT asked if it would not be possible to have a public referendum with State approval. She asked if we want a referendum, is it not possible to petition the State and get approval to have a referenceum.

MR. GEORGOULIS said the Committee rejected this as it was tied in with Proposal No. 12 and sent it back to the Charter Revision Commission. He said a lengthy discussion was held and he sees that the Commission took no action on this.

MR. CONNORS said at the present time there is a Bill pending in Hartford for Central Park and West Park and to make it legal. He said it is supposed to be dedicated property and there seems to be a little bit of controversy over it and he thinks this actually came out of Hartford and when a certain gentleman found out that we had to make it legal by bringing it before the Board of Representatives, which is why it is in here now before Charter Revision.

MR. MORRIS said he heard some stories about what would happen if we had a referendum and what would happen if the Board of Representatives, in their wisdom, sold Cummings Park? He said he understands that through the State of Connecticut it is possible to have a referendum and refer questions back to the people. He said he is in favor of this and thinks it should remain.

MR. KAPLAN said he has reconsidered his original position on this particular proposal and intends to vote in favor of it. He said this is not a question of tampering with our legislation. He said he has seen all kinds of wacky proposals - even to place industry in our Hubbard Heights Golf Course and there is little enough green left in town now, and he would like to see it saved. He said he believes it to be a very grave matter to take public park property out of the domain of parks. He said he for one will vote against any proposal to take any park land and revert it to a non-park use. He said this will serve as another obstacle in the desire to use park lands for other uses and he is in favor of the proposal.

MR. SCOFIELD said he thinks that since Stamford is well below national standards for park land and since it seems to be so easy to give it away and so very hard to acquire it, he is in favor of the proposal.

MR. JOSS asked if this just pertains to park land, or does it pertain to all the parks that the City owns?

Special Meeting held Monday, May 26, 1969

MR. GEORGOULIS read from the original proposed new Section 598 which he had read before. He said he would like to ask a question. He said previously he mentioned that this proposal tied in with No. 12 - concerning referendum. He said if the State offers the facilities of a referendum, then why did we spend two hours in regard to the referendum question?

MR. KAPLAN answered the question. He said the State only provides referendum for cities who do not have a Charter and for certain town type of government, but does not provide for referendum for cities of any size. However, he said that has nothing to do with this particular discussion because this does not deal with percentages of voters, but means an automatic referendum if the City decides to transfer park land. He said the problems of Proposal No. 12 do not apply to this particular proposal and he thinks this Proposal might do some good.

VOTE taken on Proposal No. 113. APPROVED.

PROPOSAL NO. 135 - (See action taken under Proposal No. 5)

Sec. 574.1 (new) - To direct the City to charge for aerial maps.

MR. GEORGOULIS said the above proposal was returned in the form that it appeared in the March 3, 1969 report from the Charter Revision Commission.

MR. HEINZER said he would assume that we would have to take the same action on this as we did on the tax books under Proposal No. 5, as it is exactly the same.

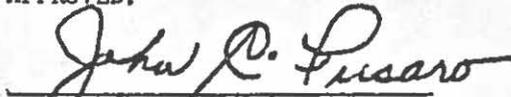
There being no discussion, the PRESIDENT called for a VOTE on Proposal No. 135. APPROVED.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the meeting, on motion, duly seconded and CARRIED, the meeting was adjourned at 11 P.M.


Velma Ferrell
Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:


John C. Fusaro, President
10th Board of Representatives

Note: The above meeting was broadcast
over Radio Station WSTC