

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

MINUTES

President Curtis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

President Curtis 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:

Tuesday, August 29, 2023
6:30 p.m.

by computer, tablet, or smartphone at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88344489378> or www.zoom.com – Webinar ID - 883 4448 9378 or
by phone 1-646-558-8656 – Webinar ID - 883 4448 9378.

to consider and act upon the following:

1. [CR31.010](#) RESOLUTION; Approving the Final Report of the 19th Charter Review Commission Subject to any Rejected Provisions
06/07/23 – Submitted by Reps. Curtis and Bewkes
2. [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 Rep. Reps. Curtis and Bewkes

AGENDA

INVOCATION: Led by Rep. Annie Summerville.

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

¹**ROLL CALL:** Conducted by Clerk of the Board Megan Cottrell. There were 35 members present and 5 members absent or excused (Reps. Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Cottrell, Coleman, Curtis, de la Cruz, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Matheny, Mays, Miller, Moore, Morson, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Roqueta, Saftic, Sandford, Shaw, Sherwood, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, Dakary Watkins, David Watkins, and Weinberg were present; Reps. Gilbride and Shinn were excused; Reps. Adams, Jean-Louis, and Stella were absent and joined immediately after roll call, for a total of 38 members present and 2 members absent or excused. Rep. Shinn joined the meeting at 7:14 p.m., for a total of 39 members present and 1 member absent or excused. Also present was Mayor Simmons.

²Mayor Simmons read the [attached letter](#) into the record.

³**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.

⁴**PRESENTATION:** Jeff Curtis and Bradley Bewkes Co-Chairs, 2021-22 Charter Revision Committee

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| 1. CR31.010 | RESOLUTION; Approving the Final Report of the 19th Charter Review Commission Subject to any Rejected Provisions
06/07/23 – Submitted by Reps. Curtis and Bewkes | APPROVED
BY A ROLL
CALL VOTE
26-11-0 |
|-----------------------------|---|---|

A motion to approve Item No. 1 was made, and seconded.

⁵A motion to reject the proposed addition to Section C9-40-1 of the Final Report of the 19th Charter Review Commission (the “Final Report”) was made, seconded, and approved by a roll call vote of 37-0-1 (Reps. Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Cottrell, Coleman, Curtis, de la Cruz, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Jean-Louis, Ley, Matheny, Mays, Miller, Moore, Morson, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Roqueta, Saftic, Sandford,

¹ Video Time Stamp 00:05:24

² Video Time Stamp 00:09:30

³ Video Time Stamp 00:16:56

⁴ Video Time Stamp 00:22:24

⁵ Video Time Stamp 00:27:40

Shaw, Sherwood, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, Dakary Watkins, David Watkins, and Weinberg in favor; Rep. Adams abstaining).

⁶A motion to reject all new references in the Final Report hiring its own counsel in Sections C2-10-3, C5-20-3, C5-20-15, C5-20-21 was made and seconded.

After extensive discussion, a motion to move the question was made, seconded and approved by a roll call vote of 26-12-0 (Reps. Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Cottrell, Coleman, Curtis, de la Cruz, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Jean-Louis, Matheny, Moore, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Roqueta, Sherwood, Shinn, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, Dakary Watkins, and David Watkins in favor; Reps. Adams, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, and Weinberg opposed).

The original motion to reject all new references in the Final Report hiring its own counsel in Sections C2-10-3, C5-20-3, C5-20-15, C5-20-21 failed by a roll call vote of 13-25-0 (Reps. Adams, Fedeli, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Sandford, Shaw, David Watkins, and Weinberg in favor; Reps. Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Cottrell, Coleman, Curtis, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Garst, Jean-Louis, Matheny, Moore, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Roqueta, Sherwood, Shinn, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, and Dakary Watkins opposed).

⁷A motion to reject the Section C5-20-20(b) redline and Sections C5-20-20 (c), (d), and (e) in their entirety regarding residency requirements in the Final Report was made and seconded.

After extensive discussion, a motion to move the question was made, seconded and approved by a roll call vote of 26-12-0 (Reps. Adams, Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Cottrell, Coleman, Curtis, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Garst, Jean-Louis, Matheny, Moore, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Roqueta, Sherwood, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, Dakary Watkins, and David Watkins in favor; Reps. Fedeli, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Sandford, Shaw, Shinn, and Weinberg opposed).

The original motion to reject the Section C5-20-20(b) redline and Sections C5-20-20 (c), (d), and (e) in their entirety regarding residency requirements in the Final Report failed by a roll call vote of 14-23-1 (Reps. Adams, Fedeli, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Miller, Morson, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Shinn, David Watkins, and Weinberg in favor; Reps. Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Cottrell, 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; and Rep. Mays abstaining).

⁸A motion to reject the recommendation of the Charter Commission in the Final Report to eliminate the clause in Sec C5-20-20(b) "except that in specific cases, the Board of Representatives may suspend this requirement by a majority vote of its entire membership" was made, seconded, and approved by a roll call vote of 33-1-3 (Reps. Adams, Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Coleman, Curtis, de la Cruz, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jean-Louis, Ley, Matheny, Moore, Morson, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Roqueta, Sandford, Shaw, Sherwood, Shinn, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, Dakary Watkins, David Watkins, and Weinberg in favor; Rep. Cottrell opposed; and Rep. Jacobson, Mays, and Miller abstaining).

⁶ Video Time Stamp 00:38:14

⁷ Video Time Stamp 01:26:20

⁸ Video Time Stamp 02:49:22

⁹A motion to reject the redline in C6-00-3 and C6-00-4, and any references thereto pertaining to the appointment process in the Final Report was made and seconded.

After extensive discussion, a motion to move the question was made, seconded and failed by a roll call vote of 19-20-0 (Reps. Bewkes, Campbell, Coleman, Cottrell, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Garst, Jean-Louis, Matheny, Moore, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Roqueta, Saftic, Sherwood, Stella, Walston, and Dakary Watkins in favor; Reps. Adams, Berns, Boeger, Curtis, Fedeli, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Shinn, Summerville, Tomas, David Watkins, and Weinberg opposed).

After continued discussion, the original motion to reject the redline in C6-00-3 and C6-00-4, and any references thereto pertaining to the appointment process in the Final Report failed by a roll call vote of 14-25-0 (Reps. Adams, Fedeli, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Shinn, 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, Dakary Watkins, and David Watkins opposed).

¹⁰A motion to reject C3-10-14 - Mayor's Role in Intergovernmental Relations in the Final Report was made, seconded, and failed by a roll call vote of 15-21-1 (Reps. Adams, Fedeli, 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, Matheny, Moore, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Roqueta, Saftic, Sherwood, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, and Walston opposed; and Rep. Patterson abstaining).

¹¹A motion to reject all changes in Section 8 and any other changes thereto regarding the budgetary procedures in the Final Report was made, seconded, and failed by a roll call vote of 16-22-0 (Reps. Adams, Fedeli, Garst, 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, Matheny, Moore, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Roqueta, Saftic, Sherwood, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, and Dakary Watkins opposed).

¹²A motion to move the question to approve Item No. 1 was made, seconded and approved by a roll call vote of 27-10-0 (Reps. Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Garst, Matheny, Moore, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Roqueta, Sandford, Saftic, Sherwood, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, Dakary Watkins, David Watkins, and Weinberg in favor; Reps. Adams, Fedeli, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, and Shaw opposed).

The original motion to approve Item No. 1, a resolution approving the Final Report of the 19th Charter Review Commission subject to any rejected provisions, was approved by a roll call vote of 26-11-0 (Reps. Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Matheny, Moore, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Roqueta, Saftic, Sherwood, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, Dakary Watkins, and David Watkins in favor; Reps. Adams, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Sandford, Shaw, and Weinberg opposed).

⁹ Video Time Stamp 03:05:16

¹⁰ Video Time Stamp 04:18:12

¹¹ Video Time Stamp 05:08:28

¹² Video Time Stamp 05:22:41

2. [CR31.014](#) RESOLUTION; Approving the Submission to the Electors of the Proposed Amendments to the Charter at the November 7, 2023 Election. **HELD BY A ROLL CALL VOTE 32-4-0**
08/23/23 – Submitted by Rep. Reps. Curtis and Bewkes

¹³A motion to hold Item No. 2 was made, seconded, and approved by a roll call vote of 32-4-0 (Reps. Adams, Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Grunberger, Matheny, Mays, Moore, Morson, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Roqueta, Saftic, Shaw, Sherwood, Shinn, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, Dakary Watkins, and David Watkins in favor; Reps. Goldberg, Ley, Miller, and Weinberg opposed).

President Curtis adjourned the meeting at 12:07 a.m.

This meeting is on [video](#).

¹³ Video Time Stamp 05:30:45