

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

DRAFT MINUTES

President Curtis called the meeting to order at 8:00 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, January 14, 2025
8:00 p.m.**

by computer, tablet, or smartphone at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87470768936> or www.zoom.com – Webinar ID - 874 7076 8936
or by phone 1-646-558-8656 – Webinar ID - 874 7076 8936.

to consider and act upon the following:

1. OC31.006 **RESOLUTION**; to hire outside counsel.
12/04/24 – Submitted by Reps. Sherwood, Fedeli, Cottrell and Curtis.

AGENDA

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

ROLL CALL: Conducted by Clerk of the Board Megan Cottrell. There were 39 members present and 1 member excused at the time of the roll call (Reps. Adams, Baines, Berns, Blank, Boeger, Campbell, Camporeale, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Gilbride, Goldberg, Graham, Grunberger, Kuczynski, Ley, Matheny, Mays, Moore, Morson, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Roqueta, Saftic, Sandford, Shaw, Sherwood, Stella, Strain, Summerville, Tomas, Vandervoort, Walston, Watkins, Weinberg, and Williams were present; Rep. Fedeli is excused)

COMMUNICATIONS: Read by Clerk of the Board Cottrell:

1. All votes at tonight's meeting will be conducted by roll call.

*Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in this meeting, should contact the City's ADA Coordinator as soon as possible:
Carmen Hughes, Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, (203) 977-7993,
Email: CHughes1@StamfordCT.gov.*

2. If you need assistance with Zoom you can call IT at [REDACTED]. Please do not call other members of the Board or the Board office staff. 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: 874 7076 8936. Please call or text IT at [REDACTED] or text the Clerk at [REDACTED] 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.
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. 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.

PRESENTATION: Representatives Nina Sherwood, Mary Fedeli, Megan Cottrell and Jeff Curtis.

Rep. Sherwood outlined the longstanding issue of holdovers, expired, and rejected members serving on boards and commissions, which undermines governance and public trust. Despite past efforts, including an ordinance she co-sponsored, legal opinions from Corporation Counsel deemed these efforts invalid, leading to divisive and contentious debates among Board members. To address this, Sherwood proposed hiring an outside attorney, not to oppose Corporation Counsel or escalate conflicts, but to facilitate constructive discussions with the administration to find a compromise. She emphasized that the resolution aims to unify the Board and administration in solving the issue collaboratively for the city's benefit, urging support for this genuine attempt at resolution.

The Board has mixed views on how to address the issue of holdovers. Supporters, including Representatives Sherwood, Camporeale, de la Cruz, and Stella, view hiring an outside attorney as a necessary step to foster compromise with the administration, restore public trust, and uphold democratic principles. They emphasize the need for clarity, transparency, and accountability in resolving a longstanding issue. Opponent Representative Morson, however, argues that holdovers are legal and rooted in precedent, seeing the matter as political rather than legal. He opposes spending taxpayer money on outside counsel, advocating instead for productive discussions and compromise, with openness to hiring a mediator rather than an attorney.

**To retain independent counsel to represent the Board of Representatives,
31 votes are required pursuant to Charter § CD-20-3.**

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and failed by a vote of 25-13-1. (Reps. Baines, Berns, Boeger, Campbell, Camporeale, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Graham, Kuczynski, Matheny, Moore, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Roqueta, Saftic, Sherwood, Stella, Strain, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, Watkins and Williams in favor; Reps. Adams, Blank, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Ley, Mays, Morson, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Vandervoort, and Weinberg opposed; Rep. Figueroa abstained)

ADJOURNMENT: President Curtis adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

This meeting is on [Video](#)