

TOWN OF RICHMOND, RHODE ISLAND  
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**HOME RULE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION**

Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

May 21, 2015

6:00 P.M.

**MINUTES**

**A. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P. M. by the Deputy Town Clerk**

**B. Roll Call**

Present – L. Valencia, I. Lipton, E. Liese, C. Davis, R. Millar, M. Van Der Hooft, B. Reyburn, and Clerk S. Rapose

**C. Nominations**

01 Nominations for the position of Chair

**MOTION made by R. Millar, second by M. Van Der Hooft to nominate I. Lipton as Chair.**

**VOTE: Erin Liese- Nay  
C. Davis – Nay  
L. Valencia – Nay  
B. Reyburn – Nay  
R. Millar – Aye  
M. Van Der Hooft – Aye  
I. Lipton - Aye**

**MOTION fails.**

**MOTION made by B. Reyburn, second by C. Davis to nominate L. Valencia as Chair.**

**VOTE: Erin Liese - Aye  
R. Millar – Aye  
C. Davis – Aye  
B. Reyburn – Aye  
L. Valencia – Aye  
M. Van Der Hooft – Nay  
I. Lipton – Nay**

**MOTION passes.**

02 Nominations for the position of Vice Chair

**MOTION made by R. Millar, second by L. Valencia to nominate I. Lipton as Vice Chair. All Ayes**

L. Valencia explained that he will only vote on motions that require his vote. He will be abstaining unless there is a tie that requires his vote.

**D. Business**

01 Schedule future meeting dates

The Commission discussed the projected timeline. They felt that it would be reasonable to get their recommendations to the Town Council by their July 21, 2015 meeting.

**MOTION made by I. Lipton, second by C. Davis to schedule future meetings for June 4, 2015, June 17, 2015, July 2, 2015, and July 16, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. Ayes – 6  
Abstain – 1 (L. Valencia)**

02 Discussion of potential amendments to the Home Rule Charter

L. Valencia asked if the Commission has had the chance to review the Charter. He stated that the Town Council had a few recommendations for possible amendments. One thing is that they would like to see the Town Clerk's position changed from elected to appointed.

I. Lipton asked if everyone on the Commission had any objections to changing the Town Clerk's position from elected to appointed.

The Commission agreed as a whole that the position should be appointed.

L. Valencia referenced Article 4, Section 1 of the Charter.

E. Liese explained that she is the Town Clerk in West Greenwich. It took them two elections to change the position of Town Clerk from elected to appointed in West Greenwich. She stressed that the wording on the ballot is very important.

I. Lipton suggested using the same language for the Town Clerk that is used for the appointment of the Town Administrator.

**MOTION made by B. Reyburn, second by I. Lipton to delete Article 4 from the Home Rule Charter and add the position of Town Clerk under Administration. Ayes- 6  
Abstain – 1 (L. Valencia)**

**MOTION made by B. Reyburn, second by C. Davis to move Section 2 of Article 4, the position of Town Clerk, to letter J under Article 5, Section 2 of the Home Rule Charter. Ayes-6  
Abstain – 1 (L. Valencia)**

**MOTION made by B. Reyburn, second by I. Lipton to change the word shall to may in Article 5, Section C, paragraph 3, line 2. Ayes – 6  
Abstain – 1 (L. Valencia)**

L. Valencia asked how long the Committee would like to meet for at each session.

M. Van Der Hooft felt that two hours was a reasonable amount of time.

The Committee agreed.

I. Lipton asked if there was a list of recommended changes from Town Council.

L. Valencia responded yes. They would like to see the Town Clerk changed to appointed rather than elected. They wanted to change the word "shall" to "may" under Article 5 relative to the Town Council's hiring of a Town Administrator. J. Reddish had suggested going back to four year terms for Council members.

**MOTION made by I. Lipton, second by B. Reyburn to leave the terms for Council members at two years.**

**Ayes – 5**

**Nay – 1 (C. Davis)**

**Abstain – 1 (L. Valencia)**

I. Lipton feels that the Town Moderator and Town Sergeant should be appointed instead of elected.

L. Valencia asked E. Liese if those positions were elected in West Greenwich.

E. Liese answered yes.

M. Van Der Hooft doesn't feel that those positions should be political.

**MOTION made by E. Liese, second by I. Lipton to delete Town Clerk from Article 2, Section 3, paragraph A.**

**Ayes – 6**

**Abstain – 1 (L. Valencia)**

**MOTION made by I. Lipton, second by B. Reyburn to delete Town Clerk from Article 2, Section 5.**

**Ayes – 6**

**Abstain – (L. Valencia)**

**MOTION made by I. Lipton, second by M. Van Der Hooft to delete the word, "Moderator" from Article 2, Section 3, Paragraph A, and change it to an appointed position.**

**Ayes – 6**

**Abstain – 1 (L. Valencia)**

**MOTION made by I. Lipton, second by R. Millar to delete the word, "Moderator" from Article 2, Section 5, Paragraph B.**

**Ayes - 6**

**Abstain – 1 (L. Valencia)**

**MOTION made by I. Lipton, second by C. Davis to delete the word, "Town Sergeant" from Article 2, Section 3, Paragraph A, and change it to an appointed position.**

**Ayes – 6**

**Abstain -1 (L. Valencia)**

**MOTION made by B. Reyburn, second by I. Lipton to delete the word, "Town Sergeant" from Article 2, Section 5, Paragraph B.**

**Ayes – 6**

**Abstain – 1 (L. Valencia)**

**MOTION made by B. Reyburn, second by I. Lipton to delete Article 2, Section 4, Paragraph A.**

**Ayes – 6  
Abstain -1 (L. Valencia)**

**MOTION made by B. Reyburn, second by R. Millar to delete the last sentence from Article 2, Section 5, paragraph B.**

**Ayes – 6  
Abstain -1 (L. Valencia)**

L. Valencia explained that under Article 6, Section 3, paragraph A, it states that the Financial Town meeting must be held on a date no later than the second Monday of June. The Council is looking for some flexibility with this date.

**MOTION made by E. Liese, second by I. Lipton to change Article 6, Section 3, paragraph A to read, "The qualified electors of the Town shall assemble each year on a date no later than June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. at a location designated by the Town Council for the purpose of ordering any tax that lawfully may be ordered, making appropriations, and transacting any other business related to the finances of the Town that may lawfully come before the meeting."**

**Ayes – 6  
Abstain – 1(L. Valencia)**

**E. Adjournment**

**MOTION made by C. Davis, second by I. Lipton to adjourn at 7:55 P. M. All Ayes**

Minutes approved as amended June 17, 2015

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Sarah S. Rapose  
Deputy Town Clerk