

TOWN OF RICHMOND, RHODE ISLAND
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HOME RULE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

June 4, 2015

6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

A. **Call to Order**

B. **Roll Call** – L. Valencia, I. Lipton, E. Liese, C. Davis, M. Van Der Hooft, B. Reyburn, R. Millar, and clerk S. Rapose

C. **Approval of minutes**

01 Approval of minutes from May 21, 2015 meeting

MOTION made by E. Liese, second by I. Lipton to table the minutes from the May 21, 2015 meeting. All Ayes

D. **New Business**

01 Consideration of request from the Town Clerk for recommendation of amendment to Article 4, Section 1 as proposed by the Town Solicitor

MOTION made by I. Lipton, second by C. Davis that in the transition from elected to appointed, the Town Clerk, Town Moderator, and Town Sergeant are eligible to appointment to their current or another vacant position, and are not bound by the one year clause.

Ayes – 6

Abstain – 1 (L. Valencia)

R. Millar expressed concern that they need to move up the meeting schedule in order to get the Commission's recommendations to the Town Council in time.

I. Lipton agrees. She recommended moving up the date of the last meeting.

MOTION made by I. Lipton, second by B. Reyburn to add a meeting on July 9, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. and eliminate the July 16, 2015 meeting.

Ayes – 6

Abstain – 1 (L. Valencia)

MOTION made by B. Reyburn, second by I. Lipton to add a meeting on June 24, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

Ayes – 6

Abstain 0 1 (L. Valencia)

E. Unfinished Business

01 Continued discussion of potential amendments to the Home Rule Charter

I. Lipton explained that currently if a Town Council Member leaves the Town Council, they appoint the next highest vote getter. She suggests that instead, the Town Council shall appoint a qualified elector.

M. Van Der Hooft agrees. She feels that Richmond was lucky this time around that they had two additional candidates to choose from when C. More resigned. What if someone less desirable put themselves on the ballot and then voted for themselves. We could end up with someone that we really don't want.

MOTION made by I. Lipton to eliminate the word, "appoint" from Article 2, Section 5, paragraph B of the Home Rule Charter and allow council to appoint a qualified elector.

E. Liese suggested holding a special election.

L. Valencia explained that the reason that they had originally put that in the Charter was to save the Town the money of holding a special election.

E. Liese stated that she doesn't feel comfortable disregarding the voter's previous intent.

Chairman L. Valencia recognized previous motion did not receive a second.

MOTION made by I. Lipton, second by B. Reyburn to add, "In the event that the council does not select from the submitted names, the Town Administrator shall submit other qualified candidates until a selection is made" to Article 5, section 1, paragraph B- 1 of the Home Rule Charter.

Ayes – 6

Abstain – 1 (L. Valencia)

MOTION made by I. Lipton, second by R. Millar to change "two" to "three" in Article 5, section 1, paragraph C- 3 of the Home Rule Charter.

VOTE: I. Lipton – Aye

E. Liese – Nay

C. Davis – Nay

M. Van Der Hooft – Nay

B. Reyburn – Nay

R. Millar – Nay

L. Valencia – Abstain

MOTION fails.

MOTION made by I. Lipton, second by M. Vanderhooft to add, "In the event that the Town Council does not select one of the candidates submitted, the position must be re-advertised" to Article 5, Section 1, paragraph C-3 of the Home Rule Charter.

Ayes – 6

Abstain -1 (L.Valencia)

MOTION made by M. Van Der Hooft, second by C. Davis to make the descriptions for Town Clerk, Town Sergeant, and Town Moderator formatted in line with the other departments under Town Administrator in the Home Rule Charter.

MOTION made by E. Liese, second by C. Davis to amend previous motions to include the duties as previously described in Article 4, section 2 of the Home Rule Charter.

Ayes – 6
Abstain – 1 (L. Valencia)

MOTION made by I. Lipton, second by B. Reyburn to eliminate the word, “elected” in Article 6, section 3, paragraph C of the Home Rule Charter.

Ayes – 6
Abstain – 1 (L. Valencia)

F. Adjournment

MOTION made by C. Davis, second by I. Lipton to adjourn at 7:50 P.M.

All Ayes

Approved as amended June 17, 2015

Sarah S. Rapose
Clerk