



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT**

**ADOPTION OF REFERENDUM BALLOT QUESTIONS
FOR PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021
6:00 PM**

MINUTES

The Special Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held remotely, via WebEx, on Thursday, August 19, 2021. The meeting was also livestreamed on the City of Middletown Facebook page.

Present:

Councilwoman Jeanette Blackwell	Councilman Vincent Loffredo
Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr.	Councilman Anthony Mangiafico
Councilman Darnell Ford	Councilman Edward McKeon
Councilman Edward Ford, Jr.	Councilman Eugene Nocera
Councilman Anthony Gennaro, Sr.	Councilman Philip Pessina
	Councilwoman Linda Salafia

Mayor Benjamin D. Florsheim, Chair
Steven Mednick, Esq. Consulting Legal Counsel
Corporation Counsel Daniel Ryan, Esq.
Linda Reed, Clerk of the Common Council

Absent: Councilwoman Meghan Carta

Also Present:

Molly Aunger, Charter Revision Commission
David Roane, Charter Revision Commission – Secretary
Kelly Sweeney, Charter Revision Commission
Brooke Carta, Local 466 – Vice President
Ashley Flynn-Natale, City/Town Clerk
Barbara Knoll Peterson, Mayor's Administrative Assistant

Members of the Public: 7

1. Call to Order

Mayor Benjamin Florsheim calls the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. He welcomes everyone to the Special Meeting of the Common Council. The Chair asks Councilman Philip Pessina to lead the Common Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk of the Common Council reads the Call of the Meeting and the Chair declares the call a legal call and the meeting a legal meeting.

2. Presentation of Information for November 2, 2021 Charter Revision Referendum -- Charter Revision Commission Legal Counsel, Atty. Steven Mednick, Esq.

The Chair invites Attorney Steven Mednick, legal counsel to the Charter Revision Commission, to present. The Chair explains that Attorney Mednick is specifically here tonight to help the Council as it approves the ballot questions for topics that were approved by the Council at its August 12, 2021 special meeting held last week.

Attorney Mednick explains that, under Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-191f, after approving the report, which the Council did last week, the Council is obligated to prepare a question, or several questions, to be placed on the ballot. The ballot would be for the November 2021 election, which was confirmed in the August 12th adopted resolution and in this proposed resolution tonight. After discussion with a number of local officials, the two (2) questions that are shown in the proposed resolution are the language that was arrived at. He explains that the Council may, of course, have more questions; however, the essence of the ballot question is to provide a broad enough standard so that the electorate has some sense of what is on the document. The questions, which will be on the ballot, will be further explained with explanatory text, as approved last week. That language will be published by the City/Town Clerk as well as the actual document which will be on the website and will be published in a newspaper with a general circulation in Middletown within the next few weeks, within 30 days of last week. The Council Clerk is now negotiating for the best price with one of the two newspapers in Town. Questions can be as simple as "Shall the Charter be revised?" or "Shall the people of Middletown approved the report of the Charter Revision Commission as approved by the Common Council?"

He explains that, in Question #1, what they tried to do was succinctly establish the major topics addressed in the Charter. Obviously, not all of the definitions are listed here. The various provisions about the Board of Ethics is not defined here, but it talks about ethical conduct. It addresses procedures, but all of the Boards and Commissions are not listed here. They are broadly addressed. Standards and accountability in the budget process and compensation during the budget process are listed. The idea of the Common Council with bipartisan leadership is listed as is equal opportunity provisions in the personnel section.

The second question addresses an issue that has gained notoriety and discussion during this process, involving the transfer of, hiring, firing, supervision of certain employees now on City side of the government to move to the Board of Education and be under the supervision of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools.

These are the two (2) questions.

Question #1: *Shall the Charter be revised and reorganized to facilitate public understanding and access to local government by instituting: (a) clear standards of ethical conduct for local officials; (b) uniform procedures enhancing board and commission operations; (c) greater accountability and standards of compensation in the budget process; (d) nonpartisan council leader positions; and, (e) equal employment opportunities?*

Question #2: *Shall the Charter be revised to transfer hiring and supervision responsibilities for custodians, secretarial and cafeteria staff, tradespersons, central office staff, and other employees who do not require State Board of Education certification at Middletown Public Schools from the Mayor to the Superintendent of Schools?*

The other document that he distributed today, which he had promised to Councilwoman Salafia would be done, is the final edits of the Charter. If you go through the document, you will see two (2) substantial modifications, which the Council removed for the Charter at the last meeting. Most of the remaining provisions, as you will see are non-substantial edits or errata corrections. One thing he did was use the Section mark throughout the document rather than the words Section or Sec. He used the initials "CGS" to describe the statutes in the Charter. The edit has been completed and this document is now before you. He hopes this will be beneficial to the Council as they go through the document.

Attorney Mednick is glad to answer any questions and thanks the Council for its courtesies throughout this process.

The Chair calls on Councilman Vincent Loffredo.

Councilman Loffredo states that, when he reads the proposed change in the Charter dealing with the role of the Mayor and the hiring and so forth, to him, that power and authority will move from the Mayor to the Board of Education. He states that the Board of Education has, reading that entire section that was discussed and adopted. At one point, it states, "The duties and responsibilities that exist shall remain in effect and be recognized by the Superintendent (*inaudible*) seek approval of the Board of Education and the Board of Education does all the hiring and firing." He notes that the Board of Education is the elected body; they are not empowering the superintendent with this authority by any sense. We hire a superintendent from time to time and empower them. He is not comfortable approving Question 2. He proposes that they delete the word "Superintendent" and replace it with "Board of Education." He believes that is what they are doing. Reading that, he believes that it is the Board of Education as the duly elected board. He proposes that Question #2 be amended.

Attorney Mednick states that he does not know whether or not the City's General Counsel is present. He adds that he understands Councilman Loffredo's point: the Board of Education is the employer of the Superintendent of Schools. He believes that this section was drafted with the assistance of General Counsel and Deputy General Counsel. He reiterates that he does not know if either is present.

Councilman Loffredo states that the Council is approving the questions and needs to be able to explain what it is doing here. He asks if anyone else is reading what he is reading. Is he misunderstanding what is before him in Chapter X? In his opinion, it does not rest with the Superintendent. At the end of the day, the accountability rests with the Board of Education. As he reads what is being proposed, it is the Board of Education that has the powers and who empowers administrators, signs contracts with school administrators and vice-principals.

Attorney Mednick notes that the language approved last week mentions both the Board of Education and the Superintendent. That language was meant to spell out what the plan is.

Councilman Loffredo suggests that perhaps it should say Board of Education/Superintendent.

Attorney Mednick replies that he does not think that would do any damage to the question. He should not be involved in debate, adding that he is only responding to the legal questions.

The Chair calls on Councilman Eugene Nocera.

Councilman Nocera states that, like Councilman Loffredo, he served on the Board of Education for a couple of terms. The Superintendent is an agent for the Board of Education. The Board approves all hiring at its monthly meetings. We could say Superintendent, as an agent of the Board of Education, noting that the Superintendent does the hiring and brings it to the Board of Education for approval.

Councilman Loffredo adds that there are committees. The exclusivity, in terms of when candidates come forward for administrative jobs, the bring forth a couple of candidates, which then rests with the Board of Education members to (*inaudible*) The Superintendent does play a role, but at the end of the day, accountability, if you read the State statutes, in terms of who is responsible, it is the elected boards.

Multiple speaks (*inaudible*)

The Chair reminds Councilmembers that this is still the presentation. Once we get to the resolution, there will be opportunity for discussion.

Attorney Mednick states that he is finished with his presentation and is happy to answer any questions. If there are no questions, he is again thanks for the Council's cooperation during this entire process.

Councilman Loffredo states that he does have other questions, but, to him, this is the threshold. He asks if the Chair is willing to accept an amendment at this time, he asks how they want to proceed.

The Chair replies that if there are other questions for Attorney Mednick, this is an appropriate time to ask. The formal resolution will be introduced after the public hearing, so that is when there will opportunity to offer an amendments.

Councilman Loffredo states that this question reminds him of 2014, this question being such a robust question, taking into account, with very broad strokes, all of the proposed changes. That is what people will see on the ballot. That question was voted down, adding he is not sure if others know that, if they were around during that Charter revision. He gives great pause. He appreciates the due diligence and work that pole have put in for the variety of issues, point by point. As he looks at this, he believes that they could up with question, this is now an all or nothing. At the end of the day, if people find something in Section A Standards, or Section B uniform procedures, or Section D, or Section E, or the whole thing in their minds, if they are uncomfortable with A, B, or C. It's an all or nothing, if that's how we want to present what we want. He asks if they are doing the community justice by doing it in this manner. He was not involved with the direct discussion, so maybe other folks can explain if this will be a problem, If needs to be clear to everybody. Question 2 is straightforward, but the other one doesn't do, isn't fair, to people who have not attended, who have not participated in all of the discussions, tend are now being asked to vote "Yea" or "Nay" on the questions being presented.

Councilman Edward McKeon calls for a point of order. He states that this discussion probably ought to be . . .

Multiple speakers (*inaudible*)

Councilman Loffredo thanks Councilman McKeon, adding that he is correct.

Councilman Loffredo asks if they can develop those three questions on each of the subsections A to D, and have members of the public vote "Yea" or "Nay" on them. He ask if that is a possibility or is it too late in the process to consider.

The Chair replies that this is exactly what this body has the ability to do tonight, as it sees fit.

Councilman Loffredo states that they should be read. He poses a procedural question, noting that this work has to be done by the end of the month. We have engaged our wonderful counsel, Attorney Steven Mednick, to develop these questions, He is veritable . . . if the body decides to table that portion, the put forward sub-questions, and will he be available to do that.

Attorney Mednick replies that he serves at the Council's behest, so it is whatever they would like. He reminds the Council that they need to get this done by the end of the month. If they were to table, then they should set up a special meeting to be sure that they get this done in this fashion.

Corporation Counsel Dan Ryan adds that, if a resolution is made, they can make an amendment.

Councilman Loffredo states that he appreciates that, adding that, over the past 24 hours in looking at it, he would appreciate having the opportunity to have legal counsel work with himself or other to put together specific questions for each subsection, giving folks a more robust opportunity to weigh in one way of another on the various aspects of Charter revision. He notes that the work has been done very comprehensively. He is very much in favor of it, but, at the end of the day, he is not comfortable. He is not prepared this evening, but would like to meet with counsel as other folks have done in developing Question #1 and Question #2. This is his response and opinion.

The Chair calls on Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr.

Councilman Faulkner states that he was very confused when he saw only two (2) items. He asks if the Commission actually considered taking the 4 or 5 things and have them each with a question on their own.

Attorney Mednick explains that the Charter Revision Commission did not write the ballot questions; rather, these questions were discussed with members of the Council, the Mayor's Office, the City Attorney, and the City Clerk. The Commission had no role in the development of these questions.

The Chair calls on Councilwoman Jeanette Blackwell.

Councilwoman Blackwell states that she has her own observations on the first question. It appears very convoluted and will confuse the voters. She wants to be transparent and when she reads this, as written, it is confusing. She recommends that the language be rephrased, reworded, formatted differently. Question #1 and #2 are together and there is a "yes" or "no." That is confusing to her as well. This is her observation on how this is formatted.

There being no other questions, the Chair thanks Attorney Mednick and notes that they will now move forward with the public hearing.

3. Public Hearing -- Opens

The Chair opens public hearing at 6:22 PM. The Chair invites any member of the public looking to speak to do so, alerting them by using the WebEx hand raise function. Each speaker will have a maximum of five (5) minutes to speak. Speakers are asked to state their name and address for the record. The public hearing is limited to 30 minutes. If, at that time, there are additional speakers, the Council may consider extending the public hearing portion of the meeting.

4. Public Hearing -- Closes

There being no public comment, the Chair closes the public hearing at 6:23 PM.

5. Resolutions, Ordinances, etc.

A. Review and approval of Charter revision referendum ballot questions, and explanatory text, if any, for the City's November 2, 2021 ballot.

APPROVED, AS AMENDED

Resolution No. 109-21; K: review/ resolution/ CC Charter ballot question – RES No. 109-21- 19 Aug 2021

WHEREAS, the Final Report of the Charter Revision Commission, as amended, was approved by the Common Council on August 12, 2021.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIDDLETOWN: that the proposed Charter be submitted to the City electors for approval or disapproval at a referendum to be held in conjunction with the general election on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, between the hours of 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM (EST); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the warning for said referendum shall state the questions to be voted upon as follows:

Question #1: *Shall the Charter be revised and reorganized to facilitate public understanding and access to local government by instituting: (a) clear standards of ethical conduct for local officials; (b) uniform procedures enhancing board and commission operations; (c) greater accountability and standards of compensation in the budget process; (d) nonpartisan council leader positions; and, (e) equal employment opportunities?*

Question #2: *Shall the Charter be revised to transfer hiring and supervision responsibilities for custodians, secretarial and cafeteria staff, tradespersons, central office staff, and other employees who do not require State Board of Education certification at Middletown Public Schools from the Mayor to the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools?*

And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the ballot label for said questions shall read as follows:

Question #1: *Shall the Charter be revised and reorganized to facilitate public understanding and access to local government by instituting: (a) clear standards of ethical conduct for local officials; (b) uniform procedures enhancing board and commission operations; (c) greater accountability and standards of compensation in the budget process; (d) nonpartisan council leader positions; and, (e) equal employment opportunities?*

YES

NO

Question #2: *Shall the Charter be revised to transfer hiring and supervision responsibilities for custodians, secretarial and cafeteria staff, tradespersons, central office staff, and other employees who do not require State Board of Education certification at Middletown Public Schools from the Mayor to Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools?*

YES

NO

And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the warning for said referendum shall also state that absentee ballot will be made available in accordance with the law.

Fiscal Impact: None

Councilman Eugene Nocera reads the motion and moves to approve.

Councilman Nocera states that, as he has said before, thanks to the Commission for the tremendous work that they have done. He also thanks City Attorney Brig Smith. Legal Counsel Steve Mednick, who has guided everyone, the Couch Clerk, and everyone involved, including the Councilmembers for staying abreast of the work during the entire process.

Councilman Nocera states that he supports the two (2) questions, as written, for a couple of important reasons. First, they are bringing these question to the City voters, who have full access to the document. It will be available on the website and in the local paper, which requires a considerable amount of money to publish. The document will be fully available to anyone who wants to research. He notes that, as Attorney Mednick has previously explained the questions can be as simple as *“Do you approve the proposed Charter Revision Commission recommendations as approved by the Common Council?”* That could be it. These questions go farther. It is important to remember that, during this process, voters come in to vote. They are looking at this perhaps for the first time. We want this on the front of the ballot, since they may not turn over the ballot so it must be brief and on one side of the ballot. We will do our due diligence to get the information to voters so that, if they have questions, they have access to the information.

The Chair calls on Coachman Vincent Loffredo.

Councilman Loffredo moves to amend Question #2, deleting the word “Superintendent” so the text reads “from the Mayor to the Board of Education and its agent, the Superintendent of Schools”. Councilman Nocera seconds the motion.

The Chair calls on Councilman Philip Pessina.

Councilman Pessina states that this is clear and that he supports the amendment.

The Chair call so Councilman Edward McKeon,

Councilman McKeon offers a friendly amendment, stating that adding the phase “its agent” is confusing, He thinks it is clear to say “the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools.” He agrees that it ought to be in there. It is a good point and important.

Councilman Loffredo states that he accepts the rephrasing offered by Councilman McKeon.

There being no further discussion on the amendment, the Chair calls for a roll call vote.

Councilman Faulkner	Aye
Councilman Nocera	Aye
Councilman Pessina	Aye
Councilman Loffredo	Aye
Councilman McKeon	Aye
Councilman Mangiafico	Aye
Councilman D Ford	Aye
Councilwoman Blackwell	Aye
Councilwoman Salafia	Aye
Councilman Gennaro	Aye
Councilman E. Ford	Aye

Councilwoman Carta is absent for the roll call vote,

The motion to approve the amendment is approved unanimously by a vote of 11-0 (AYE: Councilmembers Blackwell, Faulkner, D. Ford, E. Ford, Gennaro, Loffredo, Mangiafico, McKeon, Nocera, Pessina, and Salafia; ABSENT: Councilwoman Carta.) The matter is approved

The Chair asks if there is any further discussion on the underlying resolution. The Chair calls on Councilman Vincent Loffredo.

Councilman Loffredo moves that Question #1 be tabled to be offered as multiple questions to be placed on the ballot at a meeting date to be agreed upon, but before the end of this month. Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr. seconds the motion.

The Chair calls on Councilman Edward McKeon.

Councilman McKeon states that he spent many hours as part of the Charter Revision Commission. He believes that they could have a question that is almost as long as the Charter itself. He knows it is a bit of a gamble and, that, in the past, such an omnibus question has not been successful; nevertheless, such an omnibus question can be successful. The burden rests on us to explain this to the citizenry. He has no pride in authorship as he did not write the question, but wishes that he had as he believes that are clear. He believes that the questions say everything that the Charter Revision Commission did and addresses everything. As a marketing person, something which he has done his entire life, he thinks, as Councilman Nocera said, that this format will fit on the front of the ballot is really important. If we extend it by even a few words, as the town Clerk has told us, it will slip to the back of the ballot and may never be seen and voted on. This would be even more tragic: not being voted on. There will be some in the community, who will examine the Charter and explanatory language, but, many voters will go into the voting booth and see these questions for the first time. He cannot image that anyone will vote against these things as they are all positive things. As a member of the Charter Revision

Commission, they worked in a bipartisan manner to get these things done. He urges his colleagues not to vote to table, but, rather, to accept the language as submitted. Move forward and get the questions submitted, the materials provided, and offer it to the citizens in as many ways as possible.

The Chair calls on Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr.

Councilman Faulkner says it sounds good, but he thinks that people will like to know a little more; for example, what exactly is Item 1A. If we are pointing back to a section in the Charter, to say that these things are aggregated under Item 1A, that would be helpful. It does not need amazing detail, just give some direction as to what falls under item 1A. He is not suggesting everything needs to be done this way, but there are some areas where people need to be able to go back to the Charter document and say that they understand what is being suggested.

The Chair calls on Councilman Vincent Loffredo, followed by Councilman Edward McKeon.

Councilman Loffredo states that he appreciates Councilman McKeon's expertise in marketing. He states that he has worked on a number of comprehensive campaigns. They would present sample ballots to the public to show them different parts of the ballot. He believes that informing the public prior to the November election and advertising it, delineating the questions to be accepted or rejected. He understands an argument can be made on both sides. He is not against Charter revision; rather, he believes that it is their responsibility to be open and forthright with the body politic by informing them. The amount of time and the questions that they have will allow them to give the time and effort needed. It is with this in mind that he offers this amendment.

The Chair calls on Councilman Edward McKeon.

Councilman McKeon states that he agrees with Councilman Loffredo and Councilman Faulkner that we can educate. All of that information will be made available. If we put it on the ballot, it is long. It is impossible to present a ballot like that to voters to vote in a meaningful way. They won't. To Councilman Faulkner, each letter will be explained in the explanatory material being given to the voters ahead of time. If it is on the ballot, it will be too long. We will debate for hours what should and should not be in the ballot. It's a practical issue more than anything else. He is not sure if the Town Clerk is here tonight, but she felt very strongly that the ballot questions need to be on the front of the ballot for people to respond.

The Chair states, as a point of information, every voter will receive a one-page explanatory text that will summarize. It will be true for all ballot options. It will summarize what is being said without being complex and inaccessible like the underlying documents. That is underway now and will be submitted to the Council for review. The Chair calls on Town Clerk Ashley Flynn-Natale.

Town Clerk Ashley Flynn-Natale states that she sat in on both meetings, drafting the questions. While she does not recall the exact year when the City had multiple referendum questions, which resulted in some of the questions going to the back of the ballot. She reminds the council that the poll workers have to remind voters to turn over the ballot. Also, if there are too many questions, it deters voters from voting on all questions. She believes that it is important to keep it to two (2) questions and to be sure that the explanatory text is readily available on the Town Clerk's page. It can also be on the *News Blasts* for the month leading up to the election. The explanatory text will be available in the Town Clerk's Office. It will be included with every absentee ballot and with every ballot that is voted on in the office. The Registrars of Voters also make poster size images of the explanatory text. If voters really want to be informed, they will read the explanatory text and make their best decision by voting yes or no to both questions.

The Chair calls on Councilwoman Jeanette Blackwell.

Councilwoman Blackwell has a question for the Town Clerk. She asks if the text will be provided in any language other than English,

Town Clerk Flynn-Natale replies, "It is not."

Councilwoman Blackwell sees that as problematic. If they want bilingual residents, actually those who are not bilingual, to understand . . . she agrees that with all the work that has been put into this project, there has been a lot of grit put into the process. She does not want to belabor it. She agrees that the text should be on the front of the ballot. Reflecting on 2014, some seven (7) years ago at the polls, one question asked if the Treasurer position should be removed. She wonders where that question is in this referendum. She has to think about it. This means that the voters need to have information that will help them understand what is behind each question. She is not at a loss for words, but is struggling this evening. She knows that a lot of work has been put into this project, so she hesitates to say if all of the aspects of the questions are written well. She will vote to move the process along, but she believes that there will be confusion at the ballot box.

Corporation Counsel Dan Ryan, states that questions are being debated *ad nauseum*. The proposed amendment is very clear. He believes that it would be a terrible mistake at this late date to table the matter. The amendment offered by Councilman Loffredo is very simple and understandable.

The Chair calls on Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr.

Councilman Faulkner states that, ironically, this is very simple. We should focus on the Board of Education employee change because, the way this is done, Question #1 has so many parts, that if voted down, it will not get done.

The Chair calls on Councilman Eugene Nocera.

Councilman Nocera states that he respects everyone's opinions. He truly and firmly believes that the questions, as developed, will facilitate those who want to look further. It will facilitate that. He respects the process and that people who want to be fully informed before the vote, will be. It is our responsibility now to help facilitate that information to voters. We are not done tonight. We are done with this part, but now needs to get the information out to the voters. These are just broad strokes to present an opportunity to vote. It is the Council's responsibility to get that information out to the voters. Our respective caucuses need to discuss this: what are we going to do now? We have passed this, so how will we work together to ensure that voters know what they are now voting on. Thank you.

The Chair calls on Councilman Philip Pessina.

Councilman Pessina asks the Mayor what the timetable is to get this information out to the public.

The Chair asks if Councilman Pessina is asking about getting the explanatory text out.

Councilman Pessina replies, "Yes," adding getting the explanatory text out to the public.

The Chair replies that the Town Clerk may speak to the statutory time line. He notes that the Council Clerk Linda Reed put into the WebEx chat that the deadline for the Town Clerk to get the questions to the Secretary of State is September 2nd. He states that they will work to have explanatory text ready by that time. As to Councilwoman Blackwell's question about bilingual ballots, according to the Town Clerk, that has not been done in the past. It is an excellent suggestion and we can try to work to make that happen. He does not know what the statutory deadline is for the actual ballot itself. As for whether or not Spanish ballots will be made available, that is something that we can investigate. Spanish language explanatory text is easy, so we will work to make that happen.

Councilman Pessina states that he is concerned that, when we have allowed this to be put together, taking the politics out of it, we will be representing it based on what the Mayor has put out with Attorney Mednick's help. The explanation so it is consistent, whether it is from the Democrats or republicans. He just doesn't want to have a willy-nilly thing to embarrass anyone. Some might put an emphasis on what is right, wrong . . . he does not want to hurt anyone's feelings. Respectfully, they need to see what the Mayor puts out and stick together, all sending the same message in the same manner.

The Chair asks if there is further discussion, noting that the motion before the Council is to table Question #1, so the vote will be on that amendment. It is to table to a non-specific date, but before September 2nd. The Chair calls on the Town Clerk.

Town Clerk Flynn-Natale states that the Council has to have the language voted on by September 2nd and, once the Council approves it, that text be sent to the Secretary of State. She notes that absentee ballots will be available on the first Friday in October which she believes may be October 2nd. That is the timeline.

The Chair confirms that the motion would then be to table to a date no later than September 2nd, but hopefully a couple of days ahead in case there are more questions.

The Chair calls on Attorney Steven Mednick.

Attorney Mednick suggests that any meeting be held at least a week before September 2nd. That is the Clerk's deadline with the Secretary of State.

The Chair replies that would make the deadline August 26th.

There being no further discussion on the amendment, the Chair calls for a roll call vote.

Councilman Pessina	Nay
Councilman Nocera	Nay
Councilwoman Blackwell	Aye
Councilman Faulkner	Aye
Councilman Mangiafico	Nay
Councilman D. Ford	Nay
Councilman E, Ford	Nay
Councilman McKeon	Nay
Councilwoman Salafia	Nay
Councilman Gennaro	Aye
Councilman Loffredo	Aye

Councilwoman Carta is absent for the roll call vote,

The motion to approve the amendment to table question 1 fails 4 to 7 (AYE: Councilmembers Blackwell, Faulkner, Gennaro, and Loffredo; NAY: D. Ford, E. Ford, Gennaro, Mangiafico, McKeon, Nocera, Pessina, and Salafia; ABSENT: Councilwoman Carta.) The matter fails.

The Chair asks if there is any discussion on the underlying motion. The Chair calls on Councilman Vincent Loffredo.

Councilman Loffredo states that he is prepared to move this forward to a vote on the matter. He is in favor of the matter, noting that the public has the right to see all of the work that has been presented. He states that he will do his best to help facilitate the explanation. If anyone has an issue with any section, they have to decide how to vote. He reiterates that he is in favor of the motion and appreciates the debate and the amendments. He does not want to give the impression that he is in opposition. The voters have to decide. At the end of the day, if anyone expresses any concerns, or if they feel confused, he will suggest that they speak with Councilman Nocera. Thank you.

There being no further discussion, the Chair calls for a roll call vote on the motion, with the question as amended. If approved it will go forward to the November ballot

Councilman Nocera	Aye
Councilman Faulkner	Aye
Councilman Pessina	Aye
Councilman Mangiafico	Aye
Councilman E. Ford	Aye
Councilman D. Ford	Aye
Councilman McKeon	Aye
Councilwoman Blackwell	Aye
Councilwoman Salafia	Aye
Councilman Gennaro	Aye
Councilman Loffredo	Aye

Councilwoman Carta is absent for the roll call vote,

The motion is unanimously approved by a vote of 11 to 0 (AYE: Councilmembers Blackwell, Faulkner, D. Ford, E. Ford, Gennaro, Loffredo, Mangiafico, McKeon, Nocera, Pessina, and Salafia; ABSENT: Councilwoman Carta.) The matter is approved.

The Chair states that the explanatory text will be available shortly and they will welcome comments. The Chair reiterates thanks to Council Clerk Linda Redd, Legal Counsel Steven Mednick, Esq., and to the Charter Revision Commission for all of their hard work.

Councilman Vincent Loffredo calls a point of order. He asks if the explanatory text will come before the Common Council for approval.

The Chair replies that it will not be before the Council for a vote, but a draft will be sent to Councilmembers for suggestions. He reiterates that it is not going before the Council for a vote.

6. Adjournment

Councilman Eugene Nocera moves to adjourn. Councilman Philip Pessina seconds the motion.

There being no further discussion, the Chair calls for a voice vote. The motion is approved unanimously by a vote of 11-0 (AYE: Councilmembers Blackwell, Faulkner, D. Ford, E. Ford, Gennaro, Loffredo, Mangiafico, McKeon, Nocera, Pessina, and Salafia; ABSENT: Councilwoman Carta.) The matter is approved

The meeting is adjourned at 6:56 PM.

ATTEST:
LINDA S.K. REED,
COMMON COUNCIL CLERK

K: review/ Minutes/ 21 August 19 – special meeting minutes adopting Charter ballot questions – 19 August 2021