

DERBY BOARD OF ALDERMEN SPECIAL MEETING

DERBY CITY HALL – MEDIA CENTER - SEPTEMBER 15, 2008 - 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

President Kenneth J. Hughes called the special meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call

Present: Kenneth J. Hughes, Beverly Moran, Joseph M. Bomba, Ronald M. Sill, James Allaire, Anthony Szewczyk

Absent: James J. Benanto, David M. Lenart, Scott M. Boulton

Also Present: Joseph T. Coppola, Corporation Counsel

DELETIONS/CORRECTION TO AGENDA

Mr. Hughes said there is one deletion this evening:

- **Delete Item #7 – Annex Associates Contract – Discussion & Action**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. Bomba to adopt the agenda as amended.

DISCUSSION ON MOTION

Mrs. Moran asked if it possible to discuss something pertaining to this item before it is deleted from the agenda. She said she would like records for the past year on what was collected at the dump before we decided whether or not to go with someone else. Mr. Hughes said he would request that information from Mr. Culmo. Mrs. Moran said Mrs. Williamson would also have that information.

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mr. Hughes asked three times if anyone else would like to address the board.

Hearing no one else from the public wishing to address the board...

PUBLIC PORTION CLOSED

CHARTER REVISION QUESTIONS – FINAL REPORT – DISCUSSION & ACTION

Mr. Hughes thanked the Board of Aldermen for coming together for another special meeting noting that he understands how tough it is taking time away from your families. He explained there is time constraints associated with the Charter Revision questions and they need to be addressed. As everyone is aware the board sent the questions back to the Charter Revision Commission who in turn held another meeting at which time they adopted a final draft of their report, which is in front of everyone this evening. He said this report includes the three questions that this board approved the last time.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Hughes with a second by Mrs. Moran to approve the question "Shall the City of Derby amend the Charter to allow the position of Mayor to be specified as full-time."

DISCUSSION ON MOTION

Mr. Bomba noted that it's about time that it should be a full-time position – the Mayor works full-time hours so it should be a full-time position.

MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Hughes with a second by Mr. Szewczyk to approve the question "Shall the City of Derby amend the Charter to reflect that the Fire Commissioner/Fire Commission incorrect language needs to be removed from the current version of the City Charter and the addition of a Board of Fire Commissioners."

DISCUSSION ON MOTION

Mr. Hughes stated for the record that the explanatory text is also going to be available in the Town/City Clerk's Office and also posted in the newspapers. It will also be available the day of the vote. Atty. Coppola noted that it would be available in the Town/City Clerk's Office within a couple of days all the way up to the vote.

Mr. Bomba asked if this would also be explained at the polls. Atty. Coppola said it would not. Mr. Hughes asked if a handout could be made available at the polls. Atty. Coppola said no. Mrs. Moran asked if it would appear in all the newspapers – CT Post, New Haven Register, Valley Gazette. Atty. Coppola said he is not sure where it will be posted. He feels that it will be in the New Haven Register; however he is not sure about the CT Post or the Valley Gazette. Mrs. Moran said we should look into having it appear in the Valley Gazette noting that a lot of people read that newspaper. Mr. Hughes said he would talk to them to see about having an article run. He also noted that this has been discussed for the past eight months – we can only take it so far. There have been public hearings and it has also been discussed in the newspapers a few times – it's not like we're trying to hide something. Mr. Sill also stated that the polls workers usually remind the voters about the Charter questions when they first come in to vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Hughes with a second by Mr. Allaire to approve the question "Shall the City of Derby amend the Charter requirement to allow a minimum of fifteen (15%) percent of registered voters to vote in a referendum for that referendum to pass."

DISCUSSION ON MOTION

Mr. Szewczyk said he just wanted to go on record as being opposed to this question for two basic reasons. The first reason is he assumed that the people like Madison, Hamilton, Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, etc... knew what they were doing when they set up the Constitution. No where in the Constitution does it set a percentage for how much of a percentage the voters are to vote. They did set requirements for the qualifications of the voters, but no where does it say that – on the other hand the Constitution, at least until (inaudible) modern politicians stood for the freedom of each individual of the country to attain as much freedom as possible not for the government

to attain as much power as possible over the individual (inaudible) the lessening of their freedom. The point of that is people of this country ought to be free if they chose to not vote to not vote. Those who think that it's important to vote will express it by voting. The two main reasons other than that little preamble I just said that I'm against this whole referendum question is number one it leads to a slippery slope. This year somebody came up with the idea of 15% - next time somebody might say why not 20%, why not 40%, why not, 50%, why not 51%. To me the whole thing is kind of like an intellectual black hole – there's no relevance to the whole question. The other thing is – the second point that I would like to bring up is it's from my experience that Registrar of Voter's records are not the most well kept. Let's just say for the sake of argument 15% of the voters on paper voted. Who's to say Freedom of Information or otherwise they actually check the voting list and find out because of population changes or incorrect keeping of the Registrar's records that oh, dear only 14.99% of the voters voted – end of question.

Mr. Hughes said those are good points and asked if there was any other further discussions.

Mr. Bomba said he likes the 15% because he thinks that it makes both sides get out there and make their points known to the public. It encourages people to go and vote and he doesn't think a major money decision should be made on 10 people voting. He feels that there should be a percentage of people that vote on it. He said that's a (inaudible) sampling of the people out in the City. Mr. Sill said we're still letting 85% of the people not vote.

Mr. Szewczyk voted no. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mrs. Moran to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Finn
Recording Secretary

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN AT THEIR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING.