

CITY OF DOVER

CITY COUNCIL - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Workshop Session
Meeting Location: Council Chambers, City Hall
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, September 23, 2015**
Meeting Time: **5:30 pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Deputy Mayor Carrier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

Present: Mayor Weston, Deputy Mayor Carrier, Councilor Cheney, Councilor Gagnon, Councilor Garrison, Councilor Hooper, Councilor McManus, and Councilor Thibodeaux. Councilor O'Connor arrived at 5:40 pm.

Also Present: City Manager Joyal, General Legal Counsel Blenkinsop, and City Clerk Lavertu.

5. CITIZEN'S FORUM

Citizens are invited to speak on the subject matter of the Workshop. Statements shall be limited to five minutes.

Peter Schmidt, 53 Fourth Street: He spoke against the proposed Charter amendments. He spoke against the method used to get the petition signatures by a City Councilor.

Donald Medbery, 3 Covered Bridge Lane: He spoke in support of Councilor Cheney's actions regarding the Charter Amendment petitions.

George Sherwood, 43 Arch Street: He spoke in support of the Charter Amendment question regarding the Legal Officer.

Thomas Southworth, 56 Durham Road: He spoke against the Charter Amendment questions.

Mary Hebbard, 97 Spruce Lane: She spoke in favor of the Charter Amendment questions. She said she felt this workshop was a form of electioneering.

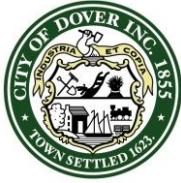
Paul Norris, 15 Cranbrook Lane: He spoke in favor of the Charter Amendment questions.

David Martin, 10 Linda Avenue: He spoke in favor of the Charter Amendment questions.

David Scott, 220 Back Road: He spoke in favor of the Charter Amendment questions.

Phyllis Woods, 1 Barry Street: She spoke in favor of the Charter Amendment questions.

William Baber, 5 Gerrys Lane: He thanked the Council for the workshop to inform the citizens about these Charter Amendment questions.



CITY OF DOVER

CITY COUNCIL - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Workshop Session
Meeting Location: Council Chambers, City Hall
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, September 23, 2015**
Meeting Time: **5:30 pm**

Richard Hebbard, 97 Spruce Lane: He said the meeting was illegal. He said the Mayor should be ashamed of herself.

Deputy Mayor Carrier called for a point of order.

Mr. Hebbard asked the Deputy Mayor not to interrupt him.

Deputy Mayor Carrier called for another point of order.

Mayor Weston asked Mr. Hebbard to stop the name calling.

Mr. Hebbard said he can say what he wants.

Mayor Weston called for a recess.

Mr. Hebbard asked for a point order. He asked the Mayor to rein in the Deputy Mayor and stop him from interrupting his time during Citizen's Forum.

Mayor Weston said the Deputy Mayor has been spoken to.

Mr. Hebbard talked about the Council doing whatever they want. He accused the Mayor of inappropriate actions.

Kristine Baber, 5 Gerrys Lane: She spoke about the previous speaker's comments and said they are not the opinion of the vast majority of the citizens. She thanked the Council for their work.

Mayor Weston, seeing no one else wishing to speak, closed the Citizen's Forum.

6. DISCUSSIONS

A. CHARTER AMENDMENT QUESTIONS ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2015 MUNICIPAL ELECTION BALLOT

Mayor Weston addressed the inappropriate actions remark as impossible.

Mayor Weston started a discussion regarding the School Board Charter Amendment question.

Councilor McManus explained why the Council can have this meeting. He also spoke about free speech and that he felt it didn't include insults.

Councilor Hooper talked about her 8 years on the School Board and the difficulties they had filling positions in certain wards. She felt the At Large system has worked well.

Councilor Cheney gave an overview of why she brought these Charter Amendment petitions forward.

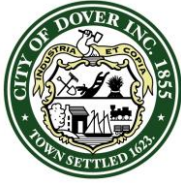
Mayor Weston asked General Legal Counsel Blenkinsop to explain the transition if this Charter Amendment passes.

General Legal Counsel Blenkinsop gave an overview of the School Board Charter Amendment question to the Council.

City Clerk Lavertu explained the lottery system to pick write-in candidates for the School Board after an election to the Council.

Mayor Weston asked Attorney Bolt to speak to the Council.

Councilor Cheney said Attorney Brian Gould was also present and former Keene Councilor Charles Redfern.



CITY OF DOVER

CITY COUNCIL - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Workshop Session
Meeting Location: Council Chambers, City Hall
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, September 23, 2015**
Meeting Time: **5:30 pm**

Attorney Bolt spoke to the Council regarding different forms of governments in the State, and how the Legal Officer Charter Amendment question would affect the City.

Councilor Garrison asked if this change can happen.

Attorney Bolt said it could.

Mayor Weston spoke about her conversation with the Mayor Lane of Keene and his answer to her question regarding who directs the City Attorney. She said one scenario is that the City Attorney would have to ask the whole Council if they wanted a resolution drawn up, instead of just drawing it up at the request of one Councilor. She explained that this issue would have to be addressed immediately after the election.

Councilor McManus asked what the City Attorney does if two Councilors have conflicting requests.

Mr. Redfern gave an overview of Keene's process to the Council.

Attorney Bolt answered questions about what would happen if the Legal Officer Charter Amendment passed.

City Manager Joyal gave an overview of changes in the Charter that involved the Council's approval on the Merit Plan and employment contracts.

Mayor Weston said she felt the Council should review the General Legal Counsel's contract and come back to address some of these concerns.

Councilor Cheney said she would object to have another meeting before the election. She talked about Attorney Gould's presence and asked to allow him to speak.

Mayor Weston said the Council was being proactive about this Charter Amendment because it needs to be addressed as soon as possible if the question passes on November 3, 2015. She asked Attorney Gould to address the Council.

Attorney Gould gave an overview of his opinion on the Legal Officer Charter Amendment question.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor Carrier moved to adjourn...

Mayor Weston interrupted and asked if there should be a recess to a date to be determined to allow the Council a chance to review the General Legal Counsel's contract.

Deputy Mayor Carrier agreed that the Council should take some more time on this issue.

Mayor Weston asked for a motion.

Deputy Mayor Carrier moved to have another workshop, date to be determined, to review more matters on this subject regarding the General Legal Counsel; seconded by Councilor Garrison.

Councilor O'Connor asked the Attorneys and former Councilor Redfern be invited to the workshop.

Vote: 9/0.