

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF BETHEL

Wednesday, September 25, 2019
7:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center - General Purpose Room

PRESENT: Chairman Nicholas Hoffman, Vice-Chair Melanie O'Brien, Joyce Hess, John Lennon, Sharon Straiton, Partrick Perrefort, Theresa Letellier and Attorney Nicholas Vitti

Chairman Nicholas Hoffman opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. and asked that everyone be considerate of each other's time and requested a five minute limit to public comments.

TOWN OF BETHEL, CONNECTICUT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR CHANGES & REVISIONS TO THE BETHEL TOWN CHARTER

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 7-191, notice is hereby given that the Charter Revision Committee for the Town of Bethel will hold a public hearing on September 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the General Purpose Room, in the C.J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School St., Bethel, Connecticut, for the purpose of hearing comments from the public regarding changes and revisions to the Bethel Town Charter.

Dated at Bethel Connecticut, September 5, 2019.

RECEIVED
2019 SEP 26 P 4:48
TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF BETHEL

Charter Revision Committee, Town of Bethel

Nicholas Hoffman
Melanie O'Brien
Joyce Hess
John Lennon
Sharon Straiton
Patrick Perrefort
Theresa Letellier

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

David Glahn, Elizabeth St., he does not agree with the 5 minute rule, he feels that the communities' freedom of speech is being taken away and shouldn't be limited in time given to speak. He also does not support a 4 year Board of Selectmen term and thinks the Municipal Center is the only place to hold meetings.

Nancy Ryan, Walnut Hill Rd., among other comments, supports a 4 year term for Board of Selectmen and all other boards that are currently 2 year terms. She supports one budget instead of dividing between town and schools and reminded everyone that the Charter does not overrule State Laws.

Cynthia McCorkindale, Elgin Ave., among other comments, she reminded the committee that the Board of Selectmen term was voted in the 2014 Charter Revision and failed and does not support a 4 year Board of Selectmen term. She is frustrated with the process and does not think adequate information has been shared with the public. She also does not feel that there is accountability to following the Charter.

Tom O'Leary, Nashville Rd. Ext., among other comments, he explained how town government has changed since he moved here in the 1960's. He supports a 4 year Board of Selectmen term as well as other boards and positions that are not currently a 4 year term.

Billy Michaels, Fleetwood Ave., among other comments, he does not think adequate information has been shared with the public concerning the Charter Revision. Does not support a 4 year Board of Selectmen term, would like to see the Annual Town Meeting moved back to May and supports the advisory questions.

Phil Gallagher, Sunset Hill Rd., among other comments, he would like to move the Annual Town Meeting to May, thinks the minutes should be expanded and does not support the 4 year Board of Selectmen term.

Paula Antolini, Jacobs Ln., among other comments, she does not support a 4 year Board of Selectmen term, would like more information on the Town website and a longer time frame to post meetings.

Cyndie McGuire, Redwood Dr., among other comments, she supports a 4 year Board of Selectmen term.

Joan Bradley, Ridgefield Dr., among other comments, supports two separate budgets and doesn't support the advisory questions.

Tim Beeble, Grassy Plain Rd., among other comments, supports expanding the time frame around elections to allow projects to be voted on at same time as elections, doesn't support 4 year terms for existing 2 year term positions of Board of Selectmen and Registrar of Voters.

Bob Legnard, Evergreen Dr., among other comments he does not support a 4 year Board of Selectmen term, supports a split budget, supports allowing meetings off site of the Municipal Center (example: Police Commission at Police Station) and supports the Annual Town Meeting in April.

Brad Koltz, Fairfield Dr., among other comments, requests a longer time frame for posting meetings and recommended a minimum number of people attend a Special Town Meeting for it to continue.

Richard Straiton, Cod Fish Hill Rd, among other comments, supports the 4 year Board of Selectmen and Treasurer terms and supports moving the Annual Town Meeting to May.

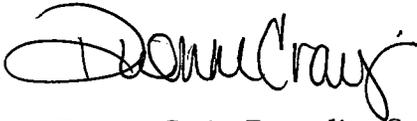
Paul Szatkowski, Winthrop Rd., among other comments he supports having shovel ready plans for large building projects, with an understanding the town will go to referendum to agree or not to invest

in plans for a project. It will decrease cost over runs and change orders. He also supports keeping the budgets separate.

Matthew Knickerbocker, Colonial Dr., among other comments, he also supports shovel ready plans for future projects.

As there were no further comments, Chairman Nicholas Hoffman made a motion, which was seconded by John Lennon to adjourn the Public Hearing at 8:16 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dionne Craig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dionne Craig, Recording Secretary