

**CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
RHODE ISLAND
JOURNAL CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
APRIL 19, 2023**

Council Chamber, City Hall, 145 Taunton Avenue, East Providence, Rhode Island RI 02914

I. Call to Order

Assistant City Solicitor Dylan Conley opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The following members were present:

Marc Furtado, Bruce Rogers, Julie Silva, Michael Sullo, Manuel Vinhateiro, John Faria, Izilda Fernandes, Valerie Perry, Joseph Tavares

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members introduced themselves and gave a brief bio.

III. Review of charge of the Commission

Council President Robert Rodericks addressed the Commission and provided them with the Charge of Duties for the Commission.

IV. Nomination and Election of Commission Officers

1. **Chair** – Mr. Faria *moved to nominate Marc Furtado for the position of Chair.* Seconded by Mr. Sullo. **The motion passed on a 6-2-1 vote.**

Ayes: Furtado, Sullo, Vinhateiro, Faria, Perry, Tavares
Nays: Fernandes, Silva
Abstention: Rogers

2. **Vice Chair** – Mr. Faria *moved to nominate Manuel Vinhateiro for the position of Vice Chair.* Mr. Rogers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

3. **Secretary** – Mr. Faria *moved to nominate Valerie Perry for the position of Secretary.* Mr. Vinhateiro seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

V. Discuss and setting of Review Commission meeting calendar

Solicitor Conley states that within nine months after the Charter Commission is appointed, it may deliver proposed amendments to the City Council, but it is not binding.

Discussion is held regarding prioritizing versus going through the entire charter. Vice Chair Vinhateiro says we need to identify what the priorities or charter deficiencies are and go forward from there.

Mr. Faria *moved to meet twice a week*. Valerie Perry seconded the motion. The motion was defeated on a 1-8 vote: (Ayes: Faria; Nays: Fernandes, Perry, Rogers, Silva, Sullo, Tavares, Vinhateiro, Furtado)

Discussion continued on the time frame between meetings in which the Law Department can provide quality analysis on the issues.

Ms. Silva *moved to meet once a week on Wednesdays*. Mr. Rogers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

VI. Discussion of Law Department support of Commission activities and drafting, including compliance with Rhode Island Open Meetings Act

Chairman Furtado reminded Commissioners that any of them can do research, but everything must filter through the Law Department.

Solicitor Conley spoke on provisions of the Open Meetings Act and warned Commissioners that emails and conversations should be done in the open meeting, because violations may occur, and nothing can be voted on without a 48-hr. meeting notice.

Mr. Vinhateiro asked if recommendations need to be in writing or can be done verbally. Solicitor Conley said it would preferably be done in writing.

Mr. Rogers asked Council President Rodericks if he can get the public comments that were made that set up the Charter Commission Mr. Rodericks agreed.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

VII. Adjourn

Mr. Faria *moved to adjourn*. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sullo and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Attest:

Valerie A. Perry
Secretary

Approved: June 21, 2023