

**CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE  
RHODE ISLAND  
JOURNAL CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION  
Aug 16, 2023**

**City Council Chambers, City Hall, 145 Taunton Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914**

Chairman Furtado called the meeting to order at 6:36 P.M.

Present: Commissioners John Faria, David Luiz, Valerie Perry, Bruce Rogers, Julie Silva, Michael Sullo, Joseph Tavares, Manuel Vinhateiro, Chairman Marc Furtado

Also in Attendance: Assistant City Solicitor Dylan Conley, Finance Director Malcolm Moore

**PUBLIC COMMENT & COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

1. July 19, 2023

Mr. Faria asked for clarification of the motion made at the last meeting regarding members of the Commission going before the City Council or media. Mr. Conley stated that it does not preclude any member from speaking in an individual capacity but cannot speak on behalf of the Commission without the approval of the Charter Commission members.

*A Motion to approve the minutes of July 19, 2023, made by Mr. Vinhateiro, seconded by Ms. Silva, and unanimously passed.*

**B. Discussion and Vote for Partisan Elections (John Faria)**

Mr. Vinhateiro questions the procedure of the Commission, stating that he believed the commission would take each Article in order. Following discussion, Ms. Silva made a motion to move up item D on the agenda and have Mr. Moore speak next. After discussion, Ms. Silva removed the motion.

*Motion to move up items D and E and table items B and C to the end of the meeting was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Ms. Silva, and unanimously approved.*

**D. Malcom Moore, Director of Finance - Recommendations by the Administration Concerning Matters of Finance in the Charter, and Response to Questions by the Commission.**

Mr. Moore proceeded to answer questions from the Commissioners.

Chairman Furtado asked about transferring of funds for unspent approved projects.

Mr. Moore stated money cannot be transferred from Capitol projects to other items, but they can move funds from one item to another.

Mr. Conley said he will draw up language for the commission's review which would be something to the effect of a prerequisite to the allocation of capital.

**E. Scheduling of Special Meeting**

It was decided to postpone the special meeting until Mr. Conley can provide the Commission on outstanding language.

The meeting reverted to items B and C on the Agenda.

**B. Discussion and Vote for Partisan Elections (John Faria)**

*A motion to approve Partisan Elections in the City* was made by Mr. Faria and seconded by Mr. Rogers for discussion.

Following a lengthy discussion with opinions both for and against, a roll call vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Faria, Luiz, Rogers, Silva, Sullo, Tavares, Furtado

Nays: Perry, Vinhateiro

The motion passed 7-2.

**C. Discussion and Vote for Pay increases for Mayor, City Council, and School Committee (John Faria)**

Chairman Furtado recused himself because of a conflict of interest. Vice Chair Vinhateiro took over the meeting.

Mr. Faria proposed to increase the mayor's salary to \$100,000 a year with a 1 1/2 percent annual increase; to increase the City Council's salary to \$7,000 per year with an additional \$1,000 for the Council President; and increase the School Committee's salary to \$7,000 per year with an additional \$1,000 for the Chair.

The question arose regarding the City Council voting for a salary increase and having it placed on the ballot for the 2024 election. It was mentioned that since their terms end in 2026, it would have to take effect in January 2027 for the City Council, but the Mayor and School Committee's salaries could go into effect after the election if it is approved.

The Solicitor said he will research the matter.

*A motion to increase the mayor's salary to \$100,000 a year with a 1 1/2 percent annual increase; to increase the City Council's salary to \$7,000 per year with an additional \$1,000 for the Council President; and to increase the School Committee's salary to \$7,000 per year with an additional \$1,000 for the Chair*, was made by Mr. Faria, and seconded by Mr. Sullo. The motion passed on an 8-0 vote with 1 recusal.

**Ayes:** Faria, Luiz, Perry, Rogers, Silva, Sullo, Tavares, Vinhateiro  
**Recused:** Chairman Furtado

Chairman Furtado resumed the Chair.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*A Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Vinhateiro* and unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 910 P.M.

Attest:

Valerie A. Perry  
Secretary