

Public Hearings were conducted by the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee on Thursday, August 7, 2003 beginning at 7:06 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Alderman Timothy B. Nickerson presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman Robert A. Dion
Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane

Members of the Committee absent: Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Alderman Stephen C. Liamos, Vice Chair
Alderman-at-Large Paula I. Johnson

Also in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large David Rootovich
Alderman-at-Large Steven A. Bolton
Alderman-at-Large Frederick Britton
Paul Bergeron, City Clerk

PUBLIC HEARINGS

MOTION BY ALDERMAN NICKERSON TO GO OUT OF THE REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS TO HOLD THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE VOTER PETITION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER RELATIVE TO CHARTER SEC. 56-d, EXCEPTION TO BUDGET LIMITATION
MOTION CARRIED

VOTER PETITION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER RELATIVE TO CHARTER SEC. 56-d, EXCEPTION TO BUDGET LIMITATION

A presentation was made by Mr. Robert Sullivan of 12 Stonybrook Road. Mr. Sullivan is the President of the Nashua Taxpayer's Association. The presentation entailed a brief overview of the Spending Cap.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR

None.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

None.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR

Denis Ryder, 17 Charles Street

Lester Gidge, 61 Linwood Street
John Schena, 32 Lawndale Avenue

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

None.

The Public Hearing was declared closed.

R-03-205

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER RELATIVE
TO THE MAYOR'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chair Nickerson

This piece of legislation was actually introduced by Alderman Johnson who is away on business. She had sent a communication to the committee in regards to this explaining that it is merely just a quick change to the Charter to allow the Board of Aldermen to also request information from the Mayor as opposed to it being only the Mayor deciding when information is going forward to the Board.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR

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None.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

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None.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR

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None.

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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

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None.

The Public Hearing was declared closed.

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R-03-207

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER RELATIVE
TO CONFIDENTIALITY OF VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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Paul Bergeron

The Mayor endorsed this legislation at my request. Essentially a housekeeping measure is the easiest way to describe it. Our current city Charter states that all records of the Board of Registrar shall be open to public inspection. The amendment would add the words "except to the extent that such records or the information contained therein are treated as confidential information and exempt from public disclosure under RSA 657 or other State statutes. There have been some changes in both federal and state law recently. Because of the Help America Vote Act starting September 1st we will be required to start collecting driver's license information and parts of social security numbers as part of the voter registration process. In addition to that the legislature now has passed legislation to keep confidential all information that does not appear on the check list. That is the purpose for this to bring our city Charter into conformity with what the state and the federal government are pushing on us effective September 1st.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR

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None.

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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

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None.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR

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None.

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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

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None.

R-03-233

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER RELATIVE
TO REVISION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF WARDS 4 AND 7

Paul Bergeron

As the Aldermen are aware I have tried to keep them informed over the past several years of the problems we have been having with our redistricting. The latest scenario we redistricted in 2002 to bring our populations in balance so our city elections would have equitable ward populations. In that process, we had to change the ward lines and it impacted two of the house districts specifically house district 65 and 62, which affected wards 4, 6, 7, and 8. In the process, we, therefore, had to go to the legislature and ask them to realign the house districts to conform to our new ward lines because the State Constitution requires that the house district lines honor ward lines and vice versa. No problem in the House. The Chairman of the House Election Committee in fact went before the Senate and testified in support of the legislation on our behalf, but the Senate wasn't so receptive to the change and they have held the Bill in committee in the Senate. It is my understanding that they are going to try and use that bill title and/or number to at least try and address the problems that they see in Senate redistricting. Because HB829 died the only solution we have now is to bring a piece of our ward lines back into conformity with the house district lines. The two wards that will be affected are 4 and 7. In total it impacts 111 voters or 445 residents. By making this change our ward lines will conform to the house district lines, and hopefully we can put this to rest until the Senate is through with its redistricting.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR

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None.

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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

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None.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR

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None.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

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None.

The public hearings were declared closed at 7:30 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane
Committee Clerk Pro Tem