



## Town of Ridgefield

### Form of Government Committee Unapproved Meeting Minutes Committee Meeting, June 23, 2025

The Form of Government Committee public hearing and committee meeting convened at 7:00PM on Monday, June 24, 2025 in the Town Hall Main Conference Room.

Members present: Laurie Christiansen, Todd Zagorec, Dennis Tracey, Robert Hendrick, Steve Zemo

Members absent: Michael Rettger, Charles Robbins, Jonathan Seem, Rachel Sondheimer

#### 1. Call to Order

At 7:01pm, Mr. Zagorec noted quorum was achieved and called the meeting to order.

#### 2. Public Comments

No public attendees were present, so there was no public comment.

#### 3. Minutes

At 7:03pm, **Motion** to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2025 public hearing and special meeting by Mr. Tracey, seconded by Ms. Christiansen. All in favor.

#### 4. Final Report

Mr. Zagorec circulated a draft of one paragraph, which could be added to the final report to address the conversation near the end of the previous meeting, where some committee members felt it was important to note that a Town Council legislature could be appropriate for Ridgefield in the future.

Mr. Zagorec noted that while four members were missing from the present meeting, he received positive feedback on the draft (which was circulated via email) from three of those individuals.

The committee reviewed the paragraph and discussed several minor changes, as follows:

- In the first sentence, remove “, however,”
- In the fourth sentence, remove “/Manager ... Administrator”
- In the sixth sentence, replace “representative framework and ability to” with “elected leaders who can”

- In the first page of the main report, insert the phrase “at this time”

While working on the minor edits above, at one point Ms. Christiansen asked fellow committee members whether inserted paragraph was sufficient, or instead – if several committee members seem to see merits in a Town Council legislature – should the committee give more consideration to its recommendation to preserve the Town Meeting as legislative body.

Mr. Hendrick, Mr. Tracey, and Mr. Zemo each stated, with different nuances, that the Town Council could perhaps be most appropriate if we were working from a “blank sheet”, but in making our recommendation it is important to consider: (1) the admiration that many residents have for the Town Meeting legislature; (2) the degree of change that is likely to be understood and accepted by residents, and thus successfully implemented; and (3) our committee research simply did not substantiate a finding that the Town Meeting legislative body needed to be abandoned at this time. Mr. Zagorec noted his general agreement with these sentiments.

After the above discussion and edits were concluded, there appeared to be consensus that the report was in final form.

At 8:03pm, **Motion** by Mr. Tracey to approve and distribute/publish the committee’s final report with the minor edits noted above. Seconded by Mr. Hendrick. All in favor.

## **5. Adjournment**

At 8:15pm, **Motion** by Mr. Zemo to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Zagorec. All in favor.

Submitted by  
Robert Hendrick