

**Town of Coventry
Charter Revision Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday January 7, 2026
6:30 PM
Town Hall Annex, 1712 Main Street
Zoom Meeting Link Below**

1. Call To Order, Roll Call

2. Audience Of Citizens

(30 Minutes - 5 Minutes maximum per citizen)

3. Approval Of Minutes

A. Minutes, December 18, 2025

Documents:

[CHARTER REVISION MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 18.PDF](#)

4. Discussion With Town Registrars

5. Discussion With Town Clerk

6. Review Of Changes From Prior Meeting

Documents:

[CURRENT COVENTRY TOWN CHARTER.PDF](#)

[DRAFT CHARTER REVISION V3.PDF](#)

[RICH EMAIL RE CHAPTER 5 WITH FOLLOW UP.PDF](#)

7. Review And Discussion Of Charter Chapter V (Formerly Chapter VI)

8. Review And Discussion Of Charter Chapter VII

9. Planning Of Meetings And Discussion Of Charter With Town Staff

10. Other Business

11. Adjournment

Topic: Charter Revision Commission

Time: Jan 7, 2026 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85439776591?pwd=mo7uPpzPJLKAHarGqmM4qoMij9cT96.1>

Meeting ID: 854 3977 6591

Passcode: 132517

One tap mobile

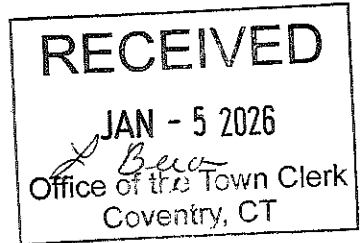
+19292056099,,85439776591#,,,,*132517# US (New York)

+13017158592,,85439776591#,,,,*132517# US (Washington DC)

Join instructions

https://us02web.zoom.us/meetings/85439776591/invitations?signature=Fr4n5hjo7_aGGhBQLaQe7usdl9lhLH-FMDKxULKlv3c

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
Town of Coventry Charter Revision Commission Meeting
December 18, 2025 6:30 PM
Town Hall Annex



1. Call To Order, Roll Call:

The Meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Mike Petro at 6:30 PM.

Members Present: Mike Petro-Chairman, Justin Murphy-Vice Chairman, Monica Gallegos-Ramirez-Secretary, Jen Beausoleil, John Elsesser, Tim Liptrap, and Cheryl Resha.

Members Absent: None

Also Present: James Drumm-Town Manager, and Alex Taylor-Special Projects Coordinator.

2. Approval Of Minutes:

A. Minutes, December 3, 2025:

Motion: I move to accept the December 3, 2025, Charter Revision Commission Meeting Minutes.

By: Murphy

Second: Beausoleil

Discussion/Edits: None

Vote: Unanimously in favor

Motion: I move to continue Agenda Items 3 and 4, pending attendance.

By: Beausoleil

Second: Liptrap

3. Discussion with Town Registrar:

Taylor to follow up with the Registrar of Voters to see when they can attend.

4. Discussion with Town Clerk:

The Town Clerk has indicated they can be in attendance at the following meeting on 1/7/26.

Section 1-3. General grant of powers:

It was suggested that capitalization be used for important terms and entities in this section as well, ("constitution" and state of connecticut", etc.). There were no other substantive changes to this section. Petro marked it OK, as of today's date.

Chapter 1-Final Suggestions Summary:

- Section 1-2, Last sentence, insert "(as referred to in section 3-1)." after "the council".
- Get legal opinion on the following:

- See if there are any problems or changes, in Sections 1 through 3, in order to be up to date with current law and ask for clarification on the effective date, subsequent revisions, and if the editor's note is binding. If it is, then it would need to be amended.
- Ask if definitions in Appendix can or should be incorporated into the Charter.
- Review flow of Charter.
- Ask why defined terms, or titles of entities are lowercase. If they should be capitalized, the Commission will make these revisions. It has been added to the Editor's Note for the time being to capitalize defined terms.

5. Review of Changes from Prior Meeting:

Murphy commented that the following changes previously discussed had not been implemented into the current draft:

- All references to "the council" or "said council" were going to be changed to "the Town Council".
- He explained that he did not intend for all of Section 3-5 to be removed, but to remove references to newspaper publication. He commented that there should still be 1 public hearing, and the notice of public hearing will be in accordance with Section 1-4.

Beausoleil commented that she appreciates Section 3-4 being broken into subsections to eliminate the run on sentence.

Liptrap commented that there was a reference to "the town", and it was not capitalized.

Murphy suggested trying to adjust the language so that it lasts over time, should changes be made at the state level. He discussed Section 3-2 as it references the Town Council's election certification by the Town Clerk. He shared concerns that at some point in the future, the certifying party may not be the Town Clerk and felt the Charter should reference Connecticut General Statutes to stay current with laws as they change. The Committee discussed this and decided to leave it as is for now.

It was reminded that Section 4 will remain open until the Commission has the opportunity to hear from the Registrars and Town Clerk.

Taylor discussed the response from the attorney on the Commission's question regarding office of profit mentioned in Section 3-1. He stated that he can use the language the attorney suggested for this, or have the Commission provide their own suggestions based on the attorney's response. Resha questioned conflict of interest situations, but Beausoleil felt that the language as written by the attorney covers this and should be a nonissue.

Final Changes:

- Section 3-5 to read, "At least one public hearing notice of which you'll be given at least 10 days in advance, in accordance with Section 1-4." The rest of the section will be maintained to how it was written in the original draft, except the comments about posting in the newspaper will be removed, and references made to Section 1-4.

- Taylor to review the Charter to ensure references to “the town council”, “the town”, and “the town manager” are all capitalized. It was noted that the “the” does not need to be capitalized.
- Taylor to edit the language in Section 3-1, to read as proposed by the attorney in his email response.
 - “During the term for which elected, no member of the Council shall hold any other office, elective or appointive, or employment in or under the town government. This does not include employment by the Board of Education.”

6. Review and Discussion of Charter Chapter V-Appointed Offices:

Beausoleil suggested swapping Chapters V and VI, so that ‘Town Manager becomes section V, and Appointive Offices becomes section VI for better flow.

The Commission was unanimously in favor of this change, and it will be reflected in the draft at the next meeting.

Section 5-1 General:

Beausoleil suggested to add a sentence in Section 5-1, to say “The Town Council appoints the Attorney, Auditors, and Finance Director.” Then have a sentence that states, “The town manager will appoint offices to implement or execute town business and responsibilities in accordance with approved appropriations, state and federal laws and regulations.” That way, the list of people is not needed.

Elsesser shared concerns, as when the Charter specifically lists a position; it requires the town to have that position. Otherwise, it could be removed from the budget by a vote at Town Meeting. Elsesser suggested keeping a list of the key positions.

Beausoleil was agreeable to listing things, but felt it should be simplified by listing positions appointed by the Town Council, and those appointed by the Town Manager, followed by a sentence that states “Job descriptions will be provided for all of these offices.” or “Job descriptions should be approved by the Town Council”. This simplifies and adds more flexibility to adapt as things change. Elsesser agreed and suggested that the language include that duties could be combined.

Murphy questioned if the Commission is looking to remove any positions from the Charter that are not required by State Statute. Beausoleil felt that anything not required by State Statute should be at the discretion of the Town Council, especially during budget deliberations. The Town Council should not be required to keep a position because it is in the Charter if the community does not support it.

Beausoleil continued that listing the positions, and who appoints them eliminates the need for all the different subsections in Chapter V. Elsesser felt that there was valuable information in the subsection that should remain.

Gallegos-Ramirez felt that having the subsections list the positions is easier for readability and transparency, which is important to Coventry residents.

Petro asked if all the positions listed are currently filled, or active in the town. Drumm explained that they all exist. There are some positions, like the Tree Warden, which is a standalone position. It is currently assigned to the Public Works Director. However, prior to that, this position was held by the DPW Superintendent, and before that it was held by regular citizens.

Gallegos-Ramirez followed up on a list of current staff positions, like department heads, etc., that was requested on and never received. The Commission requested this again for the Commission to view current positions to aid with the changing of names, along with a delineation of which positions are required by State Statute and which are controlled by ordinance.

Petro reminded that part of the charge of this Commission is to review and update town positions within the Charter. This directive is from the Town Council, so it seems the Council wants the Commission to go through this section thoroughly. It was clarified that the Director of Civil Defense is not referred to as the Director of Emergency Management. It was also clarified that there is no longer a Director of Health as there is the Eastern Highlands Health District.

Murphy mentioned that the Parks and Recreation Director is not currently included and questioned whether it should be in the Charter or not. Resha explained that there is no need to list every single position, only those that are required by State Statute. She agreed with adding language that Beausoleil mentioned before that allows the Town Manager or Town Council to create additional positions as deemed necessary or deemed appropriate within the budget.

Elsesser suggested asking the attorney if the State Statute has been legally updated, and if there are any positions now required by State Statute, that are not currently in Coventry's Charter.

The commission discussed the Council approving the pay plan under the Town Manager section. Elsesser reminded that if the pay plan is within the budget, there is no need to get further approval from the Town Council. Needing Town Council approval for pay rates slows down the hiring process, which leads to losing candidates.

Murphy was curious if the way the Charter is written now, has it ever caused any problems with hiring or losing candidates when a position is subject to Town Council approval. Elsesser stated that it could, but those positions are very limited. Some examples are the Police Chief and the Finance Director. Elsesser spoke on the importance of those positions that they require some sort of commitment. Drumm reminded that the biggest issue he has run into because of this is a delay in the start time for the position.

Liptrap questioned if the Town Council is involved in the hiring process. Drumm explained that, no, the Town Manager does it all and then brings the final candidate to the Town Council who votes yay or nay for their appointment.

Murphy clarified that positions listed that require Town Council approval, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Assessor, Director of Civil Defense, etc. He questioned that some included in the list like Building Official, Canine Officer, or Tree Warden state Town Council approval is required but found it unnecessary. Elsesser noted he felt that these positions are more "legacy" positions, and it should be discussed with the Town Attorney. Beausoleil commented that in the specific subsections for these items, it references Town Manager, not Town Council, and found it to be conflicting.

Elsesser also noted that it seems as though Section 5-1 is mixing appointments to boards and commissions and town employment together, and they should be separated.

The following language was suggested for 5-1, "The Town Council shall, by majority vote of the Board, pursuant to Section 3-3, appoint persons to boards, commissions, and offices as may be established under the provisions of this Charter or by the general statutes" The Commission agreed.

Elsesser suggested having Drumm look into positions that can be removed, and those required by State Statute.

Beausoleil reiterated that it should be clarified that the Town Council appoints the Town Manager, the Attorney, and the Auditors. It should then be stated that all other positions are appointed by the Town Manager. Petro reminded that information about the Auditors is designated in Section 3-6; that states the Town Council is to select them annually.

The Commission had a lengthy discussion about whether Town Council approval of a Town Manager's appointment was necessary. The Commission requested that Taylor make a note to revisit this once the Commission has more time to think it over, and more information is provided by the attorney.

Section 5-1A Competitive Exams:

Murphy commented that upon research, he found that the competitive exam language was outdated, and the wording should be changed to rely on the Town's hiring and employment practices.

The commission suggested removing the language included in Section 5-1A. Gallegos-Ramirez thought the title of section 5-1A should be changed to something along the line of 'Eligible Candidates', with language that states, "Eligible Candidates, will be hired in accordance with State Statues." Then get rid of repetitive language in the subsections, because it will be in Section 5-1A.

After much discussion, the Commission proposed removing this section all together and add a sentence to the end of Section 5-1 that states, "All hiring and overall appointments will be in accordance with state and federal statutes." The Commission was in agreement with this change.

Section 5-2 Terms of Office:

Elsesser suggested having the attorney look at this section. He shared concerns that someone who was terminated could technically continue to serve until their successor has been appointed. This could lead to unfavorable situations.

Drumm reminded that this is typically true for all boards and commissions. When a term expires, the person continues to serve until they are appointed to the position again, or someone else is appointed.

The Commission discussed terms of removal of appointed and elected positions. There is a policy to remove an appointed Board or Commission member, but there is nothing in State Statutes that allows for an elected official to be removed. Drumm stated that in other states he has worked in, the Governor had the ability to remove

elected officials. Drumm also reminded that Section 10-4 of this Charter has a section that discusses the removal of appointed officials.

The Commission had consensus to leave Section 5-2 as is.

Drumm suggested moving Subsection 5-7 Planning and Zoning to be Section 5-4 and moving everything down. This puts Planning and Zoning as a board first, instead of mixing it in with Town Staff positions.

Section 5-3 Vacancies:

Elsesser suggested changing the “Health Officer” to “Director of Health”.

Leave the rest of Section 5-3 as is.

Section 5-4 Town Clerk:

Title to remain the same and description to be simplified to reference CT General State Statute.

Drumm suggested striking the 2nd sentence that refers to fees collected.

Section 5-5 Town Treasurer:

Title to remain the same as per Statute.

The Committee discussed that the job description of the Finance Director clearly indicates that they shall perform the duties of a Town Treasurer. Leaving the title as is, allows for the town to have both a Town Treasurer and a Finance Director, if ever deemed necessary.

Section 5-6 Tax Collector:

Title to be changed to “Tax Collector (Collector of Revenue)”.

Section 5-7 Planning and Zoning Commission:

Title to remain the same.

The Commission suggested moving Planning and Zoning to be Section 5-4, to put a Board 1st and not mixed in with Town Positions. All remaining sections would be moved down 1. This was agreed upon unanimously.

Section 5-8 Director of Health:

Title to remain the same. Language to be added that states, “The Town Council shall appoint a Director of Health or join a Regional Health District pursuant to the provisions of CT General State Statutes”.

Section 5-9 Human Services Administrator:

Change title to “Director of Human Services”.

The Commission noted to revisit this section to see if it was necessary to be included in the Charter, if it was not required per State Statute.

Section 5-10 Town Attorney:

Title to remain the same.

Section 5-11 Assessor:

Title to remain the same.

Add language to include reference to the specific state statute.

Section 5-12 Director of Civil Defense:

Change title to “Director of Emergency Management”, as well as in the language within the section.

Section 5-13 Building Official:

Title to remain the same.

Section 5-14 Canine Control Officer:

Change title to “Animal Control Officer”.

Section 5-15 Tree Warden:

Title to remain the same, but legal opinion is being sought to confirm whether it is statutorily required.

Section 5-16 Chief of Police:

Title to remain the same.

Beausoleil noted that during budget discussions, there were some comments from residents that the town should switch to a Resident Trooper, over a full police department. She asked if the Chief of Police remains in the Charter, does that keep the need for a full PD.

Elsesser explained that the town could eliminate the department but still be required to have a Chief of Police. That person would then coordinate with the State Police.

Section 5-17 Fire Marshals:

Change title to “Fire Marshal”, as well as in the language within the section. Strike the last line of the section that reads, “If more than one (1) fire marshal is appointed, such appointments shall be exempt from the minority representation provisions of this Charter.”.

Liptrap noted that he reads this section, as a Fire Marshal must be certified by the State Fire Marshal, and was curious how to deal with situations where a position must be appointed by another agency. Elsesser clarified that they are not appointed by another agency but certified. He added that this may be a question for legal counsel. It was agreed that this is noted in the job description that the candidate must be duly qualified.

Section 5-18 Constables:

Title to remain the same.

The Commission agreed to add Constables to the list of positions that the Town Council cannot fill in case of a vacancy.

The Commission had a lengthy discussion about changing the Charter to have the 2 Constable positions being Town Manager appointed positions, with Town Council approval, like other similar positions. Following the discussion, the Commission opted to leave it as is.

Chapter 5-Final Suggestions Summary:

- Swap Chapters V and VI. Chapter V and its related subsections will reference Town Manager and Chapter VI, and its subsections will reference Appointed Offices.
- Throughout the Appointed Offices chapter, indicate which positions are appointed by the Town Manager, and those that are appointed by the Town Council and indicate that the job descriptions are approved by the Town Council.
- Section 5-1, Add language that allows the Town Council to add or remove positions as deemed necessary or appropriate within the budget.
- Section 5-1, add a final sentence that states, “All hiring and overall appointments will be in accordance with state and federal statutes.”
- Section 5-1, change language to read, “The Town Council shall, by majority vote of the Board, pursuant to Section 3-3, appoint persons to boards, commissions, and offices as may be established under the provisions of this Charter or by the general statutes”.
- Section 5-1, Taylor to make a note to revisit the Town Council’s approval of Town Manager appointed positions.
- Section 5-1, look into the representative to the Windham Regional Planning Authority.
- Taylor to contact the Attorney to see if there are any positions that have been added to State Statute as a legal requirement, that need to be included in the Charter and remove any that are not required.
- Remove Section 5-1A from the Charter.
- Section 5-3, change “Health Officer” to “Director of Health”.
- Section 5-3, add Constables to the list of positions that the Town Council cannot fill in case of a vacancy.
- Section 5-4, Strike 2nd sentence, “All fees collected by the town clerk in the performance of the duties of any of the offices herein assigned shall be paid into the town treasury.”
- Section 5-4, change to be the Planning and Zoning Commission. Shift all other positions and titles down 1 section.
- Sections 5-4 through 5-18 change titles as indicated and ensure all titles are capitalized.
- Sections 5-4 through 5-18 strike all references to “among the 3 highest candidates” and remove the term “permanent status” where necessary
- Section 5-4 through 5-18, reference the State Statute where it applies, as it keeps the document clean and auto-updates if the statute changes.
- Section 5-8, Add language to the section that states, “The Town Council shall appoint a Director of Health, or join a Regional Health District pursuant to the provisions of CT General State Statutes”.

- Section 5-17, remove the last sentence that reads, "If more than one (1) fire marshal is appointed, such appointments shall be exempt from the minority representation provisions of this Charter."

Motion: I move to continue the remainder of the agenda to a following meeting.

By: Resha

Second: Gallegos-Ramirez

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimously in favor

7. Review and Discussion of Charter Chapter VI-Town Manager:

8. Planning of Meetings and Discussion of Charter With Town Staff:

The Town Clerk and Registrars of Voters will be invited to the next meeting on January 7th, 2026.

The Finance Director and Collector of Revenue have been invited to the meeting on February 4th, 2026.

Taylor noted that he will continue to ask the Town Attorney about changes to the State Statutes that warrant additional changes to the Charter.

9. Other Business:

10. Adjournment:

Motion: I move to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 PM

By: Liptrap

Second: Murphy

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Archambault

Nicole Archambault, Minutes Clerk

PLEASE NOTE: These minutes are not official until approved by the Charter Revision Commission at the next Charter Revision Commission meeting. Please see the next Charter Revision Commission meeting minutes for approval or changes to these minutes.

PART I

CHARTER AND SPECIAL ACTS

Subpart A CHARTER¹

CHAPTER I. INCORPORATION AND GENERAL POWERS

Section 1-1. Incorporation.

All the inhabitants dwelling within the territorial limits of the Town of Coventry, as heretofore constituted, shall continue to be a body politic and corporate under the name of "Town of Coventry," hereinafter called "town," and as such shall have perpetual succession and may hold and exercise all powers and privileges heretofore exercised by said town and not inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter, the additional powers and privileges herein conferred and all powers and privileges conferred upon towns under the general law of the State of Connecticut.

Section 1-2. Rights and obligations.

All property, both real and personal, all rights of action and rights of every description and all securities and liens vested or inchoate in said town as of the effective date of this Charter [November 4, 1969] are continued in said town and said town shall continue to be liable for all debts and obligations of every kind for which said town shall be liable on said date whether accrued or not. Nothing herein shall be construed to affect the rights of said town to collect any assessment, charge, debt, or lien. If any contract has been entered into by said town prior to the effective date of this Charter [November 4, 1969] or any bond or undertaking has been given by or in favor of said town which contains provision that the same may be enforced by any commission, board, department or officer therein named, which is abolished by the provisions of this Charter, such contracts, bonds, or undertakings shall be in no manner impaired but shall continue in full force and effect and the powers conferred and the duties imposed with reference to the same upon any such commission, board, department or officer shall, except as otherwise provided in this Charter, thereafter be exercised and discharged by the council of said town.

¹Editor's note(s)—Printed herein as Subpart A of Part I is the Charter of the town, as adopted by the voters of the town on October 2, 1967, and effective on November 4, 1969, together with revisions dated November 6, 1973, November 5, 1974, November 4, 1986, and November 5, 1991. Future amendments will be indicated by parenthetical history notes following amended provisions. The absence of a history note indicates that the provision has not been amended since November 5, 1991. Obvious misspellings have been corrected without notation. For stylistic purposes, a uniform system of headings, catchlines and citations to state statutes has been used. Additions made for clarity are indicated by brackets. Subpart B is a list of the Special Acts relating to the town.

Section 1-3. General grant of powers.

In addition to all powers granted to towns under the constitution and general law, the town shall have all powers specifically granted by this Charter and all powers fairly implied in or incident to the powers expressly granted, and all other powers incident to the management of the property, government and affairs of the town, including the power to enter into contracts with the United States or any federal agency, State of Connecticut or any political subdivision thereof for services and the use of facilities, the exercise of which is not expressly forbidden by the constitution and general law of the State of Connecticut. The enumeration of particular powers in this and any other chapter of this Charter shall not be construed as limiting this general grant of power but shall be considered as an addition thereto.

CHAPTER II. ELECTIONS

Section 2-1. General.

- (a) Nomination and election of federal and state officers, including registrars of voters, and of such elective municipal officers, boards and commissions as are provided for in this Charter shall be conducted, and the registrars of voters shall prepare lists of electors qualified to vote therefor, in the manner prescribed in the constitution and general laws of the State of Connecticut, except as hereinafter provided.
- (b) A meeting of the electors of the Town of Coventry for the election of municipal officers shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November in odd-numbered years. The terms of all municipal officers shall commence on the first Wednesday following their election and they shall hold office until their successors have been chosen and qualified. Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, all elective town officers, boards and commissions shall have the powers and duties prescribed by law.

Section 2-1A. Election of council.

At the meeting of the electors of the Town of Coventry for the election of municipal officers, there shall be elected seven (7) members of the town council. Each party shall nominate a maximum of five (5) candidates to run for the council, [and] the seven (7) receiving the highest votes shall be elected. No person shall vote for more than five (5).

Section 2-2. Minority representation except as provided in section 2-1A.

Minority representation on any elective or appointed board, commission, committee or similar body of the town shall be determined in accordance with the following provisions: When the total membership of the board is odd, not more than the bare majority shall be members of the same political party; and when the total membership of the board is even, not more than one-half (½) shall be members of the same political party.

Section 2-3. Voting districts.

There shall continue to be two (2) districts which will remain as they now exist and the number of voting districts shall not be increased nor the boundaries altered except by ordinances of the town council. No change in the boundaries of voting districts shall be made within ninety (90) days prior to an election. The town council shall provide suitable polling places in the district or districts, and shall define the boundaries of the area to be served by each polling place. The councilmen, town clerk, registrars of voters and all other officers of the town shall perform the duties required of them by law with respect to elections in the voting district or districts. All action taken under the provisions of this section shall be in accordance with the General Statutes.

Section 2-4. Breaking a tie.

When any regular or special municipal election, primary election or referendum conducted pursuant to the provisions of this Charter results in a tie, an adjourned election shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the General Statutes, to determine who shall be elected, or in the case of a question at referendum, whether it shall be accepted or rejected. Said adjourned election shall be held on the seventh (7th) day after the election which resulted in a tie and shall be confined to the tied candidate or issues. Any voting machine, the returns from which are not subject to disagreement, may be unlocked and used in said special election. If voting machines are not available in sufficient number, paper ballots may be used in place of or in conjunction with voting machines.

Section 2-5. Vacancies.

Any vacancy in any elective town office, except the board of education, from whatever cause arising, shall be filled by appointment by the town council for the unexpired portion of the term or until the next biennial election, whichever shall be sooner; provided that when the persons vacating the office shall have been elected as a member of a political party, such vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of a member of the same political party. In the case of the board of education vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes. If there shall be a biennial election before the expiration of the term of any office in which a vacancy occurs, such office shall be filled until said election of a person to fill that office for the remaining portion of the term, and such person shall take office upon election.

Section 2-6. Eligibility.

No person shall be eligible for election to any town office, or appointment to any town board, commission, committee or similar body who is not at the time of his election, or appointment, a resident elector of said town and any person ceasing to be a resident and elector of said town shall thereupon cease to hold such elective or appointive office in town.

CHAPTER III. THE TOWN COUNCIL

Section 3-1. The council.

There shall be a town council consisting of seven (7) members, hereinafter referred to as "the council," the members of which shall serve without compensation except for the reimbursement of actual expenses incurred in the performance of official duties. No member of the council shall hold any office of profit under the government of the Town of Coventry, nor shall he, during the term of office for which he is elected be appointed to any office under the government of said town.

Section 3-2. Presiding officer.

The town council shall meet on the first Wednesday following its election and shall choose one of its members to be chairman of said council, which member shall also be designated as the Chief Elected Official of the Town of Coventry. Such office shall not deprive such chairman of his vote on any question. Such chairman shall preside over all meetings of the council and perform such other duties consistent with his office as may be imposed by the council. He shall be the official head of the town for all ceremonial purposes. During his absence or disability, his duties shall be performed by a member chosen by the council.

Section 3-3. Procedure.

At the first meeting of the town council following each biennial town election, said council shall, by resolution, fix the time and place of its regular monthly meetings and provide a method for calling special meetings. It shall, by resolution, determine its own rules of procedure. Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum, but no ordinance, resolution, or vote, except a vote to adjourn or to fix the time and place of the next meeting, shall be adopted by less than four (4) affirmative votes. If vacancies on the council reduce its number to less than five (5) members, then for the sole purpose of appointing new members, three (3) members shall constitute a quorum and two (2) affirmative votes shall be required to fill council vacancies.

Section 3-4. General powers and duties.

The town council shall have the powers and duties which, on the effective date of this Charter [November 4, 1969,] were conferred by law upon officers, boards and commissions of said town existing immediately prior to such date except as otherwise specifically provided in this Charter. The legislative power of the towns shall be vested exclusively in the council except as otherwise specified in this Charter. Said council shall have the power to enact, amend or repeal ordinances not inconsistent with this Charter or the General Statutes of the state; to create or abolish, by ordinance, boards, commissions, departments and offices; and the council may contract for services and the use of facilities of the United States or any federal agency, the State of Connecticut or any political subdivision to incorporate any nationally recognized code, rules, or regulations that have been printed in body form, or any code officially adopted by any administrative agency of the state or portion thereof, by reference thereto in such ordinance; provided, upon adoption of any such ordinance wherein any such code, rules or regulations or portions thereof have been incorporated by reference, there shall be maintained two copies of such code, rules or regulations in the office of the town clerk for examination by the public. Said council may by resolution, regulate the internal operation of boards, commissions and offices which it fills by appointment. Said council may fix the charges, if any, to be made for services rendered by the town or for the execution of powers vested in the town as provided in Chapter I of this Charter.

Section 3-5. Public hearing on the publication of ordinances.

At least one (1) public hearing, notice of which shall be given at least ten (10) days in advance by publication in a newspaper having a circulation in said town, and by posting a notice in a public place, shall be held by the town council before any ordinance shall be passed. Every ordinance after passage, shall be given a serial number and be recorded by the town clerk in a book to be kept for that purpose which shall be properly indexed. Within ten (10) days after final passage, all ordinances allowed by G.S. § 7-157, shall be published in summary form in a newspaper having circulation within the town. Any other ordinance shall be published in its entirety in a newspaper having circulation within the town. Every ordinance, unless otherwise provided in Section 9-5 or unless otherwise specified shall become effective on the twenty-first (21st) day after such publication following its final passage.

Section 3-6. Annual audit.

The town council shall annually designate an independent certified public accountant or firm of independent certified public accountants to audit the books and accounts of the town in accordance with provisions of the General Statutes.

CHAPTER IV. OTHER ELECTIVE OFFICES

Section 4-1. Zoning board of appeals.

There shall be five (5) members of the zoning board of appeals and three (3) alternate members of the zoning board of appeals, whose term of office shall be for two (2) years.

Section 4-2. Board of tax review.

There shall be five (5) members of the board of tax review, whose term of office shall be as provided by General Statutes.

Section 4-3. Board of education.

The board of education shall consist of seven (7) members, whose term of office shall be for two (2) years. The board of education shall be responsible for the conduct of the educational system of the town.

Section 4-4. Registrars of voters.

There shall be a registrar of voters for each political party in each voting district who shall be elected in accordance with the General Statutes. No elector shall vote for more than one (1) registrar. The registrars of voters shall have all the powers and perform such other duties as may be imposed upon them by ordinances not inconsistent with General Statutes.

CHAPTER V. APPOINTIVE OFFICES

Section 5-1. General.

The council shall, by majority vote of the board (pursuant to Section 3-3), appoint personnel to boards, commissions and offices as may be established under the provisions of this Charter or by the General Statutes. The town manager, with approval of the council, shall appoint the following offices: town clerk, tax collector, assessor, director of civil defense, building official, canine control officer, tree warden, chief of police, fire marshals, treasurer, assistant treasurer, human services administrator, representative to the Windham Regional Planning Agency.

Section 5-1A. Competitive exams.

In any office where a competitive exam is required, the town manager may reject any or all candidates and hold further examination.

Section 5-2. Terms of office.

All such appointees shall take office on the day they are appointed and qualified, shall serve such terms as are herein specified, and until their respective successors have been appointed and qualified. All incumbent appointees or previously elected officers shall complete their present terms of office.

Section 5-3. Vacancies.

Any vacancy in any office appointed by the council from whatever cause arising shall be filled by appointment by the council; provided, [however,] that the council be empowered to act with all of the authority of

the vacant office until the office is properly occupied, but in no case shall the council be empowered to perform such duties for a period in excess of forty-five (45) consecutive days for each vacancy. In no case may the council perform the duties of town attorney, health officer or auditor. All officials appointed to fill vacancies shall hold office for the balance of the unexpired term.

Section 5-4. Town clerk.

The town manager shall appoint the town clerk who shall have all the powers and duties imposed and conferred by general law and the terms of this Charter. All fees collected by the town clerk in the performance of the duties of any of the offices herein assigned to him shall be paid into the town treasury. The said officer shall be compensated on a salary basis only. Appointment shall be made from among the three (3) highest candidates chosen on the basis of competitive examination and this office shall have permanent status.

Section 5-5. Town treasurer.

The town manager shall appoint the town treasurer who shall have the powers and duties imposed and conferred by general law and the terms of this Charter. The said officer shall be compensated on a salary basis only. Appointment shall be made from among the three (3) highest candidates chosen on the basis of competitive examination and this office shall have permanent status.

Section 5-6. Tax collector.

The town manager shall appoint the tax collector who shall have all the powers and duties imposed and conferred by general law on tax collectors. Said officer shall be compensated on a salary basis only. The tax collector shall issue such reports and at such intervals as the town manager may require, with copies of such reports being furnished to the council. Appointment shall be made from among the three (3) highest candidates chosen on the basis of competitive examination and this office shall have permanent status.

Section 5-7. Planning and zoning commission.

The council shall appoint a planning and zoning commission consisting of five (5) regular members and three (3) alternate members. Two of said regular members shall serve for a period of two (2) years, two of said regular members shall serve for a period of three (3) years, and one such member for a period of four (4) years. Thereafter said five (5) regular members shall serve for a three (3) year term. The council shall also appoint the three (3) alternate members. One of said alternate members shall serve for a period of two (2) years, one of said alternate members shall serve for a period of three (3) years and the other alternate member shall serve for a period of four (4) years. Thereafter each of the said alternate members shall serve for a period of three (3) years.

Section 5-8. Director of health.

The town council shall appoint a director of health pursuant to the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes relating to the appointment of directors of health. The director of health shall have all the powers and duties as prescribed in the General Statutes.

Section 5-9. Human services administrator.

The town manager shall appoint a human services administrator. Said officer shall be compensated on a salary basis only. Appointment shall be made from among the three (3) highest candidates chosen on the basis of competitive examination. The human services administrator shall administer the general assistance program in

accordance with the general statutes, state policies and regulations and perform other human services functions as described in the job description prepared by the town manager and approved by the town council.

Section 5-10. Town attorney.

The council shall engage a town attorney to serve at its discretion who shall be an attorney-at-law admitted to the practice of law in this state. He shall appear for and protect the rights of the town in all actions, suits, or proceedings brought by or against it or any of its officers or agencies. He shall be the legal advisor to all town officers, or agencies, in all matters affecting the town and shall upon written request, furnish them with a written opinion on any question of law involving their respective powers and duties. Upon written request he shall prepare or approve forms of contracts or other instruments to which the town is a party or in which it has an interest. He shall have the power, with approval of council, to compromise or settle any claims by or against the town. The town manager shall be the sole contact to employ the services of the town attorney for any board, agency, commission or officer. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the hiring of other counsel by the town council when deemed necessary.

Section 5-11. Assessor.

The town manager shall appoint an assessor. The powers and duties of the assessor shall be those prescribed by the General Statutes. The said officer shall be compensated on a salary basis only. Appointment shall be made from among the three (3) highest candidates chosen on the basis of competitive examination and this office shall have permanent status.

Section 5-12. Director of civil defense.

The town manager shall appoint a director of civil defense and shall specify the powers and duties of said office not inconsistent with those prescribed by the General Statutes.

Section 5-13. Building official.

The town manager shall appoint an officer to perform the duties of building official who shall perform those duties specified by law. Appointment shall be made from among the three (3) highest candidates, chosen on the basis of competitive examination. This office shall have permanent status.

Section 5-14. Canine control officer.

The town manager shall appoint an officer to perform the powers and duties of the canine control officer.

Section 5-15. Tree warden.

The town manager shall appoint an officer to perform the powers and duties of tree warden as defined and specified by law.

Section 5-16. Chief of police.

The town manager shall appoint a chief of police. The said officer shall be compensated on a salary basis only. Appointment shall be made from among the three (3) highest candidates chosen on the basis of competitive examination and this office shall have permanent status. Subject to the approval of the town manager, the chief of police shall appoint and may remove all other officers and employees of the department. The chief of police shall be responsible for the preservation of the public peace, prevention of crime, apprehension of criminals, regulation

of traffic, protection of rights of persons and property and enforcement of the laws of the state and the ordinances of the town and all rules and regulations made in accordance therewith. He shall be responsible for the care and custody of all property used by the police and for the efficiency, discipline and good conduct of its members.

Section 5-17. Fire marshals.

The town manager shall appoint fire marshals to perform all the duties and exercise those powers that may lawfully be bestowed upon them, or delegated to them by the council. If more than one (1) fire marshal is appointed, such appointments shall be exempt from the minority representation provisions of this Charter.

Section 5-18. Constables.

The council shall appoint two (2) constables who shall have the powers and duties prescribed by the General Statutes. The council may appoint special constables in such number as it may deem necessary and proper and the appointment of such special constables shall be exempt from the minority representation provisions of this Charter.

CHAPTER VI. TOWN MANAGER

Section 6-1. Appointment.

The council shall appoint, for an indefinite term, and may remove, a town manager, who shall be chosen exclusively on the basis of his administrative qualifications, character and experience, following previously established hiring procedure. Interim appointment [shall be made as follows]: Upon resignation or removal of the manager, the town council shall by a simple majority vote of the council, appoint a temporary acting town manager, until said council appoints a town manager for an indefinite term. The town council will use established policy procedures for hiring a town manager. A resolution to remove must be adopted by at least a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the full membership of the council at a regular meeting, so warned for such purpose and any such action may be consummated with or without cause. The action of the council in removing the town manager from office shall be final. The town council shall provide to the town manager, on an annual basis, a written evaluation by the council of his/her performance. Such evaluation shall in no way restrict the appointment or removal powers of the council.

Section 6-2. Duties of the town manager.

The town manager shall be directly responsible to the council for the administration of all offices and agencies in charge of persons appointed by him and shall supervise and direct the same. He shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the town as defined by G.S. § 7-193. He shall be the purchasing agent of the town subject to such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by the council. The town manager shall keep full and complete records of the doings of his office and it shall be his duty to make such reports to the council as it may require and to attend their meetings with full right of participation in the discussions; to prepare, and cause to be printed, as soon as possible after the close of the fiscal year, an annual town report; to recommend to the council such measures as he shall deem necessary or expedient; to keep or cause to be kept complete books of account showing appropriations and such other accounts and records not specifically required by law to be kept by other officers, as may be prescribed by the council; to purchase all supplies, materials, equipment and other commodities required by any office or agency of the town except the board of education and the probate court; to keep the council fully advised as to the financial condition of the town; to prepare and submit to the council an annual budget and to exercise such powers and duties as may be imposed on him by the council. Neither the town meeting nor the council shall diminish by ordinance, vote or otherwise the powers and duties of the town

manager, except those powers and duties imposed on him by direction of the council under the provisions of this Charter. Unless otherwise specifically provided by this Charter or by ordinance, any duty imposed by the General Statutes on the chief executive officer of a municipality shall be vested in and exercised by the town manager.

Section 6-3. Appointments.

With the approval of the council, the town manager shall appoint such personnel as provided for in Section 5-1 of this Charter. The town manager may, subject to the approval of the council, perform the duties of any office which he may fill by appointment. With the approval of the council, the town manager shall designate the head of any administrative agency of the town to serve as acting town manager during the absence, for any reason, of such town manager. Except as otherwise provided by law, the council and town manager in filling appointive positions may combine functions and positions.

CHAPTER VII. BONDS AND COMPENSATION

Section 7-1. Official bonds.

The town manager, town clerk, treasurer, tax collector, building official and such other officers and employees as may be required to so do by the council shall, before entering on their respective official duties, execute to the town, in the form prescribed by the council, and approved by the town attorney, and file with the town clerk, a surety company bond in a penal sum to be fixed by the council, conditioned upon honesty and/or the faithful performance of such official duties. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the council, if it deems [it] to be in the best interest of the town, from prescribing a name schedule bond, schedule position bond or blanket bond, or from prescribing which department, offices, agencies, boards or commissions shall be covered by a specific type of the aforementioned bonds. Premiums for such bonds shall be paid by the town.

Section 7-2. Compensation.

Compensation of all salaried and hourly rated employees of the town shall be determined by the town manager, as approved by the town council, in conformity with a systematic pay plan for the positions involved, provided nothing herein shall be construed to limit the power of the board of education to fix the compensation of employees of the school system.

CHAPTER VIII. FINANCE AND TAXATION

Section 8-1. Fiscal year.

The fiscal year of the town shall run July 1 through June 30.

Section 8-2. Borrowing.

The town shall have the power to incur indebtedness by issuing its bonds or notes as provided by General Statute subject to the limitations thereof and the provisions of this Charter.

Section 8-3. General form of budget presentation.

The town manager may, or at the request of the council, shall require each department, office or agency of the town supported wholly or in part by the town funds, or for which a specific town appropriation is made

including the board of education, to set forth in narrative or such other form as the town manager may prescribe, a program or programs showing services, activities and work accomplished during the current year and to be accomplished during the ensuing year.

Section 8-4. Departmental estimates.

The town manager shall compile preliminary estimates for the annual budget. The head of each department, office or agency of the town, including the board of education, shall, on or before March 12, file with the town manager on forms prescribed and provided by him a detailed estimate of the expenditures to be made by his department, office or agency and the revenue other than tax revenue, to be collected thereby in the ensuing fiscal year and such other information as may be required by the council or the town manager.

Section 8-5. Duties of the town manager on the budget.

Not later than one hundred (100) days before the end of the fiscal year the town manager shall present to the council a budget consisting of:

- (a) A budget message outlining the proposed financial policy of the town government, describing in connection therewith the important features of the proposed budget plan indicating any major changes from the current year in financial policies, expenditures and revenues together with the reasons for such changes, and containing a clear general summary of its contents;
- (b) Estimates of revenues, presenting in parallel columns the itemized receipts collected in the last completed fiscal year, the receipts collected during the current fiscal year prior to the times of preparing the estimates, total receipts estimated to be collected during the current fiscal year, and the estimates of the receipts, other than from the property tax, to be collected in the ensuing fiscal year and an estimate of available surplus;
- (c) Itemized expenditures for each office or agency for the last completed fiscal year, approved budget figures for the current fiscal year and expenditures for the current fiscal year prior to the time of preparing the estimates, total expenditures as estimated for the current fiscal year, and the town manager's recommendations for the ensuing fiscal year for all items except those of the board of education which he shall transmit to the council as submitted to him by such board.

The town manager shall present reasons for all of his recommendations. The board of education shall have the same duties and follow the same form and procedure with respect to the budget of the board of education as required of other agencies and offices. As part of the budget, the town manager shall present a program previously considered and acted upon by the town planning and zoning commission in accordance with the General Statutes, of proposed municipal improvement projects for the ensuing fiscal year and for the five (5) fiscal years thereafter. Estimates of the costs of such projects shall be submitted by each office or agency annually in the form and manner prescribed by the town manager. The town manager shall recommend to the council those projects to be undertaken during the ensuing fiscal year and a method of financing the same.

Section 8-6. Duties of the council.

Following receipt of the budget estimates from the town manager, the council shall hold one (1) or more public hearings not later than seventy (70) days before the end of the fiscal year at which any elector or taxpayer may have an opportunity to be heard regarding appropriations for the ensuing fiscal year. The town manager shall cause sufficient copies of said estimates to be made available for general distribution in the office of the town clerk at least ten (10) days prior to the public hearing. Following the public hearing or hearings, the council shall make such revisions in the budget estimates as it deems desirable and shall recommend same to the annual budget meeting. Not less than ten (10) days prior to the annual budget meeting, the council shall cause to be published in

a newspaper having a circulation in the town a notice of the meeting and a summary of the recommended budget showing anticipated revenues by major sources and proposed expenditures by functions or departments in the same columnar form prescribed for the budget and shall also show the amount for general distribution at the office of the town clerk at least ten (10) days prior to the annual budget meeting. By a majority of those present and voting at such meeting, an amount of money less than that recommended may be appropriated but no appropriation shall be made exceeding that for the same purpose recommended by the council and no appropriation shall be made for any purpose not so recommended.

Section 8-7. Adoption of the budget.

Upon adoption of the budget by the adjourned town meeting by persons qualified to vote at such meeting for a "yes" or "no" vote; where the hours and method of voting are determined by the town council in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut, the council shall set the tax rate in mills which shall be levied on taxable property in the town for the ensuing fiscal year and shall file a copy of such budget with the town clerk and the town manager.

Section 8-8. Expenditures and accounting.

- (a) No purchase shall be made by any department, board, commission or officer of the town other than the board of education and the probate court, except through the purchasing agent. The town manager shall record the amount of authorized purchases and contracts for future purchases as encumbrances against the appropriation from which they are to be paid.
- (b) No voucher, claim or charge against the town shall be paid until the same has been audited by the town manager and approved by him for correctness and validity. Checks shall be drawn by the town manager for the payment of approved claims which shall be valid only when countersigned by the treasurer. In the absence or inability to act of either the town manager, treasurer, or assistant treasurer, with respect to the above duty, the council may authorize one or more of its members to substitute temporarily for either or both.
- (c) The town manager shall prescribe the time at which and the manner in which persons receiving money on account for the town shall pay the same to the town treasurer.
- (d) The several departments, commissions, officers and boards of the town shall not involve the town in any obligation to spend money for any purpose in excess of the amount appropriated therefor until the matter has been approved by the council and each order drawn upon the treasurer shall state the department, commission, board or officer and the appropriation against which it is to be charged. When any department, commission, board or officer shall desire to secure a transfer of funds within its or his appropriation from funds set apart for one specific purpose to another, before incurring any expenditure thereof such department, commission, board or officer shall, with the approval of the town manager, make application to the council whose duty it shall be to examine into the matter, and upon approval of the council such transfer may be made, but not otherwise.
- (e) Upon request transmitted by the town manager, but only within the last three (3) months of the fiscal year, the council may, by resolution, transfer any unencumbered appropriation, balance or portion thereof from one department, commission, board or office to another. No transfer shall be made from any appropriations for debt service and other statutory charges.
- (f) Additional appropriations over and above the total budget may be made from time to time by resolution of the council, upon recommendation and certification of the town manager that there is available an unappropriated and unencumbered general fund cash balance to meet such appropriations except as otherwise specified in Section 9-3. When the cumulative total of such appropriations reach one and one-half

percent (1½%) of the current tax levy, the council shall have no further right to make appropriations without approval from a special town meeting.

- (g) Appropriations for construction or for other permanent improvements, from whatever source derived, shall not lapse until the purpose for which the appropriation was made shall have been accomplished or abandoned, provided any such project shall be deemed to have been abandoned if three (3) fiscal years shall lapse without any expenditure from or encumbrance of the appropriation therefor. Any portion of any annual appropriation remaining unexpended and unencumbered at the close of the budget year shall lapse.
- (h) Every payment made in violation of the provisions of this Charter shall be deemed illegal and every official authorizing or making such payment or taking part therein and every person receiving such payment or any part thereof shall be jointly and severally liable to the town for the full amount so paid or received. If any officer or employee of the town shall knowingly incur any obligation or shall authorize or make any expenditure in violation of the provisions of this Charter or take any part therein, such action shall be cause for his removal.
- (i) It shall not be necessary for a town meeting to approve additional appropriations which are funded for specific purpose by state and federal grants, nor shall such grants be included under the provisions of Subsection (f) of this section.

CHAPTER IX. THE TOWN MEETING

Section 9-1. Annual and special meetings.

An annual town meeting for the consideration of the budget and the transaction of other town business shall be held on the fourth (4th) Saturday in April and shall commence at 10:00 o'clock A.M. It may be adjourned from time to time. Special town meetings shall be called by the council only when required under the terms of this Charter and in the manner provided by the General Statutes. At the annual budget meeting a majority of those present and voting may, by amendment to the main motion, reduce, but not increase, any Town Council recommended appropriation. After reasonable discussion of the Town Council recommended annual budget appropriation, or the annual budget appropriation as may have been amended by the annual budget meeting, the moderator of the meeting shall adjourn the meeting to reconvene on the second Tuesday following the annual budget meeting and said Town Council recommended appropriation or said Town Council recommended appropriation as may have been amended by the budget meeting, shall be voted on by a "yes" or "no" vote where the hours and method of voting are determined by the town council in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut. If the annual budget appropriation shall not pass, a Special Budget Meeting shall be called by the council. At this Special Budget Meeting a majority of those present and voting may, by amendment to the main motion, reduce, but not increase, any Town Council recommended appropriation. After reasonable discussion of the Town Council recommended annual budget appropriation, or the annual budget appropriation as may have been amended by the Special Budget Meeting, the moderator of the meeting shall adjourn the meeting to reconvene within fourteen (14) days and said Town Council recommended appropriation, or said Town Council recommended appropriation as may have been amended by the Special Budget Meeting, shall be voted by a "yes" or "no" vote where the hours and method of voting are determined by the town council in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut. The foregoing procedure shall be repeated until a budget is adopted.

Section 9-2. Procedure.

All town meetings shall be called to order by the chairman of the council. A moderator shall be elected and all business conducted in the manner provided by the General Statutes, except as otherwise provided in this Charter. The town clerk shall serve as clerk of all town meetings but in his absence an acting clerk may be designated by the meeting. All town meetings shall be conducted pursuant to the Robert's Rules of Order[, Newly

Revised]. A secret ballot shall be required at any town meeting at the request of one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of those present and voting. Provisions of G.S. § 7-7 shall apply to all town meetings except Annual Budget Meetings called for the adoption of the budget, when the necessary petitions have been filed and approved by the town clerk.

Section 9-3. When action by town meeting required.

- (a) The annual budget or any resolution making an appropriation of more than one percent (1%) of the current tax levy, but less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) for any purpose, any resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds or notes or other borrowing of less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) and any resolution providing for the sale of real estate of the town with assessed value of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) or more used for town purposes or the purchase of real estate for such purposes, shall become effective only after it has been approved by the council and adopted at a town meeting by a majority vote of the qualified voters present and voting at such a meeting. The town meeting shall not act upon any proposal for the sale or purchase of such real estate or the issuance of bonds or other borrowing except upon the recommendation of the council, nor act upon any appropriation which has not been acted upon by the council unless the same shall have been before the council for sixty (60) days without action.
- (b) With the exception of the annual budget, the town meeting may increase the amount of any appropriation above the amount recommended by the council or make an appropriation not recommended by the council provided either such action shall require the affirmative vote of a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of the voters thereon, which majority shall consist of at least one hundred fifty (150) voters. No town meeting shall increase the amount of any bond issue above the amount recommended by the council. By majority of those present and voting, a town meeting may, by amendment to the main motion, reduce any appropriation.
- (c) Approval by the town meeting shall be required to make effective any contract or agreement of the council for services or use of facilities by or with other governments as provided by this Charter.
- (d) The council may, at its discretion, require any proposal it may deem of sufficient importance to be submitted to those entitled to vote by the law at an annual or special town meeting called for such purpose and such proposal shall become effective only after it has been approved by a majority of those voting at such meeting.
- (e) After the same has been approved by the council, any appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) or more, and any resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds or notes of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) or more shall be placed on the call of a town meeting; the town council shall thereafter determine if the town meeting shall be adjourned to a vote as provided by statute, or adjourned to a vote at the next regular election. After the completion of other business and after reasonable discussion of such appropriations or resolutions, the moderator of such meeting shall adjourn the meeting to a vote as provided by the Coventry Town Council. Any vote submitted to the next regular town election shall be submitted in accordance with G.S. §§ 9-369—9-370. If the Town Council elects to hold the vote at a time and place other than the regular Town election, they shall set the hours and method of voting in accordance with the General Statutes. Such appropriation or resolution shall become effective only after it has been submitted to a "yes" or "no" vote by the persons qualified to vote in such meeting or election. At the closing of the polls of the regular election or at the closing of the polls at the adjourned Town meeting, it shall be the duty of the moderator to cause the vote to be counted, and such resolution or appropriation mentioned in the immediately preceding sentence shall, if approved by a majority of those voting thereon, be deemed a vote of the Town meeting.
- (f) Any other item or items, with the exception of the annual budget, on the call of any town meeting may, if the council may deem it advisable, be submitted to a vote on the voting machines in the same manner as aforesaid and, if approved by a majority of those voting thereon, shall be deemed to be a vote of the town meeting.

Section 9-4. Petition for overrule of action of council.

All ordinances, shall be subject to overrule by a special town meeting as follows: If within twenty (20) days after the publication of any such ordinance, a petition conforming to the requirements of the General Statutes and signed by not less than three percent (3%) of the voters of the town, as determined from the latest official lists of the registrars of voters, is filed with the town clerk requesting its reference to a special town meeting, the effective date of such ordinance shall be suspended and the council shall fix the time and the place of such meeting, which shall be within twenty (20) days after the filing of the petition, and notice thereof shall be given in the manner provided by law for the calling of a special town meeting. An ordinance so referred shall take effect upon the conclusion of such meeting unless at least one hundred (100) voters constituting a majority of those voting thereon, shall have voted in favor of overruling.

Section 9-5. Petition for enactment of ordinances.

- (a) Subject to the provisions of the Charter not less than three percent (3%) of the voters of the town, as determined from the latest official lists, may at any time petition over their personal signatures for the enactment of any proposed lawful ordinance by filing such petition, including the complete text of such ordinance, with the town clerk. The council shall call a special town meeting, to be held within thirty (30) days from the date of such filing, unless prior to such meeting such ordinance shall be enacted by the council. The call for such meeting shall state the proposed ordinance in full and shall provide for a "yes" or "no" vote as to its enactment. If a majority of the persons entitled to vote, voting at such meeting, shall vote "yes," then such ordinance shall take effect on the tenth (10th) day thereafter without further action of the council.
- (b) Any such proposed ordinance shall be examined by the town attorney before being submitted to the special town meeting. The town attorney is authorized to correct the form of such ordinance for the purpose of avoiding repetitions, illegalities and unconstitutional provisions, and to ensure accuracy in its text and references and clearness and preciseness in its phraseology, but not materially changing its meaning and effect.

CHAPTER X. [MISCELLANEOUS]

Section 10-1. Transfer of records and property.

All records, property and equipment whatsoever of any office, agency, board or commission or part thereof, all the powers and duties of which are assigned to any other office, agency, board or commission by this Charter, shall be transferred and delivered intact to the office, agency, board or commission to which such powers and duties are so assigned. If part of the powers and duties of any office, agency, board or commission or part thereof are by this Charter assigned to another office, agency, board or commission, all records, property and equipment relating exclusively thereto shall be transferred and delivered intact to the office, agency, board or commission to which the powers and duties are so assigned.

Section 10-2. Legal proceedings.

No action or proceeding, civil or criminal, pending on the effective date of this Charter [November 4, 1969] brought by or against the town or any office, agency, board or commission thereof, shall be affected or abated by the adoption of this Charter or by anything herein contained; but all such actions or proceedings may be continued notwithstanding that functions, powers and duties of any office, agency, board or commission party thereto may be or under this Charter be assigned or transferred to another office, agency, board or commission, but in that

event the same may be prosecuted or defended by the head of the office, agency, board or commission to which such functions, powers and duties have been assigned or transferred by or under this Charter.

Section 10-3. Financial interest prohibited.

No holder of elective or appointive office shall derive, by reason of holding such office any direct financial benefit as the result of any contract with the town or board of education or any sale to the town or said board of education of any materials, supplies or services.

Section 10-4. Removals.

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, any appointive officer or appointive member of a board or commission may be removed for just cause by the authority which appointed him, provided he shall first be given notice in writing of his removal. Said officer or board or commission member shall upon written request to the appointing authority within ten (10) days from the date of receipt of his removal notice, be immediately given notice in writing of the specific grounds of removal. Thereafter, if requested (either in the request for specific grounds or in a subsequent request submitted to the appointing authority within five (5) days from receipt of such specific grounds) said officer, or board or commission member shall be given written notice from the appointing authority setting forth the time and place of an opportunity to be heard in his own defense, personally and/or by counsel, at a public hearing before the appointing authority, to be held not less than five (5) nor more than twenty (20) days after receipt of such request for hearing. With the exception of the initial notice of removal, the council shall act for and in the place of the town manager as to each and every request, notice and hearing provided for hereunder.
- (b) No employee of the board of education, below the rank of superintendent or supervising agent, who holds a regular certificate of qualification issued by the state board of education shall be removed except in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut as the same may be amended.

Section 10-5. Incumbents.

The incumbents of offices which require a competitive examination for appointment may be continued in office without examination upon the effective date of this Charter [November 4, 1969].

Section 10-6. Existing laws and ordinances.

All general laws of the State of Connecticut applicable to the town and all ordinances and regulations of the town shall continue in full force and effect, except insofar as they are inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter. All special acts or parts thereof relating to the Town of Coventry which are inconsistent with this Charter are repealed.

Section 10-7. Amendment of Charter.

This Charter may be amended in the manner prescribed by law.

Section 10-8. Saving clause.

If any section or part of any section of this Charter shall be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the remainder of this Charter nor the context in which said section or part thereof so held invalid may appear, except to the extent that an entire section or part of a section may be inseparably

connected in meaning and effect with the section or part of a section to which such holding shall directly apply. All references to he or she (his/her) throughout this Charter shall be understood to apply equally to both genders.

Section 10-9. Effective date.

This Charter shall become effective on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November, 1969; November 4, 1969. Amendments to the Charter shall become effective upon passage.

PART I

CHARTER AND SPECIAL ACTS

Subpart A CHARTER¹

CHAPTER I. INCORPORATION AND GENERAL POWERS

Section 1-1. Incorporation.

All the inhabitants dwelling within the territorial limits of the Town of Coventry, as heretofore constituted, shall continue to be a body politic and corporate under the name of "Town of Coventry," hereinafter called "Town," and as such shall have perpetual succession and may hold and exercise all powers and privileges heretofore exercised by said Town and not inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter, the additional powers and privileges herein conferred and all powers and privileges conferred upon towns under the general law of the State of Connecticut.

Section 1-2. Rights and obligations.

All property, both real and personal, all rights of action and rights of every description and all securities and liens vested or inchoate in said Town as of the effective date of this Charter [November 4, 1969] are continued in said Town and said Town shall continue to be liable for all debts and obligations of every kind for which said Town shall be liable on said date whether accrued or not. Nothing herein shall be construed to affect the rights of said Town to collect any assessment, charge, debt, or lien. If any contract has been entered into by said Town prior to the effective date of this Charter [November 4, 1969] or any bond or undertaking has been given by or in favor of said Town which contains provision that the same may be enforced by any commission, board, department or officer therein named, which is abolished by the provisions of this Charter, such contracts, bonds, or undertakings shall be in no manner impaired but shall continue in full force and effect and the powers conferred and the duties imposed with reference to the same upon any such commission, board, department or officer shall, except as otherwise provided in this Charter, thereafter be exercised and discharged by the Town Council of said Town (as established in Sec. 3-1).

Commented [AT1]: All changes made herein are tentative, and may be subject to change before the commission delivers its final report to the Coventry Town Council

Commented [AT2]: Version 3 of the draft charter revision, Prepared for the Charter Revision Commission's January 7, 2026 meeting

Commented [AT3]: Further changes made to standardize capitalization when referring to a specific named entity as per the request of the commission

¹Editor's note(s)—Printed herein as Subpart A of Part I is the Charter of the town, as adopted by the voters of the town on October 2, 1967, and effective on November 4, 1969, together with revisions dated November 6, 1973, November 5, 1974, November 4, 1986, and November 5, 1991. Future amendments will be indicated by parenthetical history notes following amended provisions. The absence of a history note indicates that the provision has not been amended since November 5, 1991. Obvious misspellings have been corrected without notation. For stylistic purposes, a uniform system of headings, catchlines and citations to state statutes has been used. Additions made for clarity are indicated by brackets. Subpart B is a list of the Special Acts relating to the town.

Section 1-3. General grant of powers.

In addition to all powers granted to towns under the constitution and general law, the Town shall have all powers specifically granted by this Charter and all powers fairly implied in or incident to the powers expressly granted, and all other powers incident to the management of the property, government and affairs of the Town, including the power to enter into contracts with the United States or any federal agency, State of Connecticut or any political subdivision thereof for services and the use of facilities, the exercise of which is not expressly forbidden by the Constitution and general law of the State of Connecticut. The enumeration of particular powers in this and any other chapter of this Charter shall not be construed as limiting this general grant of power but shall be considered as an addition thereto.

Section 1-4. Public Notice.

All notice required by this Charter shall be given as required by the Connecticut General Statutes. The Town may provide additional notice by way of website posting or other methods established by ordinance.

CHAPTER II. ELECTIONS

Section 2-1. General.

- (a) Nomination and election of federal and state officers, including registrars of voters, and of such elective municipal officers, boards and commissions as are provided for in this Charter shall be conducted, and the registrars of voters shall prepare lists of electors qualified to vote therefor, in the manner prescribed in the constitution and general laws of the State of Connecticut, except as hereinafter provided.
- (b) A meeting of the electors of the Town of Coventry for the election of municipal officers shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November in odd-numbered years. The terms of all municipal officers shall commence on the first Wednesday following their election and they shall hold office until their successors have been chosen and qualified. Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, all elective Town officers, boards and commissions shall have the powers and duties prescribed by law.

Section 2-1A. Election of council.

At the meeting of the electors of the Town of Coventry for the election of municipal officers, there shall be elected seven (7) members of the Town Council. Each party shall nominate a maximum of five (5) candidates to run for the Town Council, [and] the seven (7) receiving the highest votes shall be elected. No person shall vote for more than five (5).

Section 2-2. Minority representation except as provided in section 2-1A.

Minority representation on any elective or appointed board, commission, committee or similar body of the Town shall be determined in accordance with the following provisions: When the total membership of the board is odd, not more than the bare majority shall be members of the same political party; and when the total membership of the board is even, not more than one-half (½) shall be members of the same political party.

Section 2-3. Voting districts.

There shall continue to be two (2) districts which will remain as they now exist and the number of voting districts shall not be increased nor the boundaries altered except by ordinances of the Town Council. No change in the boundaries of voting districts shall be made within ninety (90) days prior to an election. The Town Council shall provide suitable polling places in the district or districts, and shall define the boundaries of the area to be served by each polling place. The ~~Town councilmen~~Council members, town clerk, registrars of voters and all other officers of the Town shall perform the duties required of them by law with respect to elections in the voting district or districts. All action taken under the provisions of this section shall be in accordance with the General Statutes.

Section 2-4. Breaking a tie.

When any regular or special municipal election, primary election or referendum conducted pursuant to the provisions of this Charter results in a tie, an adjourned election shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the General Statutes, to determine who shall be elected, or in the case of a question at referendum, whether it shall be accepted or rejected. Said adjourned election shall be held on the seventh (7th) day after the election which resulted in a tie and shall be confined to the tied candidate or issues. Any voting machine, the returns from which are not subject to disagreement, may be unlocked and used in said special election. If voting machines are not available in sufficient number, paper ballots may be used in place of or in conjunction with voting machines.

Section 2-5. Vacancies.

Any vacancy in any elective Town office, except the board of education, from whatever cause arising, shall be filled by appointment by the Town Council for the unexpired portion of the term or until the next biennial election, whichever shall be sooner; provided that when the persons vacating the office shall have been elected as a member of a political party, such vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of a member of the same political party. In the case of the board of education vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes. If there shall be a biennial election before the expiration of the term of any office in which a vacancy occurs, such office shall be filled until said election of a person to fill that office for the remaining portion of the term, and such person shall take office upon election.

Section 2-6. Eligibility.

No person shall be eligible for election to any Town office, or appointment to any Town board, commission, committee or similar body who is not at the time of his election, or appointment, a resident elector of said Town and any person ceasing to be a resident and elector of said Town shall thereupon cease to hold such elective or appointive office in Town.

CHAPTER III. THE TOWN COUNCIL

Section 3-1. The Town Council.

There shall be a town council consisting of seven (7) members, hereinafter referred to as "The Town Council," the members of which shall serve without compensation except for the reimbursement of actual expenses incurred in the performance of official duties. ~~No member of the ouncil shall hold any office of profit | under the government of the Town of Coventry, nor shall he, during the term of office for which he is elected be appointed to any office under the government of said own. During the term for which elected, no member of the~~

Town Council shall hold any other office, elective or appointive, or employment in or under the Town government. This restriction shall not apply to employment under the Coventry Board of Education.

Section 3-2. Presiding officer.

The Town Council shall meet on the first Wednesday within two business days following its the certification of their election by the Town Clerk and shall choose one of its members to be chairman of said the Town Council, which member shall also be designated as the Chief Elected Official of the Town of Coventry. Such office shall not deprive such chairman of his-their vote on any question. Such chairman shall preside over all meetings of the Town Council and perform such other duties consistent with theirhis office as may be imposed by the Town Council. TheyHe shall be the official head of the Town for all ceremonial purposes. During his absence or disability, his duties shall be performed by a member chosen by the council. At said meeting, the Town Council shall choose one of its members to be a vice chair to serve as chair and perform their duties during their absence or disability.

Section 3-3. Procedure.

At the first meeting of the Town Council following each biennial town election, said the Town Council shall, by resolution, fix the time and place of its regular monthly meetings and provide a method for calling special meetings. It shall, by resolution, determine its own rules of procedure. Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum, but no ordinance, resolution, or vote, except a vote to adjourn or to fix the time and place of the next meeting, shall be adopted by less than four (4) affirmative votes. If vacancies on the Town Council reduce its number to less than five (5) members, then for the sole purpose of appointing new members, three (3) members shall constitute a quorum and two (2) affirmative votes shall be required to fill Town Council vacancies.

Section 3-4. General powers and duties.

The Town Council shall have the powers and duties which, on the effective date of this Charter [November 4, 1969,] were conferred by law upon officers, boards and commissions of said Town existing immediately prior to such date except as otherwise specifically provided in this Charter. The legislative power of the Towns shall be vested exclusively in The Town Council except as otherwise specified in this Charter. Said-The Town Council shall have the power to:

- a) Enact, amend or repeal ordinances not inconsistent with this Charter or the General Statutes of the state
- b) to create or abolish, by ordinance, boards, commissions, departments and offices;
- c) and the council may Contract for services and the use of facilities of the United States or any federal agency, the State of Connecticut or any political subdivision to incorporate any nationally recognized code, rules, or regulations that have been printed in body form, or any code officially adopted by any administrative agency of the state or portion thereof, by reference thereto in such ordinance; provided, upon adoption of any such ordinance wherein any such code, rules or regulations or portions thereof have been incorporated by reference, there shall be maintained two copies of such code, rules or regulations in the office of the town clerk for examination by the public;
- d) Said-council-may-bBy resolution, regulate the internal operation of boards, commissions and offices which it fills by appointment; Said-council-may-f
- e) Fix the charges, if any, to be made for services rendered by the Town or for the execution of powers vested in the Town as provided in Chapter I of this Charter.

Formatted: Numbered + Level: 1 + Numbering Style: a, b, c, ... + Start at: 1 + Alignment: Left + Aligned at: 0.61" + Indent at: 0.86"

Section 3-5. Public hearing on the publication of ordinances.

At least one (1) public hearing, notice of which shall be given at least ten (10) days in advance ~~in accordance with Section 1-4, by publication in a newspaper having a circulation in said town, and by posting a notice in a public place,~~ shall be held by the Town Council before any ordinance shall be passed. Every ordinance after passage, shall be given a serial number and be recorded by the town clerk in a book to be kept for that purpose which shall be properly indexed. Within ten (10) days after final passage, all ordinances allowed by G.S. § 7-157, shall be published in ~~summary form in a newspaper having circulation within the town~~ in accordance with Section 1-4. Any other ordinance shall be published in its entirety ~~in a newspaper having circulation within the town~~. Every ordinance, unless otherwise provided in Section 9-5 or unless otherwise specified shall become effective on the twenty-first (21st) day after such publication following its final passage.

Commented [AT5]: Additional changes made to better reflect the intention of the Commission

Section 3-6. Annual audit.

The Town Council shall annually designate an independent certified public accountant or firm of independent certified public accountants to audit the books and accounts of the Town in accordance with provisions of the General Statutes.

CHAPTER IV. OTHER ELECTIVE OFFICES

Commented [AT6]: Revisit: Pending further research and discussion re: feasibility or efficacy of a separate elected board of finance

Section 4-1. Zoning Board of Appeals.

There shall be five (5) members of the Zoning Board of Appeals and three (3) alternate members of the Zoning Board of Appeals, whose term of office shall be for two (2) years.

Section 4-2. Board of ~~tax review~~Assessment Appeals.

There shall be five (5) members of the Board of ~~tax review~~Assessment Appeals, whose term of office shall be as provided by General Statutes.

Section 4-3. Board of Education.

The Board of Education shall consist of seven (7) members, whose term of office shall be for two (2) years. The Board of Education shall be responsible for the conduct of the educational system of the Town.

Commented [AT7]: Revisit: Pending further research and discussion regarding absences

Section 4-4. Registrars of voters.

There shall be a registrar of voters for each political party in each voting district who shall be elected in accordance with the General Statutes. No elector shall vote for more than one (1) registrar. The registrars of voters shall have all the powers and perform such other duties as may be imposed upon them by ordinances not inconsistent with General Statutes.

CHAPTER V. TOWN MANAGER

Commented [AT8]: As per the request of the commission, Chapters 5 and 6 have been swapped

Section 56-1. Appointment.

The Town Council shall appoint, for an indefinite term, and may remove, a town manager, who shall be chosen exclusively on the basis of his-their administrative qualifications, character and experience, following previously established hiring procedure, hereinafter referred to as "The Town Manager." Interim appointment [shall be made as follows]: Upon resignation or removal of the Manager, the Town Council shall by a simple majority vote of the council, appoint a temporary acting Town Manager, until said the Town Council appoints a Town Manager for an indefinite term. The Town Council will use established policy procedures for hiring a Town Manager. A resolution to remove must be adopted by at least a two-thirds (⅔) vote of the full membership of the Town Council at a regular meeting, so warned for such purpose and any such action may be consummated with or without cause. The action of the Town Council in removing the Town Manager from office shall be final. The Town Council shall provide to the Town Manager, on an annual basis, a written evaluation by the Town Council of his/her-their performance. Such evaluation shall in no way restrict the appointment or removal powers of the Town Council.

Section 56-2. Duties of The Town Manager.

The Town Manager shall be directly responsible to the Town Council for the administration of all offices and agencies in charge of persons appointed by him-them and shall supervise and direct the same. He-They shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Town as defined by G.S. § 7-193. He-They shall be the purchasing agent of the Town subject to such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by the Town Council. The Town Manager shall keep full and complete records of the doings of his-their office and it shall be his-their duty to make such reports to the Town Council as it may require and to attend their-Town Council meetings with full right of participation in the discussions; to prepare, and cause to be printed, as soon as possible after the close of the fiscal year, an annual town report; to recommend to the Town Council such measures as he-the Manager shall deem necessary or expedient; to keep or cause to be kept complete books of account showing appropriations and such other accounts and records not specifically required by law to be kept by other officers, as may be prescribed by the Town Council; to purchase all supplies, materials, equipment and other commodities required by any office or agency of the own except the board of education and the probate court; to keep the Town Council fully advised as to the financial condition of the own; to prepare and submit to the Town Council an annual budget and to exercise such powers and duties as may be imposed on him-them by the Town Council. Neither the town meeting nor the Town Council shall diminish by ordinance, vote or otherwise the powers and duties of the Town Manager, except those powers and duties imposed on him-them by direction of the Town Council under the provisions of this Charter. Unless otherwise specifically provided by this Charter or by ordinance, any duty imposed by the General Statutes on the chief executive officer of a municipality shall be vested in and exercised by the Town Manager.

Section 56-3. Appointments.

With the approval of the Town Council, the Town Manager shall appoint such personnel as provided for in Section 5-1 of this Charter. The Town Manager may, subject to the approval of the Town Council, perform the duties of any office which he-they may fill by appointment. With the approval of the Town Council, the Town Manager shall designate the head of any administrative agency of the Town to serve as acting Town Manager during the absence, for any reason, of such Town Manager. Except as otherwise provided by law, the Town Council and Town Manager in filling appointive positions may combine functions and positions.

CHAPTER VI. APPOINTIVE OFFICES

Commented [AT9]: As per the request of the commission, Chapters 5 and 6 have been swapped

Section 65-1. General.

The Town Council shall, by majority vote of the board (pursuant to Section 3-3), appoint ~~personnel~~ persons to boards, commissions and offices as may be established under the provisions of this Charter or by the General Statutes. The Town Manager, with approval of the Town Council, shall appoint the following offices: Town Clerk, Tax Collector (Collector of Revenue), Assessor, Director of ~~civil defense~~ Emergency Management, Building Official, ~~canine~~ Animal Control Officer, Tree Warden, Chief of Police, Fire Marshals, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, ~~human services administrator~~ Director of Human Services, representative to the Windham Regional Planning Agency. All hiring and appointments will be in accordance with state and federal statutes.

Commented [AT10]: Revisit: Review Town Council approval of Manager appointment as per attorney feedback

Commented [AT11]: Revisit: Pending review of feedback from the Town Attorney

~~Section 5-1A. Competitive exams.~~

~~In any office where a competitive exam is required, the town manager may reject any or all candidates and hold further examination.~~

Commented [AT12]: Section removed

Section 65-2. Terms of office.

All such appointees shall take office on the day they are appointed and qualified, shall serve such terms as are herein specified, and until their respective successors have been appointed and qualified. All incumbent appointees or previously elected officers shall complete their present terms of office.

Section 65-3. Vacancies.

Any vacancy in any office appointed by The Town Council from whatever cause arising shall be filled by appointment by The Town Council; provided, [however,] that The Town Council be empowered to act with all of the authority of the vacant office until the office is properly occupied, but in no case shall The Town Council be empowered to perform such duties for a period in excess of forty-five (45) consecutive days for each vacancy. In no case may The Town Council perform the duties of town attorney, ~~health officer~~ Director of Health, Constable, or auditor. All officials appointed to fill vacancies shall hold office for the balance of the unexpired term.

Commented [AT13]: Constable added to positions which cannot be filled by the town council in the event of an absence

Commented [AT14]: Capitalization updated throughout

Section 65-47. Planning and Zoning Commission.

The Town Council shall appoint a planning and zoning commission consisting of five (5) regular members and three (3) alternate members. Two of said regular members shall serve for a period of two (2) years, two of said regular members shall serve for a period of three (3) years, and one such member for a period of four (4) years. Thereafter said five (5) regular members shall serve for a three (3) year term. The Town Council shall also appoint the three (3) alternate members. One of said alternate members shall serve for a period of two (2) years, one of said alternate members shall serve for a period of three (3) years and the other alternate member shall serve for a period of four (4) years. Thereafter each of the said alternate members shall serve for a period of three (3) years.

Section 65-54. Town Clerk.

The Town Manager shall appoint the town clerk who shall have all the powers and duties imposed and conferred by general law and the terms of this Charter. ~~All fees collected by the town clerk in the performance of the duties of any of the offices herein assigned to him shall be paid into the town treasury.~~ The said officer shall be compensated on a salary basis only. ~~Appointment shall be made from among the three (3) highest candidates chosen on the basis of competitive examination and this office shall have permanent status.~~

Commented [AT15]: Language regarding fees removed

Commented [AT16]: Language regarding "3 highest candidates" removed throughout

Section ~~65-65~~. Town Treasurer.

The Town Manager shall appoint the town treasurer who shall have the powers and duties imposed and conferred by general law and the terms of this Charter. The said officer shall be compensated on a salary basis only. ~~Appointment shall be made from among the three (3) highest candidates chosen on the basis of competitive examination and this office shall have permanent status.~~

Section ~~65-76~~. Tax Collector. (Collector of Revenue).

The Town Manager shall appoint the tax collector who shall have all the powers and duties imposed and conferred by general law on tax collectors. Said officer shall be compensated on a salary basis only. The Tax Collector shall issue such reports and at such intervals as The Town Manager may require, with copies of such reports being furnished to the Town Council. ~~Appointment shall be made from among the three (3) highest candidates chosen on the basis of competitive examination and this office shall have permanent status.~~

Commented [AT17]: Titles of roles updated where relevant

Section ~~65-8~~. Director of Health.

The Town Council shall appoint a director of health ~~or join a Regional Health District~~ pursuant to the related provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes ~~relating to the appointment of directors of health~~. The Director of Health shall have all the powers and duties as prescribed in the General Statutes.

Commented [AT18]: Language updated to reflect the regional health district

Section ~~65-9~~. ~~Human services administrator~~Director of Human Services.

The Town Manager shall appoint a ~~human services administrator~~director of human services. Said officer shall be compensated on a salary basis only. ~~Appointment shall be made from among the three (3) highest candidates chosen on the basis of competitive examination.~~ The ~~human services administrator~~Director of Human Services shall administer the general assistance program in accordance with the general statutes, state policies and regulations and perform other human services functions as described in the job description prepared by the Town Manager and approved by the Town Council.

Section ~~65-10~~. Town Attorney.

The Town Council shall engage a town attorney to serve at its discretion who shall be an attorney-at-law admitted to the practice of law in this state. ~~He~~The Town Attorney shall appear for and protect the rights of the Town in all actions, suits, or proceedings brought by or against it or any of its officers or agencies. ~~He~~They shall be the legal advisor to all Town officers, or agencies, in all matters affecting the Town and shall upon written request, furnish them with a written opinion on any question of law involving their respective powers and duties. Upon written request ~~he~~they shall prepare or approve forms of contracts or other instruments to which the Town is a party or in which it has an interest. ~~He~~They shall have the power, with approval of the Town Council, to compromise or settle any claims by or against the Town. The Town Manager shall be the sole contact to employ the services of the town attorney for any board, agency, commission or officer. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the hiring of other counsel by The Town Council when deemed necessary.

Section ~~65-11~~. Assessor.

The Town Manager shall appoint an assessor. The powers and duties of the assessor shall be those prescribed by the General Statutes. The said officer shall be compensated on a salary basis only. ~~Appointment shall be made from among the three (3) highest candidates chosen on the basis of competitive examination and this office shall have permanent status.~~

Section ~~65-12~~. Director of ~~civil defense~~Emergency Management.

The Town Manager shall appoint a director of ~~civil defense~~emergency management and shall specify the powers and duties of said office not inconsistent with those prescribed by the General Statutes.

Section ~~65-13~~. Building Official.

The Town Manager shall appoint an officer to perform the duties of building official who shall perform those duties specified by law. ~~Appointment shall be made from among the three (3) highest candidates, chosen on the basis of competitive examination. This office shall have permanent status.~~

Section ~~65-14~~. Canine Animal Control Officer.

The Town Manager shall appoint an officer to perform the powers and duties of the ~~canine animal~~ control officer.

Section ~~65-15~~. Tree Warden.

The Town Manager shall appoint an officer to perform the powers and duties of tree warden as defined and specified by law.

Section ~~65-16~~. Chief of Police.

The Town Manager shall appoint a chief of police. The said officer shall be compensated on a salary basis only. ~~Appointment shall be made from among the three (3) highest candidates chosen on the basis of competitive examination and this office shall have permanent status.~~ Subject to the approval of the Town Manager, the chief of police shall appoint and may remove all other officers and employees of the department. The Chief of Police shall be responsible for the preservation of the public peace, prevention of crime, apprehension of criminals, regulation of traffic, protection of rights of persons and property and enforcement of the laws of the state and the ordinances of the Town and all rules and regulations made in accordance therewith. ~~He/They~~ shall be responsible for the care and custody of all property used by the police and for the efficiency, discipline and good conduct of its members.

Section ~~65-17~~. Fire marshals.

The Town Manager shall appoint a fire marshals to perform all the duties and exercise those powers that may lawfully be bestowed upon them, or delegated to them by the Town Council. ~~If more than one (1) fire marshal is appointed, such appointments shall be exempt from the minority representation provisions of this Charter.~~

Commented [AT19]: Language updated to reflect the need for only one fire marshal

Section ~~65-18~~. Constables.

The Town Council shall appoint two (2) constables who shall have the powers and duties prescribed by the General Statutes. The Town Council may appoint special constables in such number as it may deem necessary and proper and the appointment of such special constables shall be exempt from the minority representation provisions of this Charter.

CHAPTER VII. BONDS AND COMPENSATION

Section 7-1. Official bonds.

The **Town Manager**, town clerk, treasurer, tax collector, building official and such other officers and employees as may be required to so do by the **Town Council** shall, before entering on their respective official duties, execute to the town, in the form prescribed by the **Town Council**, and approved by the town attorney, and file with the town clerk, a surety company bond in a penal sum to be fixed by the **Town Council**, conditioned upon honesty and/or the faithful performance of such official duties. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the **Town Council**, if it deems [it] to be in the best interest of the **Town**, from prescribing a name schedule bond, schedule position bond or blanket bond, or from prescribing which department, offices, agencies, boards or commissions shall be covered by a specific type of the aforementioned bonds. Premiums for such bonds shall be paid by the **Town**.

Section 7-2. Compensation.

Compensation of all salaried and hourly rated employees of the town shall be determined by the **Town Manager**, as approved by the **Town Council**, in conformity with a systematic pay plan for the positions involved, provided nothing herein shall be construed to limit the power of the board of education to fix the compensation of employees of the school system.

CHAPTER VIII. FINANCE AND TAXATION

Section 8-1. Fiscal year.

The fiscal year of the **Town** shall run July 1 through June 30.

Section 8-2. Borrowing.

The **Town** shall have the power to incur indebtedness by issuing its bonds or notes as provided by General Statute subject to the limitations thereof and the provisions of this Charter.

Section 8-3. General form of budget presentation.

The **Town Manager** may, or at the request of the **Town Council**, shall require each department, office or agency of the **Town** supported wholly or in part by ~~the~~ **Town** funds, or for which a specific town appropriation is made including the board of education, to set forth in narrative or such other form as the **Town Manager** may prescribe, a program or programs showing services, activities and work accomplished during the current year and to be accomplished during the ensuing year.

Section 8-4. Departmental estimates.

~~The~~ **Town Manager** shall compile preliminary estimates for the annual budget. The head of each department, office or agency of the **Town**, including the board of education, shall, on or before March 12, file with ~~The~~ **Town Manager** on forms prescribed and provided by ~~him-them~~ a detailed estimate of the expenditures to be made by ~~his the Town Manager's~~ department, office or agency and the revenue other than tax revenue, to be collected thereby in the ensuing fiscal year and such other information as may be required by the **Town Council** or the **Town Manager**.

Section 8-5. Duties of The Town Manager on the budget.

Not later than one hundred (100) days before the end of the fiscal year the Town Manager shall present to the Town Council a budget consisting of:

- (a) A budget message outlining the proposed financial policy of the Town government, describing in connection therewith the important features of the proposed budget plan indicating any major changes from the current year in financial policies, expenditures and revenues together with the reasons for such changes, and containing a clear general summary of its contents;
- (b) Estimates of revenues, presenting in parallel columns the itemized receipts collected in the last completed fiscal year, the receipts collected during the current fiscal year prior to the times of preparing the estimates, total receipts estimated to be collected during the current fiscal year, and the estimates of the receipts, other than from the property tax, to be collected in the ensuing fiscal year and an estimate of available surplus;
- (c) Itemized expenditures for each office or agency for the last completed fiscal year, approved budget figures for the current fiscal year and expenditures for the current fiscal year prior to the time of preparing the estimates, total expenditures as estimated for the current fiscal year, and The Town Manager's recommendations for the ensuing fiscal year for all items except those of the board of education which he shall transmit to the Town Council as submitted to him by such board.

The Town Manager shall present reasons for all of ~~his~~their recommendations. The board of education shall have the same duties and follow the same form and procedure with respect to the budget of the board of education as required of other agencies and offices. As part of the budget, the Town Manager shall present a program previously considered and acted upon by the Town planning and zoning commission in accordance with the General Statutes, of proposed municipal improvement projects for the ensuing fiscal year and for the five (5) fiscal years thereafter. Estimates of the costs of such projects shall be submitted by each office or agency annually in the form and manner prescribed by the Town Manager. The Town Manager shall recommend to the Town Council those projects to be undertaken during the ensuing fiscal year and a method of financing the same.

Section 8-6. Duties of The Council.

Following receipt of the budget estimates from the Town Manager, the Town Council shall hold one (1) or more public hearings not later than seventy (70) days before the end of the fiscal year at which any elector or taxpayer may have an opportunity to be heard regarding appropriations for the ensuing fiscal year. The Town Manager shall cause sufficient copies of said estimates to be made available for general distribution in the office of the town clerk at least ten (10) days prior to the public hearing. Following the public hearing or hearings, the Town Council shall make such revisions in the budget estimates as it deems desirable and shall recommend same to the annual budget meeting. Not less than ten (10) days prior to the annual budget meeting, the Town Council shall cause to be published in a newspaper having a circulation in the Town a notice of the meeting and a summary of the recommended budget showing anticipated revenues by major sources and proposed expenditures by functions or departments in the same columnar form prescribed for the budget and shall also show the amount for general distribution at the office of the town clerk at least ten (10) days prior to the annual budget meeting. By a majority of those present and voting at such meeting, an amount of money less than that recommended may be appropriated but no appropriation shall be made exceeding that for the same purpose recommended by the Town Council and no appropriation shall be made for any purpose not so recommended.

Section 8-7. Adoption of the budget.

Upon adoption of the budget by the adjourned town meeting by persons qualified to vote at such meeting for a "yes" or "no" vote; where the hours and method of voting are determined by the Town Council in accordance

with the General Statutes of Connecticut, the Town Council shall set the tax rate in mills which shall be levied on taxable property in the Town for the ensuing fiscal year and shall file a copy of such budget with the town clerk and the Town Manager.

Section 8-8. Expenditures and accounting.

- (a) No purchase shall be made by any department, board, commission or officer of the Town other than the board of education and the probate court, except through the purchasing agent. The Town Manager shall record the amount of authorized purchases and contracts for future purchases as encumbrances against the appropriation from which they are to be paid.
- (b) No voucher, claim or charge against the Town shall be paid until the same has been audited by the Town Manager and approved by ~~him~~ them for correctness and validity. Checks shall be drawn by the Town Manager for the payment of approved claims which shall be valid only when countersigned by the treasurer. In the absence or inability to act of either the Town Manager, treasurer, or assistant treasurer, with respect to the above duty, the Town Council may authorize one or more of its members to substitute temporarily for either or both.
- (c) The Town Manager shall prescribe the time at which and the manner in which persons receiving money on account for the own shall pay the same to the town treasurer.
- (d) The several departments, commissions, officers and boards of the Town shall not involve the own in any obligation to spend money for any purpose in excess of the amount appropriated therefor until the matter has been approved by the Town Council and each order drawn upon the treasurer shall state the department, commission, board or officer and the appropriation against which it is to be charged. When any department, commission, board or officer shall desire to secure a transfer of funds within its or his appropriation from funds set apart for one specific purpose to another, before incurring any expenditure thereof such department, commission, board or officer shall, with the approval of the Town Manager, make application to the Town Council whose duty it shall be to examine into the matter, and upon approval of the Town Council such transfer may be made, but not otherwise.
- (e) Upon request transmitted by the Town Manager, but only within the last three (3) months of the fiscal year, the Town Council may, by resolution, transfer any unencumbered appropriation, balance or portion thereof from one department, commission, board or office to another. No transfer shall be made from any appropriations for debt service and other statutory charges.
- (f) Additional appropriations over and above the total budget may be made from time to time by resolution of the Town Council, upon recommendation and certification of the Town Manager that there is available an unappropriated and unencumbered general fund cash balance to meet such appropriations except as otherwise specified in Section 9-3. When the cumulative total of such appropriations reach one and one-half percent (1½%) of the current tax levy, the Town Council shall have no further right to make appropriations without approval from a special town meeting.
- (g) Appropriations for construction or for other permanent improvements, from whatever source derived, shall not lapse until the purpose for which the appropriation was made shall have been accomplished or abandoned, provided any such project shall be deemed to have been abandoned if three (3) fiscal years shall lapse without any expenditure from or encumbrance of the appropriation therefor. Any portion of any annual appropriation remaining unexpended and unencumbered at the close of the budget year shall lapse.
- (h) Every payment made in violation of the provisions of this Charter shall be deemed illegal and every official authorizing or making such payment or taking part therein and every person receiving such payment or any part thereof shall be jointly and severally liable to the Town for the full amount so paid or received. If any officer or employee of the Town shall knowingly incur any obligation or shall authorize or make any

expenditure in violation of the provisions of this Charter or take any part therein, such action shall be cause for his removal.

- (i) It shall not be necessary for a town meeting to approve additional appropriations which are funded for specific purpose by state and federal grants, nor shall such grants be included under the provisions of Subsection (f) of this section.

CHAPTER IX. THE TOWN MEETING

Section 9-1. Annual and special meetings.

An annual town meeting for the consideration of the budget and the transaction of other Town business shall be held on the fourth (4th) Saturday in April and shall commence at 10:00 o'clock A.M. It may be adjourned from time to time. Special town meetings shall be called by the Town Council only when required under the terms of this Charter and in the manner provided by the General Statutes. At the annual budget meeting a majority of those present and voting may, by amendment to the main motion, reduce, but not increase, any Town Council recommended appropriation. After reasonable discussion of the Town Council recommended annual budget appropriation, or the annual budget appropriation as may have been amended by the annual budget meeting, the moderator of the meeting shall adjourn the meeting to reconvene on the second Tuesday following the annual budget meeting and said Town Council recommended appropriation or said Town Council recommended appropriation as may have been amended by the budget meeting, shall be voted on by a "yes" or "no" vote where the hours and method of voting are determined by the Town Council in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut. If the annual budget appropriation shall not pass, a Special Budget Meeting shall be called by the Town Council. At this Special Budget Meeting a majority of those present and voting may, by amendment to the main motion, reduce, but not increase, any Town Council recommended appropriation. After reasonable discussion of the Town Council recommended annual budget appropriation, or the annual budget appropriation as may have been amended by the Special Budget Meeting, the moderator of the meeting shall adjourn the meeting to reconvene within fourteen (14) days and said Town Council recommended appropriation, or said Town Council recommended appropriation as may have been amended by the Special Budget Meeting, shall be voted by a "yes" or "no" vote where the hours and method of voting are determined by the Town Council in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut. The foregoing procedure shall be repeated until a budget is adopted.

Section 9-2. Procedure.

All town meetings shall be called to order by the chairman of the Town Council. A moderator shall be elected and all business conducted in the manner provided by the General Statutes, except as otherwise provided in this Charter. The town clerk shall serve as clerk of all town meetings but in their absence an acting clerk may be designated by the meeting. All town meetings shall be conducted pursuant to the Robert's Rules of Order[, Newly Revised]. A secret ballot shall be required at any town meeting at the request of one-third (1/3) of those present and voting. Provisions of G.S. § 7-7 shall apply to all town meetings except Annual Budget Meetings called for the adoption of the budget, when the necessary petitions have been filed and approved by the town clerk.

Section 9-3. When action by town meeting required.

- (a) The annual budget or any resolution making an appropriation of more than one percent (1%) of the current tax levy, but less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) for any purpose, any resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds or notes or other borrowing of less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) and any resolution providing for the sale of real estate of the Town with assessed value of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) or more used for own purposes or the purchase of real estate for such purposes, shall become effective only after it has been approved by the Town Council and adopted at a

town meeting by a majority vote of the qualified voters present and voting at such a meeting. The town meeting shall not act upon any proposal for the sale or purchase of such real estate or the issuance of bonds or other borrowing except upon the recommendation of the Town Council, nor act upon any appropriation which has not been acted upon by the Town Council unless the same shall have been before the Town Council for sixty (60) days without action.

- (b) With the exception of the annual budget, the town meeting may increase the amount of any appropriation above the amount recommended by the Town Council or make an appropriation not recommended by the Town Council provided either such action shall require the affirmative vote of a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of the voters thereon, which majority shall consist of at least one hundred fifty (150) voters. No town meeting shall increase the amount of any bond issue above the amount recommended by the Town Council. By majority of those present and voting, a town meeting may, by amendment to the main motion, reduce any appropriation.
- (c) Approval by the town meeting shall be required to make effective any contract or agreement of the Town Council for services or use of facilities by or with other governments as provided by this Charter.
- (d) The Town Council may, at its discretion, require any proposal it may deem of sufficient importance to be submitted to those entitled to vote by the law at an annual or special town meeting called for such purpose and such proposal shall become effective only after it has been approved by a majority of those voting at such meeting.
- (e) After the same has been approved by the Town Council, any appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) or more, and any resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds or notes of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) or more shall be placed on the call of a town meeting; the Town Council shall thereafter determine if the town meeting shall be adjourned to a vote as provided by statute, or adjourned to a vote at the next regular election. After the completion of other business and after reasonable discussion of such appropriations or resolutions, the moderator of such meeting shall adjourn the meeting to a vote as provided by the Coventry Town Council. Any vote submitted to the next regular town election shall be submitted in accordance with G.S. §§ 9-369—9-370. If the Town Council elects to hold the vote at a time and place other than the regular Town election, they shall set the hours and method of voting in accordance with the General Statutes. Such appropriation or resolution shall become effective only after it has been submitted to a "yes" or "no" vote by the persons qualified to vote in such meeting or election. At the closing of the polls of the regular election or at the closing of the polls at the adjourned Town meeting, it shall be the duty of the moderator to cause the vote to be counted, and such resolution or appropriation mentioned in the immediately preceding sentence shall, if approved by a majority of those voting thereon, be deemed a vote of the Town meeting.
- (f) Any other item or items, with the exception of the annual budget, on the call of any town meeting may, if the Town Council may deem it advisable, be submitted to a vote on the voting machines in the same manner as aforesaid and, if approved by a majority of those voting thereon, shall be deemed to be a vote of the town meeting.

Section 9-4. Petition for overrule of action of council.

All ordinances, shall be subject to overrule by a special town meeting as follows: If within twenty (20) days after the publication of any such ordinance, a petition conforming to the requirements of the General Statutes and signed by not less than three percent (3%) of the voters of the Town, as determined from the latest official lists of the registrars of voters, is filed with the town clerk requesting its reference to a special town meeting, the effective date of such ordinance shall be suspended and the Town Council shall fix the time and the place of such meeting, which shall be within twenty (20) days after the filing of the petition, and notice thereof shall be given in the manner provided by law for the calling of a special town meeting. An ordinance so referred shall take effect upon

the conclusion of such meeting unless at least one hundred (100) voters constituting a majority of those voting thereon, shall have voted in favor of overruling.

Section 9-5. Petition for enactment of ordinances.

- (a) Subject to the provisions of the Charter not less than three percent (3%) of the voters of the Town, as determined from the latest official lists, may at any time petition over their personal signatures for the enactment of any proposed lawful ordinance by filing such petition, including the complete text of such ordinance, with the town clerk. The Town Council shall call a special town meeting, to be held within thirty (30) days from the date of such filing, unless prior to such meeting such ordinance shall be enacted by the Town Council. The call for such meeting shall state the proposed ordinance in full and shall provide for a "yes" or "no" vote as to its enactment. If a majority of the persons entitled to vote, voting at such meeting, shall vote "yes," then such ordinance shall take effect on the tenth (10th) day thereafter without further action of the Town Council.
- (b) Any such proposed ordinance shall be examined by the town attorney before being submitted to the special town meeting. The town attorney is authorized to correct the form of such ordinance for the purpose of avoiding repetitions, illegalities and unconstitutional provisions, and to ensure accuracy in its text and references and clearness and preciseness in its phraseology, but not materially changing its meaning and effect.

CHAPTER X. [MISCELLANEOUS]

Section 10-1. Transfer of records and property.

All records, property and equipment whatsoever of any office, agency, board or commission or part thereof, all the powers and duties of which are assigned to any other office, agency, board or commission by this Charter, shall be transferred and delivered intact to the office, agency, board or commission to which such powers and duties are so assigned. If part of the powers and duties of any office, agency, board or commission or part thereof are by this Charter assigned to another office, agency, board or commission, all records, property and equipment relating exclusively thereto shall be transferred and delivered intact to the office, agency, board or commission to which the powers and duties are so assigned.

Section 10-2. Legal proceedings.

No action or proceeding, civil or criminal, pending on the effective date of this Charter [November 4, 1969] brought by or against the Town or any office, agency, board or commission thereof, shall be affected or abated by the adoption of this Charter or by anything herein contained; but all such actions or proceedings may be continued notwithstanding that functions, powers and duties of any office, agency, board or commission party thereto may be or under this Charter be assigned or transferred to another office, agency, board or commission, but in that event the same may be prosecuted or defended by the head of the office, agency, board or commission to which such functions, powers and duties have been assigned or transferred by or under this Charter.

Section 10-3. Financial interest prohibited.

No holder of elective or appointive office shall derive, by reason of holding such office any direct financial benefit as the result of any contract with the Town or board of education or any sale to the Town or said board of education of any materials, supplies or services.

Section 10-4. Removals.

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, any appointive officer or appointive member of a board or commission may be removed for just cause by the authority which appointed ~~him~~~~them~~, provided ~~he~~~~they~~ shall first be given notice in writing of ~~his~~~~their~~ removal. Said officer or board or commission member shall upon written request to the appointing authority within ten (10) days from the date of receipt of ~~his~~~~their~~ removal notice, be immediately given notice in writing of the specific grounds of removal. Thereafter, if requested (either in the request for specific grounds or in a subsequent request submitted to the appointing authority within five (5) days from receipt of such specific grounds) said officer, or board or commission member shall be given written notice from the appointing authority setting forth the time and place of an opportunity to be heard in ~~his~~~~their~~ own defense, personally and/or by counsel, at a public hearing before the appointing authority, to be held not less than five (5) nor more than twenty (20) days after receipt of such request for hearing. With the exception of the initial notice of removal, the Town Council shall act for and in the place of the Town Manager as to each and every request, notice and hearing provided for hereunder.
- (b) No employee of the board of education, below the rank of superintendent or supervising agent, who holds a regular certificate of qualification issued by the state board of education shall be removed except in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut as the same may be amended.

Section 10-5. Incumbents.

The incumbents of offices which require a competitive examination for appointment may be continued in office without examination upon the effective date of this Charter [November 4, 1969].

Section 10-6. Existing laws and ordinances.

All general laws of the State of Connecticut applicable to the Town and all ordinances and regulations of the Town shall continue in full force and effect, except insofar as they are inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter. All special acts or parts thereof relating to the Town of Coventry which are inconsistent with this Charter are repealed.

Section 10-7. Amendment of Charter.

This Charter may be amended in the manner prescribed by law. The Coventry Town Council shall establish a Charter Revision Commission to review this Charter in the manner prescribed by law no more than ten (10) years from the expiration of the last such commission.

Section 10-8. Saving clause.

If any section or part of any section of this Charter shall be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the remainder of this Charter nor the context in which said section or part thereof so held invalid may appear, except to the extent that an entire section or part of a section may be inseparably connected in meaning and effect with the section or part of a section to which such holding shall directly apply. All references to he or she (his/her) throughout this Charter shall be understood to apply equally to both genders.

Section 10-9. Effective date.

This Charter shall become effective on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November, 1969; November 4, 1969. Amendments to the Charter shall become effective upon passage.

Commented [AT20]: Revisit: Clarity may be needed based on changes, especially as it pertains to offices and elections

(EXTERNAL MESSAGE)RE: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE) Charter Revision Questions

From Richard P. Roberts <ROBERTS@halloransage.com>
Date Tue 1/6/2026 2:48 PM
To Alex Taylor <ataylor@coventry-ct.gov>
Cc James Drumm <jdrumm@coventry-ct.gov>

Alex –

Running through the offices listed in Section 5-1, I would say the town would have to have someone appointed to fill the position of town clerk, tax collector, assessor, building official, animal control officer, tree warden, chief of police, fire marshal, and treasurer. Statutes may allow some or all of the other positions to be held by an individual with a different role or title. For example, director of civil defense is an obsolete term and is probably generally referred to as the director of emergency services or something like that, and may also be the fire marshal. Human services administrator may be the agent for the elderly or director of social services or some other position. Towns would also need someone to be the building inspector, although they may be shared with other towns. Constables are not required for law enforcement if you have sworn police officers or others who are able to carry out those functions, other than serving delinquent tax warrants.

Please let me know if you have any other questions. Thanks very much.

Rich

From: Alex Taylor <ataylor@coventry-ct.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 5, 2026 10:39 PM
To: Richard P. Roberts <ROBERTS@halloransage.com>
Cc: James Drumm <jdrumm@coventry-ct.gov>
Subject: Re: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)RE: Charter Revision Questions

Rich,
Thank you so much for the response. In reviewing the footage from the previous meeting, I wanted to ask a follow-up question. **Even though positions may not be required to be included in the charter by statute, which positions listed here are required to be filled in a municipality by statute?** As in, though it is not required for a Town Clerk to be listed in the charter, my understanding is every municipality must have a Town Clerk. Would it be possible to clarify which of the positions currently listed in the charter are required by statute in this way? Thank you so much for your time and assistance!

Sincerely,
Alexander Taylor
Special Projects Coordinator, Coventry, CT
ataylor@coventry-ct.gov
(860) 742-6324 Ext. 1256

From: Richard P. Roberts <ROBERTS@halloransage.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 4, 2026 1:25 PM
To: Alex Taylor <ataylor@coventry-ct.gov>
Cc: James Drumm <jdrumm@coventry-ct.gov>
Subject: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)RE: Charter Revision Questions

Good afternoon - I have answered the questions below in bold. Please let me know if you or the Commission have any additional questions or concerns. Thanks very much.

Rich

From: Alex Taylor <ataylor@coventry-ct.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 31, 2025 3:38 PM
To: Richard P. Roberts <ROBERTS@halloransage.com>
Cc: James Drumm <jdrumm@coventry-ct.gov>
Subject: Re: Charter Revision Questions

Rich,
Hello! I wanted to send over a few questions from the most recent Charter Revision Commission meeting. I was hoping to get a response for by next Monday if possible. They are all related to Chapter 5:

- Chapter 5 lists a series of offices as well as rules around their appointment. There is an interest in reducing or consolidating these positions. Are there certain roles which need to be in the charter? Of the ones currently listed, which ones could be removed without issue? **The only specific office that must be in the charter is the town manager. Otherwise, the offices listed may be required by ordinance, statute or simply by appointment.**

- Currently, multiple positions require the Town Council to approve the appointments of the Town Manager. Is this, or any other similar process, required by statute? **No, this is a policy choice for the town to make. It is common for certain appointments, such as town clerk, fire chief and police chief, to either be approved by or consented to by the town council.**
- Are there any aspects of this section which may warrant updates in light of changes to statute from when last the Charter was revised? **The changes proposed in the previous charter revision are definitely worth consideration. Certain positions have had their names changed, e.g., civil defense and canine control, and others may have been transformed into regional agencies, e.g., director of health, and the dissolution of the Windham Regional Planning Agency.**
- Do you have any other recommendations for this section in line with best practices? **Again, I believe many of the changes proposed in the previous charter revision would be improvements over what currently exists. I am also curious whether the competitive examination process is still being used and whether it serves a valuable purpose in positions where independent certification by the state or other agency may exist in addition to whatever examination the town may use.**

Thank you so much for your time. I hope you and yours have a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
 Alexander Taylor
 Special Projects Coordinator, Coventry, CT
ataylor@coventry-ct.gov
 (860) 742-6324 Ext. 1256