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CHAPTER III. THE TOWN COUNCIL

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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.