

Lynn Bielawiec

From: Lynn Bielawiec
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 9:13 AM
To: Lynn Bielawiec
Subject: FW: Town Charter Draft 1 Final 3-20-18 (3)

From: Steve Werbner
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 3:51 PM
To: Lisa Hancock; Michael Wilkinson
Cc: Steve Werbner
Subject: RE: Town Charter Draft 1 Final 3-20-18 (3)

Also in Section C3-2 where it talks about volunteers being able to be on BOE it references the Town Council and not the Board of Education.

From: Steve Werbner
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 3:38 PM
To: Lisa Hancock; Michael Wilkinson
Cc: Steve Werbner
Subject: RE: Town Charter Draft 1 Final 3-20-18 (3)

Lisa, Mike, I know it is somewhat late in the process but I have some comments on the draft Town Charter Commission report that I would ask you share with the Commission Chairs.

Section C2-5 - the concept of ensuring that volunteers can sit on town boards and commission, Council and BOE appears throughout. The term Volunteer is not defined and if included should be. Does this include volunteer firefighters who do receive compensation from the Town? What if you are a volunteer out of town, does that qualify? Why is this language needed throughout, what issue prompted this concern?

Section C3-1 and 2. I understand the concept of staggered terms. I think to get staggered terms initially the terms should be 2 at two years, two at three years and three at four years with all terms thereafter reverting to two years. I think to ask people to serve for four years is too long of a commitment.

Section C3-3 The appointment of the Zoning Enforcement Officer by the P&Z Commission should be upon the recommendation of the Town Manager in accordance with the Town's Personnel Policies.

Section C4-3 We don't keep a journal of Council proceedings. I assume this is referring to minutes which are maintained by the Town Clerk and are signed by the Council Chair or his designee.

Section C4-5 The last sentence of the section should be taken out pertaining to straw polls. This is not done in most cases and normally there is not enough of a sample size to be meaningful in terms of guidance to the Council.

Section C6-1 The compensation of the Manager is not changed by the Council by vote one month prior to the start of the fiscal year. Compensation changes have occurred following a performance review process that usually occurs in the fall of each year retroactive to the beginning of the fiscal year.

Section C7-3 This section should be removed. The Council is not involved in the selection process for these employees and hires a Manager to carry out this responsibility.

Section C9-1 This section is not worded correctly. I would suggest the following for the second sentence: Should there be a change in the dates of the fiscal year the Council by resolution shall revise the dates in this Chapter as they pertain to the preparation and adoption of the budget.

Section C9-4 I would suggest the wording regarding postponing the budget process which is in the last sentence be changed as follows: The Town Council upon recommendation from the Town Manager may postpone the budget and referendum process provided that at the appropriate time in the future the Council shall revise dates within this Charter Section to ensure that all required budget and referendum processes are adhered to on a yearly basis.

Section C9-10 Take out change in first paragraph related to postponing the budget process as it is duplicative.

While I know the entire referendum process is controversial and no change was recommended I think there should be some thought to a threshold upon which a referendum would not be necessary and the Council can set a budget after a public hearing . My thought would be any request for an increase in the mill rate of .5% or less and /or any increase in Town and BOE expenditures combined which is less than 1%. This would be similar to where you don't need a referendum for a minimum threshold for borrowing or for the sale of property under a certain value.