

Charter Review Commission – Town Clerk Suggestions

§ C2-4. Vacancies.

Unless otherwise required by General Statutes any vacancy in an elective town office, for whatever cause arising, shall be filled by appointment by the Council for the unexpired portion of the term ~~or until the next biennial election, whichever is sooner~~. The Council shall fill by appointment a vacancy in any elective office within sixty (60) days from the time that the office becomes vacant. If a person vacating an elective office was elected as a member of a political party, the vacancy shall be filled by a member of the same party. ~~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 by appointment, as provided herein, and subsequently by the election of a person to fill that office for the remaining portion of the term. Such person shall take office the first day following that election.~~

§ C4-2. Organizational meeting.

The organizational meeting shall be held ~~on the day following the election~~. The meeting shall be called to order by the Town Clerk, who shall administer the oath of office to all members, provided that in the absence of the Town Clerk, the meeting may be called to order and the oath administered by any citizen of Tolland who is authorized by law to administer oaths. The Council shall proceed to elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson, but such office shall not deprive such Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of his or her vote on any question. The Chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the Council and perform such other duties consistent with the Chairperson’s office as may be imposed by the Council. The Chairperson shall be recognized as the official head of the Town for all ceremonial purposes. During the Chairperson’s absence or disability, the duties shall be performed by the Vice Chairperson.

§ C3-5. Powers.

All of the officers and boards provided for in Chapter III shall have the powers and duties respectively described for them by the General Statutes and by this Charter. All persons elected at the municipal election shall take office ~~on the day following their election~~.

§ C5-1. Appointments.

The Council shall appoint, whether for full terms or to fill vacancies, the members of all boards, commissions and offices authorized by Chapter V of this Charter and those others deemed necessary by the Council. ~~This shall be done by resolution at a meeting to be held not later than two (2) months after the municipal election or as the Council deems necessary. Interim appointments shall be made within two (2) months of the vacancy.~~

§ C5-2. Terms.

The terms of appointment to any appointive board, commission or office shall not exceed four (4) years unless specified by this Charter or by ordinance. ~~Despite the expiration of a term, the holder of an appointive position shall continue to hold office until a successor has been appointed and qualified.~~

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Comment [SB1]: The possibility of partial terms being on the ballot currently exists only for the 4-yr terms on P&Z and ZBA. If the commission decides to extend and stagger Council and BOE terms, we could potentially have multiple partial terms on the ballot which is confusing for the voters as well as difficult to fill for the Town Committees.

Comment [SB2]: Consider extending effective date of terms and therefore the date of the organizational meeting to accommodate the possibility of having to perform a close-vote recount. When having to complete a recount, the entire board is subject to the recount, not just the two offices that were close. No winners can be announced.

Comment [SB3]: See note above. Some nearby towns have effective dates well past the day after the election. Ellington is effective in December, Willington the 2nd Tuesday following the election, others in January. The Code of Ethics Ordinance requires each member complete their Financial Disclosure Statement prior to being eligible to be sworn in which can be difficult to obtain the day after the election.

Comment [SB4]: The meaning of this is confusing when compared to current practices. Interim appointments are not currently being made.

Comment [SB5]: Remove or add a time limit or qualification. It’s difficult to remove a member who is not responding regarding their re-appointment.