

Chapter IV. The Mayor

Sec. 4.1 Election and Qualification.

At each town election a Mayor shall be chosen by the electors of the town. Such Mayor shall serve for a term of two years and until a successor shall be elected and qualified and shall take office on the first Monday following the town election. The Mayor shall be the chief executive officer of the town and shall receive such compensation as shall by ordinance be fixed by the Town Council.

Sec. 4.2 Duties.

(a) The Mayor shall be directly responsible for the administration of all departments, agencies, and offices in charge of persons or boards appointed by him or her and shall supervise and direct the same. The Mayor shall also be the Director of Emergency Management.

(b) The Mayor shall devote full time to the duties of the office. The Mayor shall hold no other office of profit under the government of the town, nor shall he or she during the term for which he or she is elected be appointed to any office of profit under the government of the town.

(c) The Mayor shall see that all laws and ordinances governing the town are faithfully executed; shall make periodic reports to the Town Council and may attend its meetings; shall prepare and cause to be printed, as soon as possible after the close of the fiscal year an annual town report; shall recommend to the Council such measures as he or she may deem necessary or expedient; shall keep the Council fully advised as to the financial condition of the town; shall prepare and submit to the Council an annual budget as provided in Chapter VI of this Charter; and shall exercise such other powers and duties as may be authorized by ordinance or resolution of the Council not inconsistent with this Charter.

(d) The Mayor shall have the power to enquire directly, or through a designated agent, into the activities of any organization spending town funds and to require complete disclosure of information, with persistent resistance to such request being grounds for dismissal.

(e) The Council shall not diminish by ordinance, vote or otherwise the powers and duties of the Mayor, except those powers and duties imposed on him or her by the Council.

(f) The Mayor may at his or her option become a contributing member of the town retirement system.

Sec. 4.3 Appointments and Terms.

(a) The Mayor shall appoint and may remove all department heads and other officers and employees of the town, except as otherwise specifically provided by this Charter and except employees in the offices of elected officers or boards. The terms of such appointees shall terminate on the same date as the term of the Mayor except such appointees may continue to serve until their successors are appointed and qualified, and except that the terms of board and commission members shall be those provided by statute or ordinance.

(b) The Chiefs of the Police and Fire Departments shall be in the classified service and shall be appointed and serve under the merit system.

(c) In lieu of any appointment by the Mayor or any of his or her appointees to any office under his or her jurisdiction the Mayor may, subject to the approval of the Council, perform the duties of any office under his or her jurisdiction, except those of the Town Treasurer, provided in case the Town Treasurer is absent or unable to act, the Mayor may countersign checks in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VI, Section 8 of this Charter.

(d) The Mayor shall appoint, with the consent of the Council, the members of the Board of Tax Review, the Town Planning and Zoning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals at such times and for such terms as are prescribed in the statutes, this Charter, or ordinances. The Mayor shall in like manner appoint members of other commissions, committees, and boards created by the Council to administer programs or parts of programs and appoint individuals to represent the town on regional bodies.

(e) The Mayor may terminate any of these appointments made with consent of Council for persistent nonattendance at meetings. The Mayor may propose the termination of any of these appointments for cause and the termination shall be effective if a vote of Council upholds the sufficiency of the cause.

(f) The Mayor may appoint citizen advisory or study committees to serve for the purposes and periods he or she determines.

(g) The power to remove an officer or employee shall include, wherever it appears in this Charter, the power to suspend, either pending investigation or as a disciplinary penalty under the applicable standards.

