

**TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS
TO THE EAST HARTFORD CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
May 16, 2022**

The East Hartford Charter Revision Commission has made significant, substantive recommendations for changes to the East Hartford Town Charter which will facilitate the efficient operation of town government. The Town Council urges the Commission members to consider the attached minor and technical changes to provide clarity and uniformity of charter language.

These changes are summarized, by chapter below:

Chapter III.

Section 3.1 The charter references ‘office of profit under the government’. The question of what that term means has occurred over the past few years without a lot of clarity. The meaning seems to be a position for which the person is compensated. To avoid future questions, the proposed change no longer used the term office of profit and instead uses “town government elected or appointed position for which such person is compensated”

Section 3.2 The charter sets the first meeting of a newly elected town council as the first Monday after the town election which in some years is Veterans’ Day. By practice, the meeting is pushed to the next day. This change codifies that practice and eliminates any question about whether to meet on a national and state holiday but providing when the Monday is a holiday, the first meeting will be on the succeeding Tuesday.

Section 3.2(c) Eliminates the use of pronouns and uses the position’s name

Section 3.4(g) Clarifies that the Town Council sets fees charged for use of or access to town property. The issue had previously come up regarding charges for private companies to provide fax services to the public in the library.

Section 3.5 Eliminates the parentheses as use of such does not occur in state or municipal statutes

Section 3.10 Eliminates the use of pronouns and uses the position’s name

Chapter IV

Section 4.2 Addresses the same ‘office of profit’ issue as in section 3.1 and eliminates the use of pronouns and uses the position’s name. Makes the first two sentences of (a) a separate subsection for clarity and renumbers the subsequent sections

Section 4.2(c) Changes ‘enquire’ to ‘inquire’

Section 4.3(c) Makes uniform the references to charter sections as “Section xx of the Charter” and corrects the reference from section 6.8 to section 6.9 as section 6.8 has nothing to do with checks being countersigned.

Section 4.3 (e) Working with the mayor several years ago, the Town Council set up a process in ordinance for removing board or commission members especially for non-attendance. This change aligns the charter language with the ordinance process which includes automatic removal if there is a failure to attend one third or more of the meetings.

Chapter V

Section 5.1 Eliminates the use of pronouns and uses the position’s name

Section 5.2 Eliminates ‘at his or her option’ since the language already states that the Town Clerk ‘may’

Section 5.3 Eliminates the use of pronouns and uses the position’s name and eliminates ‘at his or her option’ because the language already states the Town Treasurer ‘may’.

Section 5.4 Makes uniform the reference to ‘Council’. Clarifies that any change in departments is subject to approval by the Council rather than ‘shall be approved’ which makes it sound like the Council has no other option.

Section 5.6 (a) Makes uniform the references to charter sections and eliminates the use of pronouns

Section 5.6 (c) Eliminates the use of pronouns and uses the position’s name

Section 5.7 Eliminates the use of pronouns and uses the position’s name and splits up the Director’s program authority into three subdivisions for clarity.

Section 5.8 The provision allows the Public Works Department to provide services to the board of education provided the costs are assessed to the board. Over the years, the town and the board have provided various services to each other with assessing the actual cost to the other. This amendment provides for assessment of costs if the Town Council requires it which will align with current practice.

Section 5.9 Makes uniform the references to charter sections

Section 5.11 Makes uniform the references to charter sections

Section 5.13 Makes uniform the references to charter sections and eliminates the use of pronouns

Section 5.14 Eliminates the use of pronouns and uses the department reference

Section 5.17 Eliminates the use of pronouns and uses the position's name and eliminates 'town' in front of 'council'.

Section 5.19 Eliminates the use of pronouns and uses the position's name.

Section 5.21 Eliminates the use of pronouns and uses the position's name.

Section 5.22 Eliminates the use of pronouns and uses the position's name.

Section 5.25 Eliminates 'and/or' which is not a term used in statutory language.

Section 5.27 Eliminates the use of pronouns and uses 'such person'.

Chapter VI

Section 6.2 Eliminates the use of pronouns and uses the position's name.

Section 6.3 Makes uniform the references to charter sections

Section 6.4 Makes uniform the references to charter sections

Section 6.4(d) Clarifies the mayor's veto or reduction of budget items is effective unless overridden by the Council. The language currently says approval or disapproval by the mayor.

Section 6.5 (a) and (b) Eliminates 'town' in front of 'council'

Section 6.5 (d) Eliminates the use of pronouns

Section 6.7 Changes reference to chairman to chairperson

Section 6.9(b) Eliminates the use of pronouns and uses the position's name

Section 6.9(c) Adds commas to separate "and the manner in which" for clarity.

Section 6.9(d) changes "examine into the matter" to 'examine the matter'

Chapter VII

Section 7.1 Makes uniform the references to charter sections

Section 7.2 Aligns the language of this section with the changes to section 5.26 where compensation includes vacation time, sick leave and other leaves of absence. Section 5.26 requires Town Council approval. The personnel rules in section 7.2 do not. It has been

understood that any compensation for any town government employee would be in accordance with a systemic pay plan approved by the Town Council.

Chapter VIII

Section 8.2 Makes uniform the reference to charter sections, eliminates “town” before “council”

Section 8.3 Makes uniform the reference to charter sections and makes the correct section reference regarding the adoption of ordinance provisions. Eliminates “town” before “council” in several references.

Section 8.4 Makes uniform the reference to charter sections and makes the correction section reference regarding the referendum petition form.