

Issues Tracking Chart – Hamden Charter Revision Commission

Substantial Due Diligence

Research and Report

Relevance Discussion

Upcoming Deliverables

3/31/2021	Chief Operating Officer; Mayor’s Term and Legislative Council Term
4/6/2021	(1) Commissions; (2) Preamble; (3) Board of Education; (4) Charter Grid Revisit; (5) LC Procedures Background Documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language from Counsel re – appointing authority guidance on demographic composition of boards and commissions (§7-1); • Comparative Chart re – Composition of Municipal Legislative Bodies (Charter §3-3.E); • Comparative Chart: composition and size of Civil Service Commissions (§7-2.A(2)); • Opinion from Counsel re – term limits for board and commission members (§7-1); • Opinion from Counsel on statutory restrictions on service on Civil Service Commission (consult with Town Attorney); • Talk with Town Attorney re – composition of Board of Assessment Appeals <u>and other boards and commissions</u> (§7-5. A (2)). • Diversity Commission
4/14/2021	Police and Fire Commissions and Civilian Review Background Documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opinion from Commission Counsel re – CPRB; and, • Counsel to review current subpoena authority of the Police Commission (§7-2.C)
4/28/2021	Police and Fire Commissions and Civilian Review
5/4/2021	Open
5/12/2021	Public Hearing
5/18/2021	Final Vote on Charter
No Date	Comparative Chart of Elected and Appointed Municipal Clerks (Charter §3-3.A(1))
No Date	Comparative Chart addressing Mayoral Vacancies (Charter §3-5.A)
No Date	Comparative Chart of Municipal Purchasing provisions addressing contract bidding and oversight and no bid contracts (§8-4.D).

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Chapter VII - Boards and Commissions

- **Boards and Commissions:** Boards and Commissions Subcommittee review
 - New sections under 7-1 for ALL commissions
 - something to reflect racial, ethnic, geographic and socio-economic diversity of members
 - Maybe under a transparency heading:
 - require that all commissions have regular meetings
 - require that all commissions have a Town email address that can accept public comment
 - require that all commissions have time for oral public comment (maybe quarterly??)
 - allow for/require virtual meeting or hybrid capacity
 - Set term limits
 - 7-1C Vacancy: The recommendation is that there should be a time limit on vacancies. If the Mayor does not fill a vacancy within 90 days and/or the LC doesn't approve the vacancy within 3 meetings, the chair of the commission can fill the vacancy, within the parameters of the commission by-laws.
 - 7-1K Publication - add electronic posting requirement. We didn't talk about this, but I'd advocate for semi-annual posting, not just November.
 - Civil Service - increase membership to five with one alternate (see, below)
 - Library (see, below) - increase membership to nine with district diversity (and check on whether statute allows it to be a "governing" body with authority to hire/fire Library Director)
 - Ethics: add Administrator?
 - Inland/Wetlands: add an alternate (see, below)

The sub-committee is looking at existing commissions to see if anything we are doing in creating new commissions is overlap, and looking to see if there are opportunities for consolidation.

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Legal Issues/Comment/ Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Charter §7-1.E – Dual Appointments:</u> What is the status of regional board appointments¹? 	
Legal Issues/Comment/ Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Attorney/Commission Counsel will review legal issues (11/10/2020).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Charter §7-1.I – Restrictions on Civil Service and Ethics Appointment²:</u> 	
Legal Issues/Comment/ Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission to review restrictions (11/10/2020).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Charter §7-1: Qualifications for Boards and Commissions³:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissions should be made up of people who have some experience in the area they are serving. The Legislative Council should be responsible for overseeing that such nominated persons are appropriate for the job they are being asked to do. 	
Legal Issues/Comment/ Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission to review across the board standards (11/10/2020).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Charter §7-1: Regularly Scheduled Meetings of Boards and Commissions⁴:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissions should be required to meet regularly at least 10 months out of the year. For some reason, the Police Commission did not meet for several months this year (while other commissions met regularly). 	

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- This severely limits the public's access to the commission and to raising issues of public concern.

- **Charter §7-1: Mandate Regular Meetings of Commissions**⁵.
- **Charter §7-1: Attendance and Regular Meeting Requirements**⁶. Boards and Commissions- should have attendance requirements and meetings should be held 10 months per year.
- **New: Consideration of remote and hybrid meeting protocols, including robust platforms to protect security to treat in-person (oral) and remote testimony equally**⁷.
- **New: Departments and Commissions should have a department and commission town email address**⁸.

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Actions**

- Regular monthly meetings/sufficient cancellation notice/public petition (11/10/2020).

- **Charter §7-1: Public Input**⁹. Ensure public input, oral and written, in all matters

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action**

- See, Legislative Council provisions, above.

- **Charter §7-1**¹⁰: Term limits for Board and Commission Members.

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action**

- Counsel to review authority for term limits.

- **Charter §7-1: Inclusivity**¹¹. The Town and its officials should "...be demographically proportionate to its population, which is how inclusivity on the part of municipalities is generally defined.... the Mayor's Office, the Legislative Council, the Board of Education and

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other town Commissions should represent, in its population make-up, our town’s demographics--namely, gender, race, age, income status, neighborhood, and/or political affiliation.” Charter only mentions political affiliation...” inclusivity equals representation of the actual demographics makeup of our town’s population (i.e. proportional representation):”

- Including an addendum that clearly delineates the town’s demographics, with advisement to update and consult this addendum in all future Charter revisions.
- Replacing any language that spells out “political party” requirements or restrictions with comprehensive demographic requirements or restrictions; namely, the inclusion of race, gender, age, income, etc. as criteria for both elected and appointed governing persons. (Chapters III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, and IX.).

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action**

- Counsel to research issue of language to guide appointing authority to consider a range of demographic factors in the appointment of board and commission members

- **Charter 7-2.B (See, §3-9, above) – Board of Ethics¹² and Board of Ethics Authority to recommend Recusals for Legislative Council Members¹³.**

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Actions**

- **December 9, 2020 (30 Minutes):** Discussion with **TOWN ATTORNEY. ETHICS CHAIR AND COMMISSION COUNSEL** (11/10/2020).

- **Charter §7-2.A (2) – Membership of Civil Service Commission:** Three appointees are too few¹⁴. Civil Service-increase by 2 members. 3 members are not sufficient. Establish fair hiring practices and determine what constitutes conflicts of interest in hiring¹⁵.

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action**

- Comparability Chart on composition/size of Civil Service Commissions
- Counsel to review statutory restrictions on service

- **Charter §7-5.A – Board of Assessment Appeals¹⁶:** There should be expanded membership.

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Legal Issues/Comment/ Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk with Town Attorney re – composition of Board of Assessment Appeals <u>and other boards and commissions.</u> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charter §7-5.I – Library Board¹⁷: The membership should be expanded to nine (9) members to bring the board “into compliance bawd on the Connecticut Statutes for Public Libraries which states that a public library board should have nine (9) members.” 		
Legal Issues/Comment/ Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This can be accomplished without reference to the applicability of C.G.S. §11-33 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charter §7-5.I – Inland Wetlands Commission¹⁸: Assistant Town Attorney Lee seeks alternate members for the Commission to assist with quorum issues and permit the creation of a bench of trained members. 		
Legal Issues/Comment/ Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charter §7-5. L – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission: Further debate and discussion. 		
Legal Issues/Comment/ Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEW IDEA: New Haven has the community as part of their economic development and I think that Hamden, should create a team which includes residents, planning and zoning and economic development. People should be encouraged to be involved in their community and be part of the decisions made. Elective officials come and go but your residents stay and they are the ones that are impacted. People working together and transparency is what is needed¹⁹. • NEW IDEA II: “After reading in the New Haven Register Forum the article written by Ann Altman I have decided this may be the only opportunity to voice one taxpayers’ comments. First of all, we definitely need new leadership in the town. I have nothing against the 		

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current mayor however he has no backbone and I don't honestly think he cares about the citizens of Hamden. We are the only Town in the State whose Town Hall is not open due to COVID, you call and are consistently re-routed only to get voice mail that's not returned.... We have a Mayor, Town Council, etc that do NOTHING to get new business in the town to help alleviate the financial burden from the tax payers. We most certainly have empty space here in Hamden to have courted Ferraro's which would have brought much need income to the town. Unfortunately, \$1 Stores are not going to carry the load.... Crime is running rabid throughout the town. It doesn't make any difference whether you live in the southern part of town, West Woods or Mt Carmel when one goes out you're constantly looking over your shoulder and your eyes are scanning the area to make sure no one is approaching you. Shopping is a night mare no matter what time you go and you never see Hamden Police present. Stop and Shop does have security that is visible in the lot but I have never seen any security at the Plaza or the Mart no matter what time of day it is.... Hamden has to stop bleeding the tax payer for miss management starting with the Town Hall and down. Borrowing funds from one account and not having the resources to repay those funds is an abuse of power. The tax payers have no idea where the pension funds were spent but we sure have to replace those funds. The present administration is taxing us to the point that homes are on the market and people are leaving this town. I have lived here over 50 years and have been a home owner over 45 years and quite honestly I don't know how much longer I will be able to afford taxes here in town.... You as Members of the Charter Revision really need to take some serious time to review spending, funds allocated within the system and get us tax payers some answers to where all this money is going. And, please bring new business to town - we have no place to shop²⁰."

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action**

- I am not sure what this means or what model the writer is referring to in New Haven.

Chapter III - Elections and Elected Officials

• **Charter §3-3. A (1), §3-3.C (2) and §6-1– Status of Town Clerk**

- Town Clerk should be a classified civil service position²¹
- Town clerk should remain an elected position and not become an appointed position²².

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action**

- Vera Morrison Testimony
- **COMPARATIVE CHART** of Elected and Appointed Municipal Clerks (11/10/2020).

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- **Charter §3-3.C – Term of Office (NEW).** Four year term for Mayor and two year term for Legislative Council²³.
- **Charter §3-3. E – Election of At-Large Members of the Legislative Council:**
 - There should be more minority party members²⁴; or, there should not be an increase in minority party representation²⁵.
 - Nonpartisan election for Legislative Council²⁶.
 - Eliminate at-large council members; replace nine districts with five with three members each (15 members)²⁷.
 - “Electors shall vote for no more than four (4) At-Large candidates.” Proposal: Replace 4 with 6²⁸.
 - Reduce the number of districts in Hamden in order to reduce the disparity that continues to increase²⁹

Legal Issues/Comment/ Action

- Registrar of Voters Testimony re – impact of districts modifications
- **COMPARATIVE CHART** re – Composition of Municipal Legislative Bodies
- Panels of Municipal Officials representing different forms of government (11/10/2020).

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Preamble

Preamble: Charter should include language stating the “intent to value inclusivity” and “relying on general statutes to oversee our information dispensation efforts is neither just nor intentional³⁰.”

Legal Issues/Comment/ Actions

The Preamble was adopted by the last Charter Commission as an aspirational statement. The Commission will review in due course (11/10/2020). The Commission may consider heritage, equity, inclusivity and quality of life (originating with complaints regarding QU³¹) issues (11/24/2020).

Chapter I – Definitions

- **Charter §1-4.B:** Review the term “Capital Expenditures” with Bond Counsel and make certain that it works with the budget provisions of the Charter³².
- **Charter §1-4.O:** Review the word “vote” throughout the Charter to make certain there is consistent application; unless otherwise intended³³.
- **Charter §1-4.O:** Review the word “cast” as set forth in this section³⁴.
- **Charter §1-4.Q + V:** Review the term “Meeting (or Hearing) Notice” and “Public Notice” re – issue of “newspaper” publication³⁵.
- **Charter 1-4 (NEW)**³⁶: Adding a definition of “inclusivity” as our town defines it.
- **Charter 1-4 (NEW)**³⁷: There are a series of comments addressed under the guise of IT infrastructure³⁸ of Hamden as relates to communications³⁹, website access and interface, email correspondence⁴⁰ and participation in remote or hybrid public meetings⁴¹. While some of the issues are budgetary the Charter may include definitions of “Meetings” or “Public Participation” that could embrace these notions.

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**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action**

These issues will require a combination of word searches and some policy choices. Town Attorney and Commission Counsel will review and propose language revisions (11/10/2020).

Chapter II - Incorporation

Charter §2-2 - Incorporation: As the 11th largest municipality the time has come to call Hamden as city as opposed to a Town⁴².

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action**

- Requires a legal determination of the basis for the current classification;
- Review economic benefits of “city” versus “town” label with CCM, US Conference of Mayors or NLC (11/10/2020).

Chapter III - Elections and Elected Officials

- **Charter §3-3.F – Election of Board of Education:** Four Year Term⁴³.
- **NEW.** Make high profile positions part of the election process⁴⁴.

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action**

- No action at this time (11/10/2020).

- **Charter §3-5.A - Mayoral Vacancy and Succession:** Eliminate the Special Election. Currently the Council President succeeds Mayor for a period of time. There should be an option for the Council President to step aside and allow the Pro Tem to succeed as Mayor²². The Town Attorney agrees that revision along the lines proposed is necessary²³.

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**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action**

- **COMPARATIVE CHART** re – Mayoral Vacancies (11/10/2020).

- **Charter §3-5.B – Legislative Council and Town Clerk Vacancy:**

- Vacancies on the legislative council should be filled within 3 months⁴⁵. If the Legislative council has a vacancy it should be filled by a majority vote of the Town Committee for a person of the same political party or affiliation as that of the person who just vacated the office. *The Legislative Council should not vote to fill this vacancy*⁴⁶ (emphasis added by counsel).
- Vacancies shall be filled by a majority vote of the Town Committee for a person of the same political party or affiliation as that of the person who just vacated the office⁴⁷.

- **Charter §3-5.C – Board of Education**⁴⁸: Vacancies shall be filled by a majority vote of the Town Committee for a person of the same political party or affiliation as that of the person who just vacated the office.

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action**

- No action at this time (11/10/2020).

Chapter IV - Legislative Council

- **Charter §4-3.C - Public Comment:** Review this provision for greater clarity: there should be no excuse for finding a technological platform to ensure robust public comment and live oral participation⁴⁹.

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Actions**

- **Fine-tune language to ensure written comments are published as part of the public record.**
- **Consideration of remote and hybrid meeting protocols, including robust platforms to protect security to treat in-person (oral) and remote testimony equally (11/10/2020).**

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- **Charter §4-5.C – Increase or Decrease Budget:** Should include reference to Capital Expenditures and Budget⁵⁰?

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Actions**

- **COMPARATIVE CHART** on treatment of capital budgets and expenditures (11/10/2020).

- **Legislative Council Agenda Issue⁵¹:** Agenda items for Legislative Council meetings should be posted a week ahead of time or automatically tabled to give the public and Council members to time to consider the issues. Enforcement of this should be strict.
- **Legislative Council Oversight of Departments⁵²:** The Legislative Council should be charged with closely monitoring the work of each department with regular assessment.
- **Regular Financial Updates to Legislative Council⁵³:** A financial update should be presented at every Legislative Council meeting by the town Finance Director or the next in charge.

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Actions**

- Already a legislative function. Not clear what more should be done.
- **Note:** Language might be considered requiring the LC to conduct a public review of all required filed reports. Council must conduct public meetings on all reports.
- **Invite:** V. Horsley, Chair of Fiscal Stability Committee; or, Kristen Dolan, Chair of the Finance Committee (11/10/2020).

- **Habitual Absence/Attendance Requirements⁵⁴:** Legislative Council members should have attendance requirements.

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Actions**

- Addressed in removal proceedings. There should be a standard for elected officials
- A standard should be defined for appointed members of Boards and commission by Ordinance, which would subject a member to expulsion in the standard is not met (11/10/2020).

- **Notice Prior to Legislative Action:**

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- Legislative Council members should not be expected to vote on an item that is brought before them less than 48 hours before the vote is anticipated. It is Impossible to make knowledgeable decisions that affect the entire town without more time to adequately consider the request⁵⁵.
- Motions are always last minute and promise dire consequences if the LC doesn't pass this bond issue or that immediately. ...one heck of a way to "run a railroad"⁵⁶."

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action**

- Language should be developed requiring Council to follow rules as adopted (11/10/2020).

Chapter VI - Town Clerk

- See Charter Chapter III

Chapter VII - Police Commission, Civilian Review Board and Fire Commission

- **Charter §7-2.C – Restructuring of the Police Commission**⁵⁷: Police Commission Membership should be expanded to 9 members representative of each of the Council Districts
 - Qualifications should be established for members to assure broad representation and backgrounds.
 - CRB limited by the content of CRBs...an ordinance not a Charter issue.
- **Charter §7-2.C – Restructuring of the Police Commission**⁵⁸: Instead of 9 districts there should be three with three members each subject to minority party representation.
- **Charter §7-2.C – Police Commission**⁵⁹: Membership should be expanded.

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- **Create Civilian Review Board⁶⁰**, with subpoena powers as first line of discipline⁶¹

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action**

A Civilian Police Review Board (“CPRB”) may now be established by Ordinance pursuant to Sec. 17 of P.A. 20-1⁶². The following are the ordinance provisions permitted by statute:

- Scope of CPRB Authority [§17(a)(1)]⁶³;
- Number of CPRB members [§17(a)(2)];
- Process for the selection of CPRB members, whether elected or appointed [§17(a)(3)];
- Term of office for CPRB members [§17(a)(4)]; and
- Procedure for filling any CPRB vacancy [§17(a) (5)].

Subpoena Authority of CPRB to:

- Compel the attendance of witnesses before such board [§17(b)(1)]; and
- **Require** the production for examination of any books and papers that such board deems relevant to any matter under investigation or in question [§17(b) (2)].

Stay of CPRB Actions. Upon written request of the Office of Inspector General (“OIG”) [§17(d)] the CPRB “...shall stay and take no further action in connection with any proceeding that is the subject of an investigation or criminal prosecution that is being conducted pursuant to said section or section 51-277a of the general statutes.” The stay:

- Shall not exceed six months from the date on which the civilian police review board receives such written request from the Office of the Inspector General; and
- May be terminated sooner if the OIG provides written notification to the civilian police review board that a stay of proceedings is no longer required

- **Charter §7-2.D – Fire Commission⁶⁴**: Membership should be expanded in line with the Police Commission.

- **Charter §7-2.C and D⁶⁵**: Police and Fire Commissions should have staggered terms.

Legal Issues/Comment/

The Police and Fire Commission should be lodged with the responsibility for reviewing the respective collective

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Action

bargaining agreement in order to consider best practice revisions and also take into account budgetary constraints inherent in such agreements, including but not limited to overtime, minimum staffing and other requirements.

- **Charter §7-2.F and 8-7.A: Housing Patterns.** “One of those big things needs to be to take a look at policies and regulations related to housing patterns and revise those that provide road blocks to developing more integrated neighborhoods. Our schools must become more integrated, and if we are to provide some degree of neighborhood schools, it stands to reason that our neighborhoods must become more integrated. Otherwise, our schools will have no other choice but to integrate our schools outside the neighborhood’s attendance zone practice⁶⁶.”

Legal Issues/Comment/ Action

- Develop aspirational language that provides a foundation for action by regulatory boards, commissions and officials (11/24/2020).

- **Oversight Commissions.** Further there should be an oversight committee for police beyond the present Police Commission which is apparently more of a do-nothing "yes" club than any kind of oversight commission. Similarly for energy, Public Works etc. Oversight committees and commissions in general should be made up of people from every district none of whom hold any office nor have any upper echelon employment relationship with the Town. Nor should anyone serving on these commissions and committees have any business or employment relationship with the service under said committee or commission purvue (sic). In all cases, no one with ties to any utility or other service-to-the-Town company hold any position on the Legislative Council⁶⁷.

Legal Issues/Comment/ Action

- Further discussion required.

Chapter VIII - Departments and Department Heads

- **Transparency, Public Input, Openness and Budget Cooperation and Consolidation for all departments, including the Board and Department of Education:**

Legal Issues/Comment/ Actions

- Issue generated by the Commission⁶⁸ (11/10/2020).

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- **Charter §8-2:** Should consider permitting longer contracts for municipal employees⁶⁹.

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action**

- Further discussion with President McGarry

- **Charter §8-2:** New provisions governing the conduct of Department Heads, as follows:

- Department heads should report to the mayor and respond to requests and questions from the Legislative Council on a timely basis to allow informed decision making by the Council. This past year, department heads were instructed not to speak to LC members at a time when critical budgetary deliberations were transpiring and council members could not get needed information from the department heads⁷⁰.
- Department heads (or assistant) that have a direct interest in any item on the council agenda should be required to be available at the council meetings to answer questions that might arise in the meeting⁷¹.

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action**

- Duties of Mayor? Transparency and Accountability (11/24/2020).

- The Council regularly has questions at the council meetings that go unanswered because the department head or assistant is not available to answer their questions⁷².

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action**

- Further discussion with President McGarry

- All Department Heads should have required certifications in place prior to being hired⁷³.
- All Departments appointments should have a term and contract⁷⁴.

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action**

- Further discussion with President McGarry

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- **Charter §8-4.D:** New provisions governing the procurement and contract processes:
 - **Contract Bidding and Oversight⁷⁵:** Contract bidding requirements, vetting and letting that adhere to standard rules to ensure quality of deliverables and efficiency. Contracts should be reviewed regularly for effectiveness and competitiveness.
 - **No Bid Contracts⁷⁶:** No-bid contracts should be severely limited in order to deter abuse. Currently they are seen as a last minute need by the Administration, but the process is frequently abused. Establish rules when a no-bid contract can be used and establish consequences if it is abused.

- **Charter §8-6.A (d): The Tree Warden should be a licensed arborist⁷⁷. This may require further discussion regarding legal implications under MERA, based upon memo from Assistant Town Attorney⁷⁸.**

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action**

- Drafting Note: Review “best practices standard” as set forth §8-6.A(2)(b) (11/24/2020).

Chapter IX - Board of Education

NEW⁷⁹: I am sending this email in hopes that the Charter Revision Committee will consider making changes to the charter that allow for Hamden Public Schools to have the hiring power to hire school custodians, nurse and clerical staff instead of it being the responsibility of Hamden’s Civic Service Commission. By allowing the Hamden Public Schools its own authority to vet and hire individuals would dismantle all/any barriers that exist and allow for an equitable hiring practice. Andrea Lobo of the Civil Service Commission and Gary Highsmith - Hamden Public Schools HR Director are more than willing to further the discussion.

Legal Issues/Comment

Please note that the austerity issues set forth below may or should include a discussion of ways and means to consider administrative consolidations of services, such as procurement, personnel and finance.

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Potential Referrals to Legislative Council and Other Entities

- Re: violent crime, fear, residents struggling to pay property taxes, intimidation and destructive propaganda from the left wing radicals of Hamden, silence of Town government, ghost town (hundreds of homes for sale in Hamden)...Whether this Commission has the will or know how to address these issues in the middle of what I can only describe as Impending Civil War remains to be seen. I would like to offer my services⁸⁰.
- With all the complaints that have been voiced in Hamden regarding panhandling, is it possible to address this issue by writing in an ordinance that prohibits panhandling on public and private properties without the owner's permission? This would help alleviate the fear that shoppers and pedestrians have walking by these people. Hamden residents have been attacked and harassed by these panhandlers⁸¹.

Legal Issues/Comment

This matters may be more appropriate for the Legislative Council (11/24/2020).

- **Regulation of Student Rentals in Residential Neighborhoods⁸²:** Differential taxation for owners as may be true of shoreline properties.
- **Permits for Quinnipiac Rental Homes⁸³:** Cost too low, police regulations, required annual renewals, front lawn parking restrictions, neighborhood cap on student housing: (1) Regulate density of QU rental houses; (2) Charge higher fees and renewals to rental housing landlords; (3) Provide landlord name and contact info to neighbors; (4) Give more power to noise, blight and public nuisance ordinances; (5) Revoke permits from repeat offenders; and (6) Prohibit auto-renewal of rental permit when houses are sold.
- **QU Student Housing^{84 85} :** Charter should contain a three strike policy which would revoke student housing permits after three "legitimate" complaints.
- Increase the number of rental permits from \$300.00 to \$5,000.00 and renewal fee from \$150.00 to \$ 1,500.00⁸⁶.
- Concerns regarding QU students⁸⁷: (1) Increasing number of homes that have cars from parked on lawns and on the streets; (2) Traffic law violations...by these students. Running stop signs and traffic lights; (3) Our quiet community is changing and more residents are moving out and more students moving in. Not to mention litter is on the rise; and (4) Noise is also a concern with loud music and with parties that seem to occur without regard to the working class people in the neighborhood.

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- Increase the Planning and Zoning department to so they are better equipped to deal with issues such as Paradise Nursery and Quinnipiac rental properties⁸⁸.
- Another issue impacting the life's (sic) of Hamden residents is the QU student housing and being fair, including all landlords that rent their property in Hamden. Renters come and go but for the people that live in a neighborhood where property is rented but not kept up or the tenants have no regards for the neighbors, is a living nightmare. There should be clause when giving out permits for rentals that if there are three legitimate reports of noise, blight, illegal parking etc. and the landlord continues to allow it to occur without taking any action, then their permit should be revoke for a year and there should not be any property that is grandfathered. There are many landlords that do take care of there (sic) property and address issues that their tenants may be causing but for those landlords that don't and are only interested in making a profit are the ones that should be targeted⁸⁹.

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Actions**

Refer to Legislative Council and other planning and enforcement entities. Aspirational language pertaining to the “quality of life” may be considered in the Preamble.

Chapter V - The Mayor (Final Action 3/30/2021)

Chapter V - Mayor-Council versus Council Manager Form of Government and Chief Administrative Officer

- **Professional Town Management – Transition to Town Manager⁹⁰:** Hamden should move to professional rather than political leadership...a town manager form of government with a focus on expertise in finance, administration, budget making and contract management as required skills⁹¹.
 - The need for a fiscally responsible Town Manger to run Hamden⁹². “Please take strong actions to prioritize fiscal health above anything else, including changing from a mayorship to a town manager system⁹³.”
 - Establish a City Manager Governmental Structure⁹⁴

Issues Tracking Chart – Hamden Charter Revision Commission

Substantial Due Diligence

Research and Report

Relevance Discussion

- Seriously consider changing to a town manager form of government: Our town is in financial ruin and needs a highly trained and skilled professional with a dedicated, knowledgeable team to lead us out of this situation by addressing our serious management problems⁹⁵. Create a FARC like Waterbury⁹⁶ that avoids political interference⁹⁷.
- Town Manger would run a tighter ship than a Mayor⁹⁸.
- Make Hamden a Town Manger system of government. “Let’s have a professional running the town’s affairs professionally⁹⁹.”
- “We need a change to a town manager¹⁰⁰.”
- “Could we be worse off with a professional approach to our finances and managing our town” than the current form of government and “the history of cronyism, and mismanagement?” Hamden would be “better served by a different approach.... a Town Manager form of government. “Without change, Hamden will no longer exist¹⁰¹.”
- Hamden needs (1) “...a **professional who can make decisions to manage our budget without oweing (sic) their re-election to the unions and employees that put a Mayor in position**¹⁰²,” (2) “ someone with professional qualifications and skills to pull the town out of the financial quagmire it is in (and has been in for some time)¹⁰³; (3) “We need a qualified, experienced town manager to dispassionately evaluate our situation and implement common-sense, fiscally responsible solutions based on established best practices and professional standards. Someone who will devote all of their time to focusing on the best interests of the town and its taxpayers instead of re-election bids, personal and partisan conflicts, and other distractions¹⁰⁴”; and, (4) But why is it we think that someone with absolutely no management experience should be as capable to manage our municipal corporation with a \$200M+ annual budget? Up until now I thought the idea of a town manager would never fly because neither party would go for it. But given the terrible financial situation facing the town, all brought on by horrible decisions made by some of our former mayors, I plan to express my thoughts to the charter revision commission¹⁰⁵.”
- Strongly supports “a shift toward the town manager model (away from mayoral system)... (due to) mismanagement...profligate spending and ever-rising property taxes¹⁰⁶.”
- The only solution is to dissolve the position of mayor and to appoint a Town Manager, who is qualified and bold enough to begin to deal with the problem and who will be held to account for her or his performance¹⁰⁷.” We need a town manager who understands finance and is not a pawn of the political establishment here which has done nothing to improve Hamden. Please take this suggestion under serious consideration for the benefit of all our citizens¹⁰⁸.”
- Change from a mayoral system to a Town Manager system...due to the “town’s dire financial situation” which “requires professional, competent fiscal and administrative leadership...It would be an improvement if the town were managed by a qualified professional who that their job was dependent on performance, and whose appointment was not based on politics¹⁰⁹.”

Issues Tracking Chart – Hamden Charter Revision Commission

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- We write to support those town residents who are urging a change from the current mayoral system to a Town Manager system¹¹⁰. We strongly believe that that such a changed system would be in the long term interests and to the real benefit of all residents. However, strong safeguards must be included to ensure that the Town Manager role would not become politicized (sic), taking us out of the frying pan into the fire¹¹¹.”
- Favors Town Manager and “a worthy, collegial and intelligent leader...with the thoughtful, responsible qualities of Ned Lamont¹¹².”
- **A City Manager’s prime role is budget management and the Legislative Council can require this or fire the City Manager¹¹³**. “Legislative Council can’t fire the Mayor...can’t even discipline the Mayor¹¹⁴. For those of you who have watched over the last several years, the presentations to the LC by the Mayor and his staff, you will have heard how desperate Hamden is to borrow more money. The explanation is that we have to borrow or we will not have cash to pay our bills.” Most of all, we lack the expertise to run a complex town operation. We need a city manager form of government¹¹⁵.
- Have the Council hire a Town Manager for an initial five years. The candidate must have a proven track record in managing a multimillion dollar business and must possess relevant academic credentials (a genuine MBA, perhaps). A referendum toward the end of his/her contractual term will determine whether or not we return to a Mayor-Council form of town government.¹¹⁶.
- **Eliminate Strong Mayor Form of Government¹¹⁷**: We need a professional person in charge of the "business" of Hamden. Currently, we have been operating as if we are a mom and pop business with very little to no professional expertise at the mayoral/administrative level. Could we change the Charter to allow for the possibility of having a Town or City Manager¹¹⁸? Please consider eliminating the position of mayor in the Town Charter and consider a TOWN MANAGER, whose goal is to MANAGE the town of HAMDEN with fiscal stability¹¹⁹!” “We support a Town Manager as a fiscally responsible alternative to our present system as a beginning corrective change¹²⁰.”
- **“The mayor system we have with this mayor and others has been a disaster** for Hamden. Time to have someone hired who works on the job, and thinks of the best for the town¹²¹.”
- “...distressed with how **years of mismanagement by mayors of Hamden** have resulted in our beloved town being in serious financial straits...(revise the charter) to a Town Manager rather than a Mayor (sic) bring responsible for carrying out the directives of our Town Council¹²².”
- **Ideas for a New Hamden**: Council should supervise a town manager and consider outsource services provided to the Town, citing the example of Sandy Spring GA (pop. 100,000 +/-)¹²³.

Issues Tracking Chart – Hamden Charter Revision Commission

Substantial Due Diligence

Research and Report

Relevance Discussion

- City manager as an “answer to fiscal responsibility and putting management of cities and towns in professional, rather than political hands¹²⁴.”
 - More transparency and accountability with a town manager hired by the legislative council¹²⁵.
 - Support Ann Altman’s (1) “...take on the State of Hamden’s finances and remedies¹²⁶” and (2) her notion of town manager makes sense so that the can renegotiate “pensions and Medical insurance¹²⁷.” (3) My wife...and I would both like to see the Hamden mayoral system changed over to a town manager form of government. Ann Altman’s recent editorial in the New Haven Register clearly explained the advantages of that system and we are in full agreement with her¹²⁸.” (4) After reading Ann M. Altman's recent article in the New Haven Register my husband and I say, "Yes", "Yes", & "Yes" to changing to a town manager government. We have lived in Hamden for over 30 years. It used to be a nice place to live - houses weren't that expensive, the Hamden Plaza was close by for all of your shopping needs, and the services that the town provided were good. Now all of that has changed drastically. Crime is rampant, house prices are dropping, town services are being cut, taxes keep going up, and people are moving out of town at a quick pace. Something needs to be done now! Therefore, we as long-time citizens of Hamden give our utmost endorsement to our town changing to a town manager government¹²⁹.”
 - **Accountability for Hamden residence and the assertion of legislative authority:** “...vest all the Town’s political authority in the Legislative Council...We are in poor shape due to mismanagement by the current, and past, Mayors¹³⁰.” “I would like to offer my support for the idea of moving the town to a "town manager" style of government. A town manager, hired by the elected members of the Legislative Council, could provide financial stewardship based on professional qualifications, rather than political clout¹³¹.”
 - I recommend changing Hamden’s Charter to abolish the position of mayor and give the Legislative Council the authority to hire a Town Manager¹³².
 - I am all for replacing the Mayor's position with a Town Manager. Something is seriously wrong with a Town that doesn't even have a working voice message system for its government offices which have been closed to the public during the pandemic. Please put me on the list¹³³!
- **Long Term Planning and Sustained Strategic Planning:** “A process/organizational structure that supports long-term initiatives. While I’m not suggesting that a Town Manager would be the only way to help ensure a sustained strategic planning and implementation process, there is a need for stable and secured leadership and organizational structure that can work beyond the political ebbs and flows to get big things done¹³⁴.”

Issues Tracking Chart – Hamden Charter Revision Commission

Substantial Due Diligence

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Relevance Discussion

- **Fiduciary Responsibilities and Incentives.**

- I would like to see the mayor, a town manager and most importantly, the Legislative Council be "fiduciarily" responsible. At the present time, it is my understanding that no one in the elected offices has any responsibility for making sure that we are fiscally responsible as a town. When I was Chair of the Hamden Mental Health Commission, we had fiduciary responsibility. It is a big deal, but it makes commissioners realize that they have to attend to finances in a responsible manner. You can be sure that I had personal insurance!! I believe the Board of Education has fiduciary responsibility. Could you please consider adding this to the new Charter¹³⁵?
- Whether a mayoral or city manager type government, there should be incentives for the person(s) in charge to be efficient and to hold down costs so that Hamden might regain its reputation as an attractive place to live. Incentives do not include getting re-elected¹³⁶.
- It seems evident that our current mayoral systems can be influenced by political considerations, not the common good of the town. Where is the transparency¹³⁷?
- "Let's put to (sic) responsibilities of policy outlines in the town legislature supervising an independent town manager. Enough debt, taxes and nepotism¹³⁸."

- **Retain the Mayor/Council Form of Government.** There current government is the Mayor Council form as opposed to a strong Mayor form of government¹³⁹.

- We should not allow our frustration with our present situation to push us to make changes to our Charter that will alter the character of our town¹⁴⁰; in other words, you shouldn't change the Charter on the basis of opinion of the current occupant or politics¹⁴¹.
- Accountability is rooted in the "direct...vote for our Mayor every two years¹⁴²." The chief executive must be answerable to the public¹⁴³.
- There is no evidence that Town Manager governments are more efficient¹⁴⁴.
- **Assessment of Legislative and Executive Functions.** If there is a problem with the form of government you need to assess the executive and legislative functions¹⁴⁵.

Issues Tracking Chart – Hamden Charter Revision Commission

Substantial Due Diligence

Research and Report

Relevance Discussion

- **Is the Legislative Council Capable of Managing and Overseeing the Town Manager?** Concerned about placing authority in the hands of the Legislative Council; in effect, as the employer of the Town Manager¹⁴⁶.
- **How Do You Hold the Town Manager Accountable**¹⁴⁷? Town Manager would be accountable to Legislative Council, which is not equipped to manage the town.
- **Fiscal Responsibility**¹⁴⁸. If you go the Town Manager route you may consider throwing in a Board of Finance to supplant some of the budgetary authority of the Legislative Council.
- **Voter Suppression**¹⁴⁹: Taken away the right to vote for the municipal chief executive officer is a form of voter suppression: “I prefer to have a direct voice in the selection of the town leadership. There are too few opportunities for me to express my opinions and concerns. I don’t want to feel like some council members for whom I did not vote will govern the town by proxy. Let’s do all we can to encourage direct voter participation in the electoral process. Anything that deters from that process is in fact undemocratic. That’s the last thing we need at this time... (In light of) recent events surrounding our recent national election call attention to the fact that democracy must be preserved at all costs. Diversity of opinion is a hallmark of our electoral system. Indeed, diversity of opinion is one strength of this town’s discourse. But, in the final analysis, we must avoid having electors run our government. Power must reside directly in the hands of the people, even in financially troubled Hamden. I’m convinced that, given equal opportunity, brilliant minds in this town will advocate for solutions other than a system of town manager.”

- **Establish the Office of Chief Administrative Officer/Chief Operating Officer**¹⁵⁰. As an alternate to Town Manager is a strong and independent Chief Administrative Officer/Chief Operating Officer:
 - appointed by Mayor, who remains chief executive officer, and approved by Council;
 - five-year term governed by contract;
 - professional qualifications;
 - clear delineation of responsibilities;
 - department heads report on operational and administrative matters to CAO who reports to Mayor; and,
 - termination by Mayor effective upon approval of the Legislative Council.

- **Finance Director: A Civil Service Position**¹⁵¹. The Finance Director ought to be a civil service position and not one where he/she serves at the pleasure of the Mayor from administration to administration. One of the reasons the town’s finances are the way they are today is due in part to the lack of continuity in that position, which in the past has been filled by some less than qualified individuals, especially at the most recent turn of the century.

Issues Tracking Chart – Hamden Charter Revision Commission

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Research and Report

Relevance Discussion

- Mayor should submit capital budget to Planning Board; elected Board of Finance (Stamford) or FARC (Waterbury); and, itemized BoE Budgets¹⁵²

- **Do Not Change the Charter**¹⁵³. Hamden should not “revise the charter in favor of a town manager. Harry Reid and Mitch McConnell both change the rules of Congress because they do not like the results of the moment...We in Hamden should not follow that path. I am not happy with the mayor and his fiscal governing of this town. That said I do not think we should throw the baby with the bathwater do not change the charter.”

**Legal Issues/Comment/
Action Items**

C.G.S. §7-193 requires the designation of a chief executive official. The options are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Selectman • Mayor elected by the electors • Chief Administrative Officer appointed by the Mayor. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Administrative Officer appointed by the Board of Selectman • City/Town Manager appointed by the Board of Selectman, Council, Board of Directors or Board of Alderman |
|--|---|

Note 1: Any municipality having a manager as its Chief Executive Officer may also have a Mayor who shall be the presiding member of its legislative body the ceremonial head of the municipality and shall have such other powers and duties that the charter prescribes.

Note 2: Again, the powers, duties and term of office of the Chief Executive Officer shall be prescribed by the General Statutes and he or she shall have such other powers and duties as the charter prescribes.

Note 3: Review Town of Clinton

Note 4: Prepare **COMPARATIVE CHARTS** and Panel Discussions

Next Steps

Substantial Public Review utilizing panels and background materials: CCM, COST, ICMA¹⁵⁴, National Civic

Issues Tracking Chart – Hamden Charter Revision Commission

Substantial Due Diligence

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Relevance Discussion

League

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Relevance Discussion

¹ Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.

² Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.

³ Submission by Elaine Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 9/21/2020.

⁴ Submission by Elaine Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 9/21/2020.

⁵ Public testimony Councilmember Justin Farmer: 9/22/2020.

⁶ Public testimony and written submission of Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road - 9/22/2020 and 9/27/2020, respectively. Note: The police commission did not meet for an excessive number of months while residents had serious concerns to discuss.

⁷ **Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: _____.**

⁸ Submission by Phil Cronan: 2/7/2021

⁹ Public testimony and written submission of Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road - 9/22/2020 and 9/27/2020, respectively.

¹⁰ Submission by Joseph McDonagh, Whitney Avenue: 9/22/2020.

¹¹ Submission by Lee Lee McKnight, Putnam Avenue: 10/13/2020.

¹² Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020. Note: "While reviewing the Charter, the possibility of conflict of interest should always be kept in mind and addressed as needed. Concerns over conflict of interest are constant and abundant in Hamden. There should be requirements addressing when town officials and employees must recuse themselves from participating in making a decision on a specific item."

¹³ Submission by Stephen Marsh, PhD, Blake Road: 10/19/2020.

¹⁴ Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.

¹⁵ Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot road: 9/27/2020.

¹⁶ Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.

¹⁷ Submission by Jan Glover: 2/18/2021.

¹⁸ Submission by Assistant Town Attorney Tim Lee: 2/10/2021.

¹⁹ **Submission by Wendy Satamauro: 12/6/2020**

²⁰ **Submission by Roberta Bozentka, 581 West Todd St: 12/11/2020**

²¹ Public Testimony of Council President Mick McGarry 10/14/2020

²² Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road - 9/27/2020

²³ Submission by Elaine Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 1/20.2021.

²⁴ Public Testimony of Council Minority Leader Betty Wetmore: 10/14/2020

²⁵ Submission by Jacob Feigenbaum, Edgehill Terrace: 11/27/2020; see also, **submission by Peter Cunningham, North Lake Drive: 12/11/2020 "I would also like to express my strong opposition to any change that would give minority parties more representation on the LC by default. Such a move would be inherently undemocratic. If a political party in town is unsatisfied with its representation, it should do the work of winning voters, not rely on charter technicalities to maintain power."**

²⁶ Submission by Joseph McDonagh Whitney Avenue: 9/22/2020.

²⁷ Submission by Joseph McDonagh Whitney Avenue: 9/22/2020

²⁸ Submission by Sean Grace and Public Testimony of Councilmember Justin Farmer: 9/22/2020; and submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020.

²⁹ Submission by Victoria Simiola: 9/28/2020.

³⁰ Submission by Lee Lee McKnight, Putnam Avenue: 10/13/2020. Note: "The preamble itself can set forth a stronger, clearer commitment to all the citizens of our Town. Merely listing inclusivity as a foundation doesn't do service to the purposeful, challenging, and necessary work this Commission has undertaken to ensure this document adequately expresses the intentions of the Town of Hamden. A preamble highlights the spirit of a Town, and sets forth the tone in which the Town's Charter has been written or revised. As such, a clear, convincing statement of Hamden's *Intent* to be inclusive must be included. More than a herald of our progressive values, this declaration must delineate the criteria by which we shall judge whether our value of inclusivity is being realized."

³¹ Submission by Ann M. Pari, Harrison Drive; Claudio Scirocco: 9/21/2020; Cheryl Kasprzycki, Paradise Avenue: 9/22/2020; Wendy Santamauro (and public testimony): 9/21/2020 and 9/22/2020; Victoria Simiola: 9/28/2020; and, Monique Simmons: 9/24/2020.

³² Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.

³³ Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.

³⁴ Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.

³⁵ Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.

³⁶ Submission by Lee Lee McKnight, Putnam Avenue: 10/13/2020.

³⁷ Submission by Lee Lee McKnight, Putnam Avenue: 10/13/2020.

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- ³⁸ Submission by Elaine Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 9/21/2020. Note: "We must change the IT infrastructure to allow a more robust system in the Town government and in the BOE. Last year we had 3 months of no internet in the public schools (prior to the Pandemic closing) and the Town government email server regularly spits back emails as undeliverable. This is unacceptable because it limits the public's ability to contact the members of their town government".
- ³⁹ Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020. Note: "Zoom and other technology that makes it possible for the public to participate in their local government meetings should be required to be used by the town even after the pandemic is over. It makes participation in our town government possible without the need to travel which can be difficult if you lack a car or a ride or mass transit is not available."
- ⁴⁰ Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020. Note: "The town IT dept. must be capable of providing services needed to run our town so that email and other communications are reliable. There has been an ongoing problem with email delivery to town offices since at least January 2020. Emails are blocked, bounced, marked undeliverable etc. In a pandemic where town offices are closed, this is especially serious. In a democracy this is unacceptable." See also, Elaine Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 9/21/2020.
- ⁴¹ Submission by Elian Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 9/21/2020. Note: Hybrid Meeting Participation: "Hamden resident participation in public commissions has risen dramatically with the commission meetings broadcast via Zoom. It is important that we allow Zoom (or Zoom like) access to all public meetings after the Pandemic is over. The public should be allowed to speak at all public meetings via accessible, non-in person means. The public should have access to all public meetings via a recording which would be posted no later than 5 days after the meeting was held. All minutes, agendas and back-up materials need to be posted consistently and in a timely manner in accordance with FOI requirements.
- ⁴² Public Testimony of Council President Mick McGarry 10/14/2020 and submission by Joseph McDonagh, Whitney Avenue: 9/22/2020.
- ⁴³ Submission by Sean Grace: 9/22/2020.
- ⁴⁴ Submission by Victoria Simiola: 9/28/2020.
- ⁴⁵ Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020. Note: "The 7th District has not had a council representative for almost 2 years. Initially due to illness and then unfortunately, due to the death of our Representative. The people of the district need and are entitled to a representative they can turn to for their district concerns, just as every other district has."
- ⁴⁶ Submission by Diane Hoffman: 9/27/20
- ⁴⁷ Submission by Sean Grace: 9/22/2020
- ⁴⁸ Submission by Sean Grace: 9/22/2020
- ⁴⁹ Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020; See also, written comments of Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 11/17/2020 and Phil Cronan, Commission – technology Commission: 11/16/2020.
- ⁵⁰ Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.
- ⁵¹ Submission by Judy G. Clark, Ridge Road: 9/21/2020.
- ⁵² Submission by Judy G. Clark, Ridge Road - 9/21/2020.
- ⁵³ Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020.
- ⁵⁴ Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020.
- ⁵⁵ Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020.
- ⁵⁶ Submission by Stocky Clark: 9/22/2020: "Under Mayoral leadership over the years, the Town has moved slowly but surely to huge indebtedness (\$1.1 Billion or \$18,000 per resident) ... Our regular deficit budgets has led to the borrowing that has created this huge indebtedness which in turn has led to regular downgrading of our bond status to one step above "Junk bond" with a negative outlook. Poor, incompetent or willful mismanagement of the budget seems to have been accepted for years."
- ⁵⁷ Public Testimony of Council President Mick McGarry: 10/14/2020.
- ⁵⁸ Public Testimony of Former Council President and Acting Mayor James Pascarella: 10/14/2020
- ⁵⁹ Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.
- ⁶⁰ Public Testimony of Councilmember Justin Farmer: 9/22/2020.
- ⁶¹ Public Testimony of Rhonda Caldwell: 9/22/2020 and submitted testimony of Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020. Note from Hoffman testimony: "This is needed to address the recognized inequities in our criminal justice system nationwide and locally. It will help Hamden address our concerns and is needed to restore confidence in our police department so all residents feel safe."
- ⁶² P.A. 20-1, §17(c) does not apply to Hamden: "The provisions of this section shall not be construed to affect the operation of, or impose any limitation upon, a civilian police review board established prior to the effective date of this section."
- ⁶³ Statute is silent on the scope of authority. If we proceed on this issue I will provide you with further legal background on the interplay between this new express statutory authority and the long-standing statutory authority for collective bargaining agreements. It is interesting because P.A. 20-1 anticipates CPRB "proceedings" although does not state that those proceedings
- ⁶⁴ Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.
- ⁶⁵ Submission by Joseph McDonagh, Whitney Avenue: 9/22/2020.
- ⁶⁶ Submission by Jody Ian Goeler, Superintendent, Hamden Public Schools: 10/19/20.
- ⁶⁷ Submission by Patricia C. Vener-Saavedra: 10/21/2020.
- ⁶⁸ Submission of Stocky Clark: 1/20/2021: "Sorry Frank. I just saw this. I had to trouble getting in but finally did. I do hope that the CRC injects specific requirements for: 5 yr. planning w annual updates; transparency in financial reporting (a key deficit over the years with the Mayor withholding vital, LC-requested information; and capital accounting and reporting. Most of all, we lack the expertise to run a complex town operation. We need a city manager form of government. I realize that won't play for very long given the complacency and conflict of interest that I have witnessed. We will probably only get out of our financial financial distress and onto some kind of fiscal stability when Marb under Tier 4 begins requiring realistic planning with realistic revenue

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and expenditure projections. Sad stuff for sure. It would be helpful to you folks if you ask Christian McNamara to give a summary of his extraordinary trend analyses which he and I and others used in a variety of forums inc the LC to raise awareness about our rather desperate financial situation. He can do it quickly and understandably. I have outlined, many times especially for the LC how to design and implement cutback management strategies, especially given this once in a lifetime opportunity (due to the number of retirees) to reduce staff census with much less pain

than layoffs I had to do it many times in NYS government Good luck

⁶⁹ Public Testimony of Council President Mick McGarry: 10/14/2020.

⁷⁰ Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020.

⁷¹ Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020.

⁷² Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020.

⁷³ Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020.

⁷⁴ Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 2/2/2021.

⁷⁵ Submission by Judy G. Clark, Ridge Road: 9/21/2020.

⁷⁶ Submission by Elaine Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 9/21/2020; and, Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020 who noted: "There are concerns regarding nepotism. There are concerns that the town is not getting the best deal in quality and cost. The resulting contracts should have expiration dates. These bids seem to be used to rush transactions through the process and are often presented to the council at the last minute when a vote is needed immediately. Establish rules specifying when a no-bid contract can be used and consequences for abuse."

⁷⁷ Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020. Note: "We are in a climate crisis. Our trees are precious natural resources that provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in services to our community, not the least of which is fighting climate change. Governor Lamont has issued Executive Order #3 and working groups have been meeting for months to develop plans on mitigation, adaptation and resiliency to address the crisis. The critical importance of protecting and planting trees is a part of many of the working groups including Science and Technology and Equity and Environmental Justice. The GC3 working groups are encouraging all attendees to address the climate crisis on the local level and call for action locally as well as on the state level. In order for our Tree Warden to have the knowledge and skills to do the job properly and fully and to make difficult decisions, **he/she must be a certified arborist**. Please see the attached Benefits of Trees." Further submission by Ms. Hoffman: 12/18/2020 which raises the matter of union issues.

⁷⁸ See, Memorandum from Assistant Town Attorney Brendan Sharkey (provided by Ms. Hoffman) re – Tree Ordinance: December 14, 2020.

⁷⁹ Submission by Nancy Hill: 12/8/2020

⁸⁰ Submission by Patricia Mary McLaughlin: 9/22/2020.

⁸¹ Submission by Ann M. Pari, Harrison Drive:

⁸² Submission by Claudio Scirocco: 9/21/2020.

⁸³ Submission Cheryl Kasprzycki, Paradise Avenue: 9/22/2020.

⁸⁴ Submission by and Public Testimony of Wendy Santamauro: 9/21/2020 and 9/22/2020, respectively.

⁸⁵ Public testimony (9/22) (JD Notes)

⁸⁶ Submission by Victoria Simiola: 9/28/2020.

⁸⁷ Submission by Monique Simmons: 9/24/2020.

⁸⁸ Submission by Victoria Simiola: 9/28/2020

⁸⁹ Submission by Wendy Satamauro: 12/6/2020

⁹⁰ **Submission by and Public Testimony of Judy G. Clark**, Ridge Road: 9/21/2020 and 9/22/2020, respectively. **Public Testimony from Stocky Clark**: 9/22/2020. **Submission of Joy Bush**: 11/19/2020: "I believe it would be in Hamden's best interest to move from a mayoral system of government to a Town Manager system. I know that Ann Altman would be extremely qualified to start this migration process and has even offered to assume duties for two years without pay to do this. We must not miss this opportunity." **Submission of Momoko Ishu**: 11/18/2020: supportive of "support Ann Altman's position to have a town management system for the city." **Submission by Judy G. Clark**: 12/16/2020: "FIRST: Thank you – so much- for volunteering to steer our town to a better place. This is important work...I have been busy over the years irresponsibly ignoring that the character and infrastructure of the town that we chose to live in, was changing. We find ourselves now in a town that has been named as being in the worst fiscal condition of any other in CT. We have the highest **tax rates** in the state, with a **bond rating** that is only just above junk and liable to slip even more...We have neglected our **infrastructure**- gas lines need replacing; sidewalks trip us up, our tree scape is diminishing, and we have no effective environmental guardianship. Our **economic base** is stagnant. Even before COVID there was little vision for an innovative future or professional guidance on how to achieve that, especially in our quickly changing world that asks us to be **environmentally proactive**. We bestow huge **public union benefits** to a few when others in town have no such protections.; The administration awards contracts **without competitive bidding** and without evaluation of effectiveness or efficiency. Hamden has a **crime rate** that is higher than 82% of the state's cities and towns of all sizes - yet many are justly concerned about police accountability. With clear **conflict of interest**, employees are allowed to serve on the LC where they can vote for expenditures that **benefit themselves** rather than the **public good**. This is partisan politics. The administration gives information to the members of the LC, who are volunteers, **insufficient time** - only 24 hours – to evaluate before voting. No longer is its **school system** exceptional. Our spending on schools is the highest of any town of comparable size, yet Hamden rates #145 out of #207 school districts. **Cronyism** abounds. Hiring should be done transparently, with oversight by nonpartisan individuals. The Mayor just announced the hiring as economic development director of a person who is trained as a librarian, a position that for which we desperately need a proven expertise and record in the field; There is so much more.....But the **bottom line** is that I do not TRUST the current form of government to guard the welfare of residents or the future of our town **You will find therefore** that I hope that you will vote to change from a **political administration to a professional form of government** – from our current mayoral administration to a city manager, who has proven expertise in finance, administration, budget making and contract management as required skills ... **just as 67% of all towns in the US with a population more than 50,000 have done**. While this form of governance is not a panacea, it would offer a change from the abysmal system we

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currently have. **BUT** regardless of whether you recommend that, or whether the LC votes to uphold that recommendation because of political ties, there is much you can accomplish through the charter revision to address the challenges above. You can be building in a structure to ensure **transparency**, and enable the public and the LC has the **time and information to assess issues**. You can get install stronger and effective checks on **conflicts of interest**. You can build a capacity for non-partisan **oversight and assessment**. You can establish protocols so that the town hire for **professional skills** not friendships. You can set and guard standards for **ethical behavior**. You can **rebuild TRUST** in our government. Good luck. I am grateful for your work and request public briefing of your conclusions of possible as your work evolves.”

⁹¹ **Note:** Ms. Clark also promoted the proposed West Haven Charter revisions which are on the ballot next month. Stock Clark also added the following: “A City Manager by training and experience will have had experience in all areas of municipal administration including fiscal management, budget oversight, personnel administration and labor negotiations. We need that level of expertise to manage the difficult times ahead. We need someone who can take charge of our finances and still maintain the quality of services which we all want.” See also, Arturo Perez: 10/21/2020. See also, Franklin Edward-Flewelling Getchell: 10/21/2020. Note: “I would like to add my very strong agreement that it’s time to change the management of Hamden to a Town Manager form of government. The extreme level of debt this small town owes is unconscionable and is trackable directly to cronyism and mismanagement for the past many years. It’s equally clear that the fact of a mayoral election every two years means that any candidate is hostage to the unions whose votes the candidate must have. Given that this is our setup currently, the only and best recourse is to change the form of town governance. I totally support Ann Altman’s offer to run as Hamden’s last mayor, one who will transition us to the only way the town can survive: Town Management.”

⁹² Submission by Victoria Simiola: 9/28/2020; See also submission from Kathleen Halloran: 11/24/2020

⁹³ Submission by Emily Drennen, 22 Quentin Street: 12/11/2020

⁹⁴ Submission by Joseph McDonagh, Whitney Avenue: 9/22/2020; see also, Marsha and James Walsh, Worth Avenue: 12/14/2020.

⁹⁵ Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/20.

⁹⁶ Submission by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road:2/2/2021.

⁹⁷ Submission by Elaine Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 2/6/2021 The Waterbury description of the finance process is still very politically motivated, For example, is there anything that requires the mayor and the legislative council to follow the recommendations that the independent person in Waterbury makes? I still think that the civil service position would require more hires. While this may sound good on the surface, I don’t think it has enough teeth in it to make it work in Hamden...If the Commission goes along with this “Waterbury” system, it needs to be locked so that political influence and civil service manipulations cannot be used. Could a Board of Finance be the body that the “Waterbury” person/accountant/civil servant be accountable to? And, could they both be made with real accountability and veto **power to expenses that are not appropriate**? We would hope that they person from the Town (Waterbury person) and the Board of Finance would work together.

⁹⁸ Submission by Ann M. Altman Ph.D., Blake Road: 10/19/2020.

⁹⁹ Submission by Stuart Gardner, Blake Road: 10/19/2020.

¹⁰⁰ Submission by John E. Papin, Jr.: 10/19/2020.

¹⁰¹ Submissions by Jacob Feigenbaum, Edgehill Terrace: 10/19/2020, 11/27/2020 and 12/11/2020.

¹⁰² Submission by Stephen Marsh, PhD, Blake Road: 10/19/2020.

¹⁰³ Submission by Kathy Patrikis, Giles Street: 11/18/2020.

¹⁰⁴ Submission by Nate Lerner, Lamkin Street: 11/30/2020

¹⁰⁵ Submission by Dave ____ in response to Carl W. Jordan (Ann Altman reference): 12/2/2020.

¹⁰⁶ Submission by Jack D. Hammer, Manor Street: 10/19/2020.

¹⁰⁷ Submission by Peter C. Patrikis, Giles Street: 10/19/2020.

¹⁰⁸ Submission by Joan Q. Zurolo: 12/14/2020.

¹⁰⁹ Submission by Mark Eggerman, Hamden Homeowner: 10/19/2020.

¹¹⁰ Submission by Diana Wakerley, Blake Circle: 11/18/2020.

¹¹¹ Submission by JC & DS Wakerley, Blake Circle: 10/19/2020.

¹¹² Submission by Sheila de Bretteville, Deepwood Drive: 10/19/2020.

¹¹³ Submission by Stocky Clark: 9/22/2020.

¹¹⁴ Note: There is a removal provision in the Charter

¹¹⁵ Submission by Stocky Clark: 1/20/2021: “We will probably only get out of our financial financial distress and onto some kind of fiscal stability when Marb under Tier 4 begins requiring realistic planning with realistic revenue and expenditure projections.”

¹¹⁶ Submission by David G. Johnson, Costanzo Court: 10/21/2020.

¹¹⁷ Submission by Elaine Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 9/21/2020. Dove submission: “Hamden needs to change what we are doing as it is not working in favor of the residents...

If we fall under MARB control, we may not have a choice (see, West Haven and their charter revision).”

¹¹⁸ Note: Stocky Clark submission on 9/22/2020: “The Mayoral form of government has shown how not to manage town finances. Hamden has reached its” credit card” limits and requires serious financial leadership.”

¹¹⁹ Submission by Mary C. Kittredge, 166 Augur St: 12/11/2020.

¹²⁰ Submission by Gary and Nancy Beach, Ridge Road: 12/14/2020.

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- ¹²¹ Submission by Judy Sirota Rosenthal: 11/19/2020.
- ¹²² Submission by Deborah Smith: 11/19/2020 and 1/30/2021
- ¹²³ Submission by Gary Walsh, Main Street: 11/21/2020
- ¹²⁴ Submission by Glenda Gilmore, Blake Road: 12/11/2020.
- ¹²⁵ Submission by Deeva Laubstein, Canterbury Road: 12/11/2020; see also, Suzanne and Robert Carroll, Ridge Road: 12/14/2020.
- ¹²⁶ Submission by Theodora and Arven Saunders, Blake Circle: 12/11/2020.
- ¹²⁷ Submission by Thomas A. Della Venture, Dunbar Hill Road: 12/11/2020.
- ¹²⁸ Submission by Carl W. and Susan K. Jordan. 98 Park Ave.: 12/11/2020
- ¹²⁹ Submission by Robert T. and Rosemarie S. Rubino: 12/14/2020
- ¹³⁰ Submission by Zehra Patwa, Blake Circle: 12/11/2020.
- ¹³¹ Submission by Peter Cunningham, North Lake Circle: 12/11/2020.
- ¹³² Submission by Gary Rudnick, Morris Street" 12/19/2020
- ¹³³ Submission by Heidi Rubertone, Chatterton Way: 1/11/2021.
- ¹³⁴ Submission by Jody Ian Goeler, Superintendent, Hamden Public Schools 10/19/20.
- ¹³⁵ Submission by Elaine Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 10/20/2020.
- ¹³⁶ Submission by Arven Saunders, Blake Circle: 9/29/2020.
- ¹³⁷ Submission by Arven Saunders, Blake Circle: 9/29/2020.
- ¹³⁸ Submission by Stuart Gardner, Blake Road: 12/11/2020.
- ¹³⁹ Public Testimony of Council President Mick McGarry: 10/14/2020.
- ¹⁴⁰ Submission by Sean Grace: 9/22/2020.
- ¹⁴¹ Public Testimony of Council President Mick McGarry: 10/14/2020.
- ¹⁴² Submission by Sean Grace: 9/22/2020.
- ¹⁴³ Public Testimony of Council President Mick McGarry: 10/14/2020.
- ¹⁴⁴ Submission by Sean Grace: 9/22/2020.
- ¹⁴⁵ Public Testimony of Council President Mick McGarry: 10/14/2020.
- ¹⁴⁶ Public Testimony of Council President Mick McGarry: 10/14/2020.
- ¹⁴⁷ Public Testimony of Former Council President and Acting Mayor James Pascarella: 10/14/2020.
- ¹⁴⁸ Public Testimony of Former Council President and Acting Mayor James Pascarella: 10/14/2020.
- ¹⁴⁹ Submission by Gregory H. Tignor, ScD, Blake Road: 11/19.2020 and Eleanor Tignor: 11/19/2020.
- ¹⁵⁰ Public Testimony Council President Mick McGarry: 10/14/2020.
- ¹⁵¹ Submission by David G. Johnson, Costanzo Court: 10/21/2020.
- ¹⁵² Submission by Karlen Meinsen, Sante Fe Avenue: 2/3/2021 "A detailed estimate of the cost of each proposed project, listed according to the department, board, commission, authority or agency of the Town principally concerned with the project, which are expected to be commenced in the next fiscal year" (in the proposal)
- ¹⁵³ Submission by Bill Garvey, Charlton Hill: 10/19/20.
- ¹⁵⁴ Submission of State representat5ive Josh Elliott: 11/30/2020.