
MIDDLETOWN CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION

MAY 2021



MIDDLETOWN CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION 2020 -2021

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SUBJECTS AND THEMES OF THE REVISED CHARTER

1. Clarity and Accessibility.

- Defined terms to assist in public use of the Charter
- A more organized format for public review
- Uniform procedures creation and reorganization of government
- Need for long term and strategic planning

2. Accountability

- Two year Council election cycle enhances voter influence
- Standards of conduct and removal provisions
- Creation of Council President bolsters role of legislative body
- Uniform procedures for creating and enhancing the role of Boards and Commissions

3. Transparency in government

- Ethics and conflict of Interest standards established
- Defined Mayoral compensation adjustment to avoid political maneuvering
- Office of General Counsel defined
- Notice and disclosure of final legislative actions on budget

4. Reform and Organizational Integrity

- Board of education control of non-certified employees provides a more coherent environment for the management of schools
- Policies setting standards for City employees by enhancing equal opportunity, diversity, equity, affirmative action and inclusion in the Classified service



SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHARTER REVISIONS



DEFINITIONS: CHAPTER I CLARITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

- The revisions includes “defined terms” that are commonly used in the Charter to improve access, clarify and reduce confusion or ambiguity.
- The format of the Revised Charter is more clear and comprehensible.

OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS: CHAPTER II ACCOUNTABILITY AND INTEGRITY

- Elimination of Elected Treasurer (Sec. 2.A)
- Increase Common Council from twelve to thirteen (Sec. 2.A)
- Common Council to two year term to assure staggered elections, increasing accountability (Sec. 4.A)
- Addition of standards of conduct for public officials: conflict of interest and ethics (Sec. 10)
- Removal provisions for department heads, board and commission members and elected official (Sec. 11 + 12)

THE COMMON COUNCIL: CHAPTER III LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY/RESPONSIVENESS

- Council President as Presiding Officer and head of legislative department with a President Pro Tempore (replacing Mayor as Presiding Officer and Deputy Mayor) (Sec. 1.B)
- Council staff and legal assistance, including Clerk under control of Council (Sec. 1.D)
- Update of requirements pertaining to legislative rules of procedure (Sec. 3)

DUTIES AND POWERS OF MAYOR: CHAPTER IV CLARIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

- Elimination of Corporation Counsel (Sec. 1.B)
- Compensation formula (Sec. 1.C)
- Elimination of role as presiding officer of the Council (Sec. 2.E)
- Elimination of Deputy Mayor (Sec. 2A)
- Elimination of Elected City Treasurer (Sec. 4 and 8)
- Defining the Office of the General Counsel (Sec. 7)

DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY: CHAPTER V CLARITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

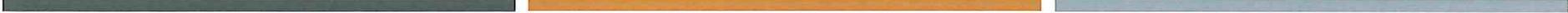
Establishing uniform procedures for the creation of departments

- Reorganization Plan (Sec. 1.C)
- The Appointment, Removal and Qualifications of Department Heads (Sec. 2)

FINANCE AND TAXATION: CHAPTER VI ACCOUNTABILITY

Final Council Action on the Proposed Budget (Sec. 1.F)

- Notice to the public Prior to Final Budget Action
- Public posting of Budget Amendments and Materials
- Disclosure requirements prior to final action on the budget by the Council



SANITARY DISPOSAL DISTRICT: CHAPTER VII

- No Revisions

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: CHAPTER VIII

BUILDING A CULTURE OF TRANSPARENCY

- Uniform standards for the creation of Boards and Commission (Sec. 1.A)
- Appointment authority (Sec. 1.B)
- Limitation of Service of three consecutive terms (Sec. 1.C)
- Addressing vacancies and removal of board and commission members (section 1.D and E)
- Residency requirement sand exceptions for nonresidents appointed as the representative of a local organization (Sec. 1.F)
- Dual appointment prohibition with limited exceptions (Sec, 1.G)
- Minority Party representation (sec. 1.H)
- Prohibition of compensation for service (Sec, 1.I)
- Restrictions on Members of the Board of Ethics (Sec. 1.J)
- Required cooperation of executive officials and members of Boards and Commissions (Sec. 1.K)
- Publication requirements pertaining to solicitation of resident participation (Sec. 1.L)
- Mandate for the creation of a Civilian Review Board (Sec. 5)

BONDING POWERS: CHAPTER IX CLARITY

- Clarifies the cap for Council authorization of bond issuance. At the present time the language reads that the authority applies until the issuance “exceeds \$750,000” to make it clear that the authority covers the range of improvements that is “less than or equal to \$750,000” (Section 2.A)

PERSONNEL POLICES: CHAPTER X REFORM, CLARITY AND OPPORTUNITY

- Non-certified employees assigned to the board of education are removed from the Classified Service of the City and under the direct control and jurisdiction of the Board of Education with benefits and status undiminished (in accord with provisions of the applicable bargaining agreements), including non-bargaining employees (Sec. I.A)
- Policy requirements pertaining to equal opportunity, diversity, equity, affirmative action and inclusion in the Classified Service, setting forth standards for City employees (Sec. I.G)