

To the Honorable Members of the Board of Aldermen,

It has truly been a pleasure to serve the City of Ansonia through the Charter Revision Commission. Attached is our final report, which includes the Commission's recommended changes to the following sections of the Charter:

1. Section 43 – Annual Budget Process
2. Section 129 – Fire Department Generally
3. Section 130 – Superintendent of Fire Alarm System

On behalf of the Charter Revision Commission, I respectfully submit this report for your consideration.

As the Commission concludes its current work, we recognize that the process of reviewing and improving the City Charter is an ongoing responsibility. Throughout our deliberations, we identified additional Charter issues that merit further examination but could not be fully addressed within the scope and timeframe of our appointment.

For that reason, we respectfully request that the Board of Aldermen reconstitute the Charter Revision Commission following the submission of this final report.

Reestablishing the Commission would provide an opportunity to continue the thoughtful and deliberate work of examining remaining Charter issues, evaluating potential improvements, and making recommendations that promote effective, transparent, and accountable municipal government.

We appreciate the confidence the Board has placed in the Charter Revision Commission and thank you for the opportunity to serve our community. We respectfully ask that you give favorable consideration to reconstituting the Commission so that this important work may continue for the benefit of the City of Ansonia and its residents.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Charter Revision Commission

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Sec. 129. Fire department generally.

- (a) There shall be a fire department for said city which shall consist of such number of fire companies as the board of aldermen shall from time to time establish or approve by its action; the officers of said department shall be a fire chief, one deputy, and two assistants
- (b) The said officers shall rank in the following order: Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, First Assistant Chief and Second Assistant Chief. Any vacancies in any of said offices shall be filled by advancement of the assistant chief directly below in rank. Promotion shall be accomplished biennially by advancing each such officer until he shall reach the post of fire chief, in which post he shall serve one full term in addition to any unexpired term he may have served by reason of a vacancy appointment. Upon the retirement of the fire chief at the end of his term, the department shall appoint a new assistant fire chief from among its members. Any vacancy in the office of an assistant fire chief shall be filled in the following manner.

1. Appointment of 2nd Assistant Chief

- a. Candidates for the position of 2nd Assistant Chief shall be evaluated based upon the professional qualifications established in the Ansonia Fire Department Policy and Guidelines Manual for Chief Officers.
 - b. Interested candidates shall submit a written Letter of Interest to the Board of Fire Commissioners for consideration at the March Fire Commission meeting during the Fire Chief's final year of office.
 - c. All qualified candidates shall participate in a competitive selection process consisting of a written examination and an oral board examination.
 - d. The written examination shall be administered by the Connecticut Fire Academy or another independent testing agency.
 - e. The oral board shall consist of the aldermanic members of the Board of Fire Commissioners, the Mayor or a designee of the Mayor not associated with the fire department, a member of the fire department selected by a vote of the active membership, a representative from the City of Ansonia Human Resources Department, and one or more independent fire officers who are not affiliated with the Ansonia Fire Department.
 - f. The final score shall be calculated using the following weighting: Written Examination – 50%; Oral Board Examination – 50%
 - g. The candidate receiving the highest overall combined score shall be appointed 2nd Assistant Chief effective July 1 of that same year. A tiebreaker to be decided by a vote of the active membership.
 - h. The candidate receiving the highest overall combined score shall be appointed 2nd Assistant Chief effective July 1 of that same year.
 - i. Upon appointment, the 2nd Assistant Chief shall enter and follow the Department's established two-year Chief Officer progression.
- (c) The fire chief and his/her deputy and assistants shall determine all operating policies for the fire department
 - (d) There shall be a board of fire commissioners which shall direct and conduct all expenditures of funds and establish non-operating administrative policy for the fire department Said board of fire commissioners shall

consist of three aldermen appointed by the president of the board of aldermen and the fire chief, the deputy fire chief and first assistant fire chief, the deputy and first assistant of said department, ex officio, and the mayor, ex officio. The chairman of said board of fire commissioners shall be elected from among the aldermanic members thereof by a majority vote of all the said board members present and absent. He shall preside at all meetings of said board. The mayor shall have the power to vote only in case of a tie, in which case he shall vote to break the tie.

- (e) The chairman of the said board of fire commissioners and the fire chief shall sign all vouchers expending the funds appropriated to the fire department
- (f) The board of aldermen shall have all and any power necessary to implement the provisions of this section by the enactment of the appropriate ordinances, regulations or resolutions.

(Spl. Act 302, 1905; Spl. Act 348, 1941; Spl. Act 3, 1950; Spl. Act 369, 1961; Spl. Act 166, 1969, § 3; Ord. of 6-18-15)

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Sec. 43. - Annual budget process.

(a)

(a) *Mayor's budget.* No later than the second Monday in ~~March~~February, the mayor shall submit to the board of apportionment and taxation a proposed fiscal budget. Said fiscal budget shall consist of:

(1) A budget message outlining the financial policies of the city government and describing in connection therewith the important features of the budget plan;

(2) Estimates of revenue, presenting in parallel columns the itemized receipts collected in the last-completed fiscal year and receipts estimated to be collected in the current fiscal year and estimates of the receipts estimated to be collected in the ensuing fiscal year;

(3) Itemized estimates of expenditures presenting in parallel columns the actual expenditures for each department, office, agency or activity during the last fiscal year, the amount estimated to be expended in the current fiscal year and the amount estimated to be expended in the next fiscal year;

(4) As a separate report thereto, a budget of proposed capital projects for the ensuing fiscal year and for the four fiscal years thereafter. Estimates of the costs of such projects shall be submitted by each department, office or agency of the city government annually as directed by the mayor. The mayor shall recommend those capital projects to be undertaken during the ensuing fiscal year and the methods of financing the same.

(b) *Board of apportionment and taxation.* The board of apportionment and taxation, upon receipt of the proposed fiscal budget from the mayor, shall hold a public hearing on the proposed budget and thereafter review the budget for the purpose of making recommendations.

No later than the second Tuesday in ~~April~~March, the board of apportionment and taxation shall submit to the board of aldermen a proposed fiscal budget in the form prescribed in section (a) and make a recommendation as to the tax rate to be fixed for the ensuing fiscal year.

(c) *Board of aldermen.* The board of aldermen, upon receipt of the proposed fiscal budget from the board of apportionment and taxation, shall review the budget for the purpose of making recommendations. The board of aldermen may reduce or delete any item therein by a majority of members present and voting but it will require a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting to increase the budget or to add any item thereto or increase any item therein.

Not later than the second Tuesday of ~~May~~April, the board of aldermen shall hold a public hearing on the proposed budget, prior to which said board of aldermen shall cause said estimate to be published in a daily newspaper of general circulation in said city at least once.

Not later than ~~May~~April 30, the board of aldermen shall adopt the budget for the ensuing fiscal year and fix the tax rate to be levied on property in the city in the ensuing year.

(d) *Referendum.* A public referendum on the budget must be held if the budget approved by the board of aldermen represents an increase in expenses of in excess of four percent (4%) relative to three percent (3%) or more in net taxes to be collected from the previous year's budget. The referendum vote shall be by machine ballot. The referendum shall be held not more than 14 ~~calendar~~ days after approval by the board of aldermen. The referendum questions shall be presented on the ballot as follows.

(1) Shall the city portion of the budget, as recommended by the board of aldermen of (dollar amount) for the fiscal year (specify year) be adopted?

(2) Shall the board of education portion of the budget, as recommended by the board of aldermen, (of dollar amount) for the City of Ansonia for the fiscal year (specify year) be adopted?

The voters shall be given the option to vote either "Yes" or "No" and additionally the option to vote "too high" or "too low" on each of the budgets.

If both budgets are rejected, both budgets shall be resubmitted to the ballot after revisions by the board of aldermen. In case of further rejections, the aforesaid process, under this section, shall be repeated until said budgets are accepted, or until the increase in expenditure is expenditure's raised in net taxes to be collected is equal to or less than four percent~~fourthree percent~~ from the previous year's budget.

If only one (1) of the aforesaid portions of the budget passes, that budget shall be deemed to be approved. The budget question that is rejected shall be resubmitted to the ballot after revision by the board of aldermen, and resubmitted again after further rejection and further revision by the board of aldermen until said budget is accepted or until the increase in expenses is expenses~~net taxes to be collected" is~~ less than or equal to fourthree percent (43)% from the previous year's budget.

If the referendum vote rejects the budget, or either part thereof, the rejected portion shall be reconsidered by the board of aldermen within fourteen~~five~~-calendar-day. In case of further rejection this process shall be continued using a no more than fourteen (14)~~five (5)~~ calendar day period of reconsideration by the board of aldermen until the budget is adopted.

(e) *Non-adoption of budget.* If the budget is not adopted by June 20 the city shall send out real estate tax bills based on the same taxation figures and adjusted mill rate of the prior fiscal year, which would include adjustments for the new revenues, debt service, and legal obligations for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1. After the complete budget is passed the balance of the real estate plus personal property and motor vehicle tax bills shall be sent out based on any change brought about by referendum vote.

Sec. 130. Superintendent of fire alarm system.

~~Said board of aldermen shall appoint a superintendent of the fire alarm system of said city, who shall have the care of, maintenance, and extension of said fire alarm system, and shall perform any and all duties as may be prescribed by the board of aldermen or by the ordinances of said city, and who shall be paid such a compensation as may be fixed by said board of aldermen.~~

(Ord. of 6-18-15)

Commented [CS1]: Section 130 - changes
1) Recommend complete removal of this section