

## **ARTICLE 7. PLANNING**

### **Sec. 7-1. Department of Planning and Development**

There shall be a department of planning and development and a planning and development board. The membership and term of office of the planning and development board shall be determined by ordinance. The mayor shall appoint the members of the board subject to council confirmation as provided in Section 3-3(a).

\*\*Planning Dept. Comment: Should section also reference planning?

### **Sec. 7-2. Comprehensive Plan**

(a) Content—There shall be a comprehensive plan containing the plan elements described in section 81D of chapter 41 of the General Laws; provided however, that the city may also undertake planning activities relating to particular services or specific geographic areas within the city as the mayor or city council shall determine.

(b) Adoption— Within 2 years of the swearing in of a new mayor or not less frequently than every 8 years, the mayor shall submit a comprehensive plan, including the recommendations from the planning and development board, to the city council. Upon receipt of a proposed comprehensive plan and the recommendations of the planning and development board, the city council shall hold at least 1 public hearing on the proposed comprehensive plan and shall, by resolution, adopt the comprehensive plan with or without amendments.

\*\*Planning Dept. Comment: This seems like a potentially high frequency to be completing comp. plans. Could it be worded as the mayor initiating a comprehensive review and submit amendments?

\*\*Article Leaders: Discuss this point, bearing in mind planning dept. feedback and new mayoral term limit.

### **Deliberate:**

#### **Option 1:** **No change**

#### **Option 2:**

Eliminate “Within 2 years of the swearing in of a new mayor”.

Include ONLY: “Not less frequently than every 12 years, the mayor shall submit a comprehensive plan..to the Council.” (note 12 yrs. changed to reflect 12 yr. term limit.)

#### **Option 3:**

Within 2 years of swearing in of a new mayor, the mayor shall initiate a review of the

comprehensive plan and submit amendments if necessary. (Note: BL points out can have amendment by substitution).

**\*\*\*Option 4:**

Within 2 years of swearing in of a new year, the mayor shall initiate a review of the comprehensive plan and submit amendments if necessary. Not less frequently than every 12 years, the mayor shall submit a comprehensive plan..to the Council.

*Article Cont'd*

The mayor may submit to the city council modifications to the comprehensive plan as the mayor deems necessary. The city council shall, by resolution, adopt the modifications with or without amendments.

\*\*Planning Dept. Comment: Should these [modifications] also require a public hearing[?]

\*\*Article Leaders: We should agree upon our intent and modify if needed.

(c) Effect—The ordinances of the city, including but not limited to the zoning ordinances, shall reflect the comprehensive plan. Within 2 years after the adoption of a comprehensive plan or not less frequently than every 8 years, the city council shall review the city's ordinances for consistency with the comprehensive plan, and shall involve resident and professional assistance as the council deems appropriate.

\*\*Planning Dept. Comment: What does reflect mean? Later the word consistent is used - these references should be consistent, so use consistent each time.

\*\*Article Leaders: Recommend that 7(3) "reflect" should be changed to "be consistent with".

\*\*Planning Dept. Comment: What does this reference to resident and professional assistance mean and why is it only required for zoning, not comp plan development? Does professional assistance refer to engaging professionals in Newton or using consultants? Our suggestion, either remove or create a section (d) expressing commitment to community engagement in all planning activities. Reference to professional assistance seems unnecessary.

\*\*Article Leaders: Suggest brief deliberation.

**Deliberate:**

Do we want to include a Section 7(2) d: Expressing a commitment to community engagement in all planning activities.

Otherwise, remove “and shall involve resident and professional assistance as the council deems appropriate.”

[Note: this section should parallel changes made in 7-2 (b). - Adoption.]

**Sec. 7-3. Implementation of the Comprehensive Plan**

(a) Land Use and Development Regulations—In accordance with the General Laws, the city council may by ordinance adopt land use and development regulations including, but not limited to, an official map and zoning regulations reflecting the intent of the city’s comprehensive plan.

(b) Action by the City Council—Before acting on any proposed ordinance concerning land use and development regulations or expenditures for capital improvements, if the proposed ordinance involves a matter addressed in the comprehensive plan, the city council shall refer the proposal to the planning and development board which shall, report its recommendations in writing to the city council on the proposed ordinance in accordance with section 5 of chapter 40A of the General Laws.

\*\*Planning Dept. Comment: Should this section be called “Action by the City Council and Planning Board”?