

Newton Charter Commission

Articles 2, 3, & 4: Overview Discussion

| | Executive | Legislative | School Committee |
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| Powers & Duties, Checks & Balances | | | |
| General | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec. 3-2: Shall have all executive and administrative powers of the City • Sec. 3-2: May exercise these powers personally or through City agencies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec. 2-3: Except as otherwise provided by law or charter, all powers of the City shall be vested in the Council, which shall provide for the exercise of those powers and for the performance of all duties and obligations imposed on the City by law | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec. 4-3: Shall have all the powers and duties assigned under the General Laws, and such additional powers and duties as the Council may assign |
| Appointments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec. 3-2: May appoint one or more assistants, fixes salaries • Sec. 3-2: Shall appoint a Citizen Assistance Officer, fixes salary • Sec. 3-3: Shall appoint all city officers, department heads, and all volunteer members of city boards, commissions, committees, and agencies for whom no other method is provided • Sec. 3-3: Shall appoint a treasurer • Sec. 3-5: May remove any person he or she has appointed • Sec. 3-6: May make temporary appointments to fill vacancies without Council approval | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec. 3-3: May reject appointments of the mayor for city officers, departments heads, and volunteer members of city boards, commissions, committees, and agencies by 2/3 vote • Sec. 3-3: Shall approve the appointment of a treasurer or the removal of the treasurer by a majority vote • Sec. 2-7: Shall elect a city clerk and a comptroller • Sec. 2-8: Shall elect a Clerk of the Board and sets the salary; may establish other related staff positions by ordinance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec. 4-3: Shall appoint the superintendent • Sec. 4-3: Shall appoint all other officers and employees connected with the schools, fix their compensation, and define their duties, make rules concerning their tenure and discharge them |

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| Financial Authority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec. 3-7: Shall submit an annual report on financial and administrative activities to the Council • Sec. 3-7: Shall communicate in writing throughout the year to the Council about the financial condition and futures needs of the City and recommends required measures • Sec. 5-1: Shall submit to the Council a proposed budget with supporting detail • Sec. 5-3: Shall submit to the Council a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan • Sec. 5-4: Shall have the authority to approve any contracts entered into by the City | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec. 5-2: Shall adopt the budget within 45 days • Sec. 5-2: May amend the proposed budget: may delete or decrease programs or amounts, may not make increases • Sec. 5-2: If the Council fails to take action on any budget item, such item shall become a part of the appropriations for the year • Sec. 5-3: Shall publish the CIP and hold a public hearing on it • Sec. 5-3: Shall adopt the CIP with or without amendment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec. 4-3: Shall furnish all school buildings with proper fixtures and equipment • Sec. 4-3: Shall provide for ordinary maintenance and repairs on all school buildings up to a maximum of 2% of the School Department's operating budget • Sec. 4-4: Shall communicate with the Council on the need for new schools • Sec. 4-4: Shall be consulted on any proposed new school or school renovation with regard to location and plans |
| Planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec. 7-2: Shall propose a Comprehensive Plan to serve as a guide for all action on land use and development, regulations, urban renewal programs, and capital improvement expenditures • Sec. 3-3: Shall appoint the Planning & Development Board | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec. 7-2: Shall hold a public hearing on the proposed Comprehensive Plan and shall adopt it, with or without amendment • Sec. 7-2: Shall use the CP as a guide to all action concerning land use and development regulations, urban renewal programs, and capital expenditures • Sec. 7-3: May adopt land use and development ordinances, including zoning map and regulations | |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec. 7-3: May provide for redevelopment, rehabilitation, conservation, and renewal programs • Sec. 7-3: Before acting on any matter covered by the CP, the Council shall refer the proposal to the Planning & Development Board, which shall make a recommendation on the matter | |
| Administrative Departments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec. 6-2: May propose reorganizations by submitting reorganization plans to the Council; the plans can propose to reorganize, consolidate, or abolish any City agency or establish new City agencies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec. 2-11: May require any City officer or agency member to appear before it to give information related to his or her office • Sec. 2-11: May make investigations into the affairs of the City and the conduct of any City agency • Sec. 6-1: May by ordinance reorganize, consolidate, or abolish any existing City agency, establish new agencies, and prescribe the function of City agencies, except as provided by law or the charter • Sec. 6-2: Shall, in committee, approve or disapprove of any reorganization plan submitted by the Mayor and shall, as the whole Council, approve or disapprove the plan, without amendment | |
| Legislation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec. 3-2: Shall be responsible for enforcement of laws & ordinances • Sec. 3-8: May approve all measures relative to the affairs of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec. 3-8: May override the Mayor's veto by a 2/3 margin • Sec. 2-10: May grant and issue licenses and permits, and may | |

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| | the City passed by the Council, except internal affairs of the Council and the budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec. 3-8: May veto measures passed by the Council | delegate this authority to a City agency | |
| Elections | <i>Do we need consistency across offices on elections-related items? What are the implications of various scenarios?</i> | | |
| Term Lengths | 4 years | 2 years | 2 years |
| Term Limits | None | None | Eight consecutive years |
| Vacancies | Special election | Special election | Special election |