

Adopted June 7, 1991

THE VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE:

You will be asked to approve changes to the Southbridge Town Charter which will appear on the June 7, 1991 Town ballot. Descriptions of the proposed changes are provided below including the Charter sections, the changes thereto and descriptive summaries of the changes. Only the summaries will appear on the June 7th ballot. Any change(s) are underlined; any deletions show lines through the words.

QUESTION 1.

CHAPTER 2, SECTION 2-6-2:

All meetings of the council shall be public, except as provided in section 8 of chapter 11 of this charter. The rules of the town council shall provide that inhabitants and employees of the town shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard at any such meeting in regard to any matter considered thereat except matters that could be subject to executive session.

Summary:

The proposed amendment to section 2-6-2 of the Charter would refer the section and chapter to the Town Charter and avoid any conflicts with the General Laws on executive sessions.

QUESTION 2.

CHAPTER 3, SECTION 3-2-1:

The Chairman of the Town Council shall preside at meetings of the council, shall be recognized as head of the town government for all ceremonial purposes and by the Governor of the Commonwealth in the case of an emergency.

Summary:

The proposed amendment to section 3-2-1 of the Charter recognize the Chairman of the Council as the presiding officer.

QUESTION 3.

CHAPTER 3, SECTION 3-3-1:

The vice-chairman shall ~~act as chairman during the absence or disability of the chairman.~~ automatically become Chairman in the event of the permanent disability, death, or resignation of the Chairman. A new Vice-Chairman shall be elected by a majority vote of the Town Council at the first regularly scheduled meeting called by the new Chairman.

Summary:

The proposed amendment to section 3-3-1 of the Charter would re-write the entire paragraph to provide that the Vice-Chairman shall automatically assume the chair upon the permanent disability, death or resignation of the Chairman and provides for the election of a new Vice-Chairman.

QUESTION 4.

CHAPTER 4, SECTION 4-3-2:

He/she need not be a resident of the Town at the time of his appointment, but shall take up residency and become a qualified registered voter in the Town within six months of his/her appointment.

Summary:

The proposed amendment to Section 4-3-2 of the Charter would require that future town managers be a qualified registered voter of the Town of Southbridge within six months of the appointment.

QUESTION 5.

CHAPTER 4, SECTION 4-6-1:

During the absence, disability, ~~or~~ suspension or resignation of the town manager, an acting town manager shall be appointed by the council to perform the duties of the town manager. The term of service of an acting town manager may not exceed ~~three (3) months~~ six (6) months, but one additional renewal may be voted by the town council not to exceed a second three (3) months. Compensation for such person shall be set by the town council.

Summary:

The proposed amendment to section 4-6-1 of the Charter would list resignation as an additional factor causing a vacancy in the position of Town Manager and provide additional time for an Acting Town Manager to serve by changing the initial appointment from 3 months to 6 months with an additional 3 months if necessary.

QUESTION 6.

CHAPTER 7, SECTION 7-8-1:

A board of assessors, two part-time members to be elected by the voters for three year staggered terms, the third member to be full time and appointed by the town manager for a staggered three year term who shall be the Clerk of the Board.

Summary:

The proposed amendment to section 7-8-1 of the Charter would fully describe the appointed third member of the Board of Assessors as the Clerk of the Board.

QUESTION 7.

CHAPTER 10, SECTION 10-3-1:

A vacancy in the office of town councillor whether caused by death, resignation, removal or recall shall be filled by a special election to be called within thirty days of said vacancy unless a regular town election will occur within one hundred and ~~twenty~~ eighty days. Filling of vacancies in town boards other than the town council shall be by joint convention as provided in section 7-2-1. A precinct Councillor, moving out of his/her precinct shall be allowed to hold the present office until the next regular town election.

Summary:

This proposed amendment to Section 10-3-1 of the Charter would allow a precinct councillor who moves out of the precinct to hold office until the next regular town election and provides that a special election will not be held within 180 days of the regular election.

QUESTION 8.

CHAPTER 11, SECTION 11-8-1:

~~In addition to the requirements and limitation found in General Laws Chapter 39, Section 23A, no meeting of the town council, or of any town board, commission, committee, or subcommittee shall be held in executive session unless it shall be so voted.~~

~~Executive sessions may be held only for the purpose of discussing but not voting on matters which cannot be made public by reason of law or federal grant in aid requirements, which might adversely affect the reputation of any person or the financial interest of the Town.~~

No meeting of the Town Council, or of any Town board, commission, committee or subcommittee shall be held in Executive Session except under the requirements and limitations found in G. L. Chapter 39, Section 23A and 23B.

Summary:

The proposed amendment to Section 11-8-1 of the Charter would eliminate any questions on procedures to be followed for executive sessions and to conform to state law.

01550
SOUTHBRIDGE
38 NEWELL AVENUE
MA
KAVANAGH, ARTHUR J
Barbara

US POSTAGE
PAID
BULK RATE
Permit #60
01550