AGENDA
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
October 28, 2020
7:00 PM

Electronic Meeting Pursuant to Paragraph 1 of Executive Order 7Bi

THIS MEETING WILL BE A 100% ELECTRONIC MEETING
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT MEMORIAL TOWN HALL WILL BE
CLOSED PURSUANT TO THE GOVERNOR’S EXECUTIVE ORDERS 7B and 7D

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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agenda for alternate sign in instructions.

1. Call of the meeting and roll call
2. Approval of previous minutes – October 14, 2020
3. Sequential Review of Public Comment Documents
4. Adjournment

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Under Executive Order 7B Electronic Meetings are subject to the following: (a) The public shall have the ability to view or listen to each meeting or proceeding in real time, by telephone, video, or other technology; (b) Any such meeting or proceeding shall be recorded or transcribed, and such recording or transcript shall be posted on the Town's website within seven (7) days of the meeting or proceeding, and made available within a reasonable time in the Town Clerk’s office; (c) The required notice and agenda for each meeting or proceeding is posted on the agency's website and shall include information about how the meeting will be conducted and how the public can access it; (d) Any materials relevant to matters on the agenda, including but not limited to materials related to specific applications, if applicable, shall be submitted to the agency a minimum of twenty four (24) hours prior and posted to the agency's website for public inspection prior to, during, and after the meeting, and any exhibits to be submitted by members of the public shall, to the extent feasible, also be submitted to the agency a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting and posted to the agency's website for public inspection prior to, during, and after the meeting; and, (e) All speakers taking part in any such meeting or proceeding shall clearly state their name and title, if applicable, before speaking on each occasion that they speak.
### INITIAL ISSUES RAISED BEFORE THE HAMDEN CHARter REVISION COMMISSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preamble</strong></td>
<td>Preamble: Charter should include language stating the “intent to value inclusivity” and “relying on general statutes to oversee our information dispensation efforts is neither just nor intentional.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal Issues/Comment</strong></td>
<td>The Preamble was adopted by the last Charter Commission as an aspirational statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter I Definitions</strong></td>
<td>• <strong>Charter §1-4.B:</strong> Review the term “Capital Expenditures” with Bond Counsel and make certain that it works with the budget provisions of the Charter.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <strong>Charter §1-4.O:</strong> Review the word “vote” throughout the Charter to make certain there is consistent application; unless otherwise intended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>• <strong>Charter §1-4.O:</strong> Review the word “cast” as set forth in this section.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• <strong>Charter §1-4.Q + V:</strong> Review the term “Meeting (or Hearing) Notice” and “Public Notice” re – issue of “newspaper” publication.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <strong>Charter 1-4 (NEW):</strong> Adding a definition of “inclusivity” as our town defines it.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <strong>Charter 1-4 (NEW):</strong> There are a series of comments addressed under the guise of IT infrastructure of Hamden as relates to communications, website access and interface, email correspondence and participation in remote or hybrid public meetings. While some of the issues are budgetary the Charter may include definitions of “Meetings” or “Public Participation” that could embrace these notions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal Issues/Comment</strong></td>
<td>These issues will require a combination of word searches and some policy choices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter II Incorporation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Charter §2-2 - Incorporation:</strong> As the 11th largest municipality the time has come to call Hamden as city as opposed to a Town.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal Issues/Comment</strong></td>
<td>Requires a legal determination of the basis for the current classification.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Chapter III
**Elections and Elected Officials**

- **Charter §3-3.A(1), §3-3.C(2) and §6-1 – Status of Town Clerk**
  - Town Clerk should be a classified civil service position
  - Town clerk should remain an elected position and not become an appointed position.

- **Charter §3-3.E – Election of At-Large Members of the Legislative Council:**
  - There should be more minority party members.
  - Nonpartisan election for Legislative Council.
  - Eliminate at-large council members; replace nine districts with five with three members each (15 members).
  - “Electors shall vote for no more than four (4) At-Large candidates.” Proposal: Replace 4 with 6.
  - Reduce the number of districts in Hamden in order to reduce the disparity that continues to increase.

- **Charter §3-3.F – Election of Board of Education:**
  - Four Year Term.

- **NEW.** Make high profile positions part of the election process.

- **Charter §3-5.A - Mayoral Vacancy and Succession:**
  - Eliminate the Special Election. Currently the Council President succeeds Mayor for a period of time. There should be an option for the Council President to step aside and allow the Pro Tem to succeed as Mayor. The Town Attorney agrees that revision along the lines proposed is necessary.

- **Charter §3-5.B – Legislative Council and Town Clerk Vacancy:**
  - Vacancies on the legislative council should be filled within 3 months. If the Legislative council has a
### Chapter III

**Elections and Elected Officials (con't)**

- **Vacancy:** It should be filled by a majority vote of the Town Committee for a person of the same political party or affiliation as that of the person who just vacated the office. *The Legislative Council should not vote to fill this vacancy*[^25] (emphasis added by counsel).
  - Vacancies shall be filled by a majority vote of the Town Committee for a person of the same political party or affiliation as that of the person who just vacated the office[^26].
- **Charter §3-5.C – Board of Education[^27]:** Vacancies shall be filled by a majority vote of the Town Committee for a person of the same political party or affiliation as that of the person who just vacated the office.
- **Charter §3-7 – Reapportionment of Voting Districts:**
  - Review recommended by Commissioner[^26].
  - Revising the districts of our town to be fully representative of our larger demographics, and clearly defining the reason for this revision in Section 3-7[^29].
- **Charter 3-9 (See also, Charter §7.2.B – Conflict of Interest and Ethics:**
  - **Independent and Discretionary Action of Ethics Board[^30]:** The Ethics Board should provide oversight and proactive insight not just respond to requests from LC members for opinions. The Board is in the position of guiding the ethical character of Hamden.
  - **Address Conflicts of Interest[^31]:** Address all conflicts of interest and make and enforce penalties for failing to meet such guidelines.

| Legal Issues/Comment | None at this time. |

[^25]: Tracking Chart for Public and Other Comments Before Charter Revision Commission (SGM V.1: 23 October 2020) - 3
[^26]: Tracking Chart for Public and Other Comments Before Charter Revision Commission (SGM V.1: 23 October 2020) - 3
[^27]: Tracking Chart for Public and Other Comments Before Charter Revision Commission (SGM V.1: 23 October 2020) - 3
[^28]: Tracking Chart for Public and Other Comments Before Charter Revision Commission (SGM V.1: 23 October 2020) - 3
[^29]: Tracking Chart for Public and Other Comments Before Charter Revision Commission (SGM V.1: 23 October 2020) - 3
[^30]: Tracking Chart for Public and Other Comments Before Charter Revision Commission (SGM V.1: 23 October 2020) - 3
[^31]: Tracking Chart for Public and Other Comments Before Charter Revision Commission (SGM V.1: 23 October 2020) - 3
**INITIAL ISSUES RAISED BEFORE THE HAMDEN CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**

- **Charter §4-3.C - Public Comment**: Review this provision for greater clarity\(^{32}\).

- **Charter §4-5.C – Increase or Decrease Budget**: Should include reference to Capital Expenditures and Budget\(^{33}\).

- **Prohibit Public Employees from Serving on LC\(^{34}\)**:
  - Public employees should not be able to serve on the LC nor should relatives of employees\(^{35}\).
  - This poses a conflict of interest - pitting personal interest above public interest and creating a culture of distrust by residents.
  - Citizens must be able to trust their elected officials.
  - Employees currently serve at the will of the Mayor and risk their jobs if they disagree.
  - Change the rules to disallow Town employees, retirees or relatives of retirees or employees from serving on the Legislative Council, commissions and in the Mayoral Administrative offices\(^{36}\).
  - Add: All persons employed by the town, BOE or have a contract with the town and persons in the household shall not be an elected official of the town\(^{37}\).
  - Nor should anyone with family serving in upper echelon employment or elected capacity serve on any council (especially not the Legislative Council)\(^{38}\).

- **Legislative Council Agenda Issue\(^{39}\)**: Agenda items for Legislative Council meetings should be posted a week ahead of time or automatically tabled to give the public and Council members to time to consider the issues. Enforcement of this should be strict.

- **Legislative Council Oversight of Departments\(^{40}\)**: The Legislative Council should be charged with closely monitoring the work of each department with regular assessment.

- **Attendance Requirements\(^{41}\)**: Legislative Council members should have attendance requirements.

- **Notice Prior to Legislative Action**: 

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**Chapter IV**

**Legislative Council**
Chapter IV
Legislative Council

- Legislative Council members should not be expected to vote on an item that is brought before them less than 48 hours before the vote is anticipated. It is impossible to make knowledgeable decisions that affect the entire town without more time to adequately consider the request\textsuperscript{42}.

- Motions are always last minute and promise dire consequences if the LC doesn’t pass this bond issue or that immediately. “...one heck of a way to “run a railroad\textsuperscript{43}.”

• **Emergency Actions – Definition\textsuperscript{44}:** Delivery of a request later than 48 hours should only be allowed in an emergency. The meaning of emergency should be defined.

• **Regular Financial Updates to Legislative Council\textsuperscript{45}:** A financial update should be presented at every Legislative Council meeting by the town Finance Director or the next in charge.

Legal Issues/Comment
Case law and statute address the issue of the eligibility of municipal employees to serve as elected officials which will need to be consulted if we want to pursue this issue.
### Chapter V

**The Mayor**

- **Charter §5-2.D (2) – Contract Approvals**: Should contracts without fiscal impact be subject to legislative approval?  

- **Charter §5-5.C – Emergency Powers**: Should be reviewed.

**Legal Issues/Comment**

- **Professional Town Management – Transition to Town Manager**: Hamden should move to professional rather than political leadership...a town manager form of government with a focus on expertise in finance, administration, budget making and contract management as required skills.
  
  - The need for a fiscally responsible Town Manager to run Hamden.
  - Establish a City Manager Governmental Structure.
  - Seriously consider changing to a town manager form of government: Our town is in financial ruin and needs a highly trained and skilled professional with a dedicated, knowledgeable team to lead us out of this situation by addressing our serious management problems.
  - Town Manager would run a tighter ship than a Mayor.
  - Make Hamden a Town Manager system of government. “Let’s have a professional running the town’s affairs professionally.”
  - “We need a change to a town manager.”
  - “Could we be worse off with a professional approach to our finances and managing our town” than the current form of government and “the history of cronism, and mismanagement?” Hamden would be “better served by a different approach….a Town Manager form of government.”
  - Hamden “…needs a professional who can make decisions to manage our budget without owing (sic) their re-election to the unions and employees that put a Mayor in position.”

Strongly supports “a shift toward the town manager model (away from mayoral system)...(due to)
INITIAL ISSUES RAISED BEFORE THE HAMDEN CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Chapter V
Mayor-Council and Council Manager Form of Government
Chief Administrative Officer

mismanagement…profligate spending and ever-rising property taxes."  

- The only solution is to dissolve the position of mayor and to appoint a Town Manager, who is qualified and bold enough to begin to deal with the problem and who will be held to account for her or his performance."  

- Change from a mayoral system to a Town Manager system…due to the “town’s dire financial situation” which “requires professional, competent fiscal and administrative leadership…It would be an improvement if the town were managed by a qualified professional who that their job was dependent on performance, and whose appointment was not based on politics."  

- We write to support those town residents who are urging a change from the current mayoral system to a Town Manager system.  We strongly believe that that such a changed system would be in the long term interests and to the real benefit of all residents.  However, strong safeguards must be included to ensure that the Town Manager role would not become politicized (sic), taking us out of the frying pan into the fire."  

- Favors Town Manager and "a worthy, collegial and intelligent leader….with the thoughtful, responsible qualities of Ned Lamont."  

- A City Manager’s prime role is budget management and the Legislative Council can require this or fire the City Manager. "Legislative Council can’t fire the Mayor…can’t even discipline the Mayor. For those of you who have watched over the last several years, the presentations to the LC by the Mayor and his staff, you will have heard how desperate Hamden is to borrow more money. The explanation is that we have to borrow or we will not have cash to pay our bills.”  

- Have the Council hire a Town Manager for an initial five years.  The candidate must have a proven track record in managing a multimillion dollar business and must possess relevant academic credentials (a genuine MBA, perhaps).  A referendum toward the end of his/her contractual term will determine whether or not we return to a Mayor-Council form of town government.

- **Eliminate Strong Mayor Form of Government**: We need a professional person in charge of the "business" of Hamden. Currently, we have been operating as if we are a mom and pop business with very little to no professional expertise at the mayoral/administrative level. Could we change the Charter to allow for the possibility of having a Town or City Manager?
• **Long Term Planning and Sustained Strategic Planning:** “A process/organizational structure that supports long-term initiatives. While I'm not suggesting that a Town Manager would be the only way to help ensure a sustained strategic planning and implementation process, there is a need for stable and secured leadership and organizational structure that can work beyond the political ebbs and flows to get big things done.”

• **Fiduciary Responsibilities and Incentives.**
  
  o I would like to see the mayor, a town manager and most importantly, the Legislative Council be "fiduciarily" responsible. At the present time, it is my understanding that no one in the elected offices has any responsibility for making sure that we are fiscally responsible as a town. When I was Chair of the Hamden Mental Health Commission, we had fiduciary responsibility. It is a big deal, but it makes commissioners realize that they have to attend to finances in a responsible manner. You can be sure that I had personal insurance!! I believe the Board of Education has fiduciary responsibility. Could you please consider adding this to the new Charter?

  o Whether a mayoral or city manager type government, there should be incentives for the person(s) in charge to be efficient and to hold down costs so that Hamden might regain its reputation as an attractive place to live. Incentives do not include getting re-elected.

  o It seems evident that our current mayoral systems can be influenced by political considerations, not the common good of the town. Where is the transparency?

• **Retain the Mayor/Council Form of Government.** There current government is the Mayor Council form as opposed to a strong Mayor form of government.

  o We should not allow our frustration with our present situation to push us to make changes to our Charter that will alter the character of our town; in other words, you shouldn’t change the Charter on the basis of opinion of the current occupant or politics. Accountability is rooted in the “direct...vote for our Mayor every two years.” The chief executive must be answerable to the public.

  o There is no evidence that Town Manager governments are more efficient.
INITIAL ISSUES RAISED BEFORE THE HAMDEN CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Chapter V

Mayor-Council and Council Manager Form of Government

Chief Administrative Officer

- **Assessment of Legislative and Executive Functions.** If there is a problem with the form of government you need to assess the executive and legislative functions.

- **Is the Legislative Council Capable of Managing and Overseeing the Town Manager?** Concerned about placing authority in the hands of the Legislative Council; in effect, as the employer of the Town Manager.

- **How Do You Hold the Town Manager Accountable?** Town Manager would be accountable to Legislative Council, which is not equipped to manage the town.

- **Fiscal Responsibility.** If you go the Town Manager route you may consider throwing in a Board of Finance to supplant some of the budgetary authority of the Legislative Council.

- **Establish the Office of Chief Administrative Officer/Chief Operating Officer.** As an alternate to Town Manager is a strong and independent Chief Administrative Officer/Chief Operating Officer:
  - appointed by Mayor, who remains chief executive officer, and approved by Council;
  - five year term governed by contract;
  - professional qualifications;
  - clear delineation of responsibilities;
  - department heads report on operational and administrative matters to CAO who reports to Mayor; and,
  - termination by Mayor effective upon approval of the Legislative Council.

- **Do Not Change the Charter.** Hamden should not “revise the charter in favor of a town manager. Harry Reid and Mitch McConnell both change the rules of Congress because they do not like the results of the moment…We in Hamden should not follow that path. I am not happy with the mayor and his fiscal governing of this town. That said I do not think we should throw the baby with the bathwater do not change the charter.”

- **Finance Director: A Civil Service Position.** The Finance Director ought to be a civil service position and not one where he/she serves at the pleasure of the Mayor from administration to administration. One of the reasons the town’s finances are the way they are today is due in part to the lack of continuity in that position, which in the past has been filled by some less than qualified individuals, especially at the most
### Legal Issues/Comment

**C.G.S. §7-193** requires the designation of a chief executive official. The options are:

- First Selectman
- Mayor elected by the electors
- Chief Administrative Officer appointed by the Mayor.
- Chief Administrative Officer appointed by the Board of Selectman
- City/Town Manager appointed by the Board of Selectman, Council, Board of Directors or Board of Alderman

**Note 1:** Any municipality having a manager as its Chief Executive Officer may also have a Mayor who shall be the presiding member of its legislative body, the ceremonial head of the municipality and shall have such other powers and duties that the charter prescribes.

**Note 2:** Again, the powers, duties and term of office of the Chief Executive Officer shall be prescribed by the General Statutes and he or she shall have such other powers and duties as the charter prescribes.

### Chapter VI

**Town Clerk**

- **See Charter Chapter III**

### Legal Issues/Comment

Will require review of pertinent statutes.
Chapter VII
Boards and Commissions

- **Charter §7-1.E – Dual Appointments**: What is the status of regional board appointments?
- **Charter §7-1.I – Restrictions on Civil Service and Ethics Appointment**: 
- **Charter §7-1: Qualifications for Boards and Commissions**: 
  - Commissions should be made up of people who have some experience in the area they are serving.
  - The Legislative Council should be responsible for overseeing that such nominated persons are appropriate for the job they are being asked to do.
- **Charter §7-1: Regularly Scheduled Meetings of Boards and Commissions**: 
  - Commissions should be required to meet regularly at least 10 months out of the year.
  - For some reason, the Police Commission did not meet for several months this year (while other commissions met regularly).
  - This severely limits the public's access to the commission and to raising issues of public concern.
- **Charter §7-1: Mandate Regular Meetings of Commissions**.
- **Charter §7-1: Public Input**: Ensure public input, oral and written, in all matters
- **Charter §7-1: Attendance and Regular Meeting Requirements**: Boards and Commissions- should have attendance requirements and meetings should be held 10 months per year.
- **Charter §7-1: Term limits for Board and Commission Members**.
- **Charter §7-1: Inclusivity**: The Town and its officials should “…be demographically proportionate to its population, which is how inclusivity on the part of municipalities is generally defined….the Mayor’s Office, the Legislative Council, the Board of Education and other town Commissions should represent, in its population make-up, our town’s demographics–namely, gender, race, age, income status, neighborhood, and/or political affiliation.” Charter only mentions political affiliation…”inclusivity equals representation of the actual demographics makeup of our town’s population (i.e. proportional representation):”
### Initial Issues Raised Before the Hamden Charter Revision Commission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter VII</th>
<th>Boards and Commissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Charter 7-2.B – Board of Ethics(^{94})</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Board of Ethics members should not be appointed by the Mayor as they are called upon to review complaints concerning elected officials and town employees.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- The qualifications of these board members should be reviewed and tightened so that public confidence can be high that there is little opportunity for conflict of interest.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Reconsideration of what types of issues are appropriate for the ethics commission to review is needed. Complaints from the public should be considered.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Charter 7-2.B – Board of Ethics Authority to recommend Recusals for Legislative Council Members(^{95}). The Board of Ethics should be empowered to be able to recommend recusals for Legislative Council members that have a conflict of interest in voting (when a complaint is received).”</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Charter §7-2.C and D(^{96}): Police and Fire Commissions should have staggered terms</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Charter §7-2.A (2) – Membership of Civil Service Commission: Three appointees are too few(^{97}). Civil Service-increase by 2 members. 3 members are not sufficient. Establish fair hiring practices and determine what constitutes conflicts of interest in hiring(^{98}).</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Charter §7-5.A – Board of Assessment Appeals(^{99}): There should be expanded membership.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal Issues/Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are a number of legal issues which will wait until the Commission winnows this section down.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Chapter VII
Police Commission

Civilian Review Board

• Charter §7-2.C – Restructuring of the Police Commission⁹⁰: Police Commission Membership should be expanded to 9 members representative of each of the Council Districts
  o Qualifications should be established for members to assure broad representation and backgrounds.
  o CRB limited by the content of CRBs…an ordinance not a Charter issue.

• Charter §7-2.C – Restructuring of the Police Commission⁹¹: Instead of 9 districts there should be three with three members each subject to minority party representation.

• Charter §7-2.C – Police Commission⁹²: Membership should be expanded.

• Create Civilian Review Board⁹³, with subpoena powers as first line of discipline⁹⁴

• Charter §7-2.D – Fire Commission⁹⁵: Membership should be expanded in line with the Police Commission.

• Oversight Commissions. Further there should be an oversight committee for police beyond the present Police Commission which is apparently more of a do-nothing "yes" club than any kind of oversight commission. Similarly for energy, Public Works etc. Oversight committees and commissions in general should be made up of people from every district none of whom hold any office nor have any upper echelon employment relationship with the Town. Nor should anyone serving on these commissions and committees have any business or employment relationship with the service under said committee or commission purvue (sic). In all cases, no one with ties to any utility or other service-to-the-Town company hold any position on the Legislative Council⁹⁶.

Legal Issues/Comment

Issue 1:

A Civilian Police Review Board ("CPRB") may now be established by Ordinance pursuant to Sec. 17 of P.A. 20-1⁹⁷. The following are the ordinance provisions permitted by statute:

• Scope of CPRB Authority [§17(a)(1)]⁹⁸,
• Number of CPRB members [§17(a)(2)];
• Process for the selection of CPRB members, whether elected or appointed [§17(a)(3)];
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal Issues/Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Term of office for CPRB members [§17(a)(4)]; and</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Procedure for filling any CPRB vacancy [§17(a)(5)].</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subpoena Authority of CPRB to:</td>
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<td>• Compel the attendance of witnesses before such board [§17(b)(1)]; and</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Require the production for examination of any books and papers that such board deems relevant to any matter under investigation or in question [§17(b)(2)].</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stay of CPRB Actions.</strong> Upon written request of the Office of Inspector General (“OIG”) [§17(d)] the CPRB “...shall stay and take no further action in connection with any proceeding that is the subject of an investigation or criminal prosecution that is being conducted pursuant to said section or section 51-277a of the general statutes.” The stay:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Shall not exceed six months from the date on which the civilian police review board receives such written request from the Office of the Inspector General; and</td>
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<tr>
<td>• May be terminated sooner if the OIG provides written notification to the civilian police review board that a stay of proceedings is no longer required</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Issue 2:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Police and Fire Commission should be lodged with the responsibility for reviewing the respective collective bargaining agreement in order to consider best practice revisions and also take into account budgetary constraints inherent in such agreements, including but not limited to overtime, minimum staffing and other requirements.</td>
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</table>
• **Charter §8-2:** Should consider permitting longer contracts for municipal employees\(^{109}\).

• **Charter §8-2:** New provisions governing the conduct of Department Heads, as follows:
  
  o Department heads should report to the mayor and respond to requests and questions from the Legislative Council on a timely basis to allow informed decision making by the Council. This past year, department heads were instructed not to speak to LC members at a time when critical budgetary deliberations were transpiring and council members could not get needed information from the department heads\(^{110}\).

  o Department heads (or assistant) that have a direct interest in any item on the council agenda should be required to be available at the council meetings to answer questions that might arise in the meeting\(^{111}\).

  o The Council regularly has questions at the council meetings that go unanswered because the department head or assistant is not available to answer their questions\(^{112}\).

  o All Department Heads should have required certifications in place prior to being hired\(^{113}\).

• **Charter §8-4.D:** New provisions governing the procurement and contract processes:
  
  o **Contract Bidding and Oversight**\(^{114}\): Contract bidding requirements, vetting and letting that adhere to standard rules to ensure quality of deliverables and efficiency. Contracts should be reviewed regularly for effectiveness and competitiveness.

  o **No Bid Contracts**\(^{115}\): No-bid contracts should be severely limited in order to deter abuse. Currently they are seen as a last minute need by the Administration, but the process is frequently abused. Establish rules when a no-bid contract can be used and establish consequences if it is abused.

• **Charter §8-6.A (d):** The Tree Warden should be a licensed arborist\(^{116}\).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter IX</th>
<th>No issues at the present time.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal Issues/Comment</td>
<td>Please note that the austerity issues set forth below may or should include a discussion of ways and means to consider administrative consolidations of services, such as procurement, personnel and finance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter X</td>
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</table>
| Budget | **Capital Budget and Expenditures**\(^ {117}\): Budget process should be reviewed including Charter §10-3.C “Proposed Capital Expenditures.”

**Austerity Measures I**\(^ {118}\): **Hamden is headed into very serious and difficult financial times.** For the next 15-20 years, Hamden will have to start paying back the money that has been borrowed and the pension payments that have been delayed. This will mean severe austerity measures will have to be evaluated and implemented. Some say it is inevitable that the State’s financial oversight body, MARB, will be coming in to require more responsible budgeting including a 3-5 yr. financial plan that shows a balanced budget. The difference between that scenario and the past years which supposedly showed passage of a balanced budget is that MARB will not tolerate budgets with padded revenues and understated expenses which have characterized recent years’ budgets.

**Austerity Measures II**\(^ {119}\): The approach to taxes needs to be re-engineered. How about first setting a reasonable mill rate, then based on the grand list sources of income, including property to be taxed, determine the total town budget—that is, how much can be spent. All expenditures by the town would sum to this amount and no overages allowed A reasonable mill rate should reflect our “competition” in other CT towns that seem to get things done efficiently- this could be based on a quick sampling from e.g. Milford, Cheshire, North Haven, etc. Allocate the total budget amount, and make all departments and potential expenditures justify their budgets and live with the allocation they are given. Focus on value-added activities and minimize/eliminate administrative and supervisory activities.

To extent & format possible I suggest that short (annual), mid, and long term priorities are presented in a specific format so these can be provided to Hamden's State Legislative delegation. This would allow tracking progress to alleviate chronic state under-funding of our public schools and municipality, and other challenges & roadblocks\(^ {120}\). |
| Legal Issues/Comment | I included several conceptual ideas that were advanced by proponents. The major enterprise will be a review of the capital budget process and a review of the budget process in general. |
### General Comments

- Re: violent crime, fear, residents struggling to pay property taxes, intimidation and destructive propaganda from the left wing radicals of Hamden, silence of Town government, ghost town (hundreds of homes for sale in Hamden)...Whether this Commission has the will or know how to address these issues in the middle of what I can only describe as Impending Civil War remains to be seen. I would like to offer my services.  

- With all the complaints that have been voiced in Hamden regarding panhandling, is it possible to address this issue by writing in an ordinance that prohibits panhandling on public and private properties without the owner’s permission? This would help alleviate the fear that shoppers and pedestrians have walking by these people. Hamden residents have been attacked and harassed by these panhandlers.

- **Housing Patterns.** “One of those big things needs to be to take a look at policies and regulations related to housing patterns and revise those that provide road blocks to developing more integrated neighborhoods. Our schools must become more integrated, and if we are to provide some degree of neighborhood schools, it stands to reason that our neighborhoods must become more integrated. Otherwise, our schools will have no other choice but to integrate our schools outside the neighborhood’s attendance zone practice.”

### Legal Issues/Comment

I was having trouble categorizing these comments. Perhaps these are issues for the Legislative Council since this can be accomplished by ordinance.

### Quinnipiac Housing Issues

- **Regulation of Student Rentals in Residential Neighborhoods**: Differential taxation for owners as may be true of shoreline properties.

- **Permits for Quinnipiac Rental Homes**: Cost too low, police regulations, required annual renewals, front lawn parking restrictions, neighborhood cap on student housing: (1) Regulate density of QU rental houses; (2) Charge higher fees and renewals to rental housing landlords; (3) Provide landlord name and contact info to neighbors; (4) Give more power to noise, blight and public nuisance ordinances; (5) Revoke permits from repeat offenders; and (6) Prohibit auto-renewal of rental permit when houses are sold.
### Initial Issues Raised Before the Hamden Charter Revision Commission

| Quinnipiac Housing Issues | **QU Student Housing**[^126][^127]: Charter should contain a three strike policy which would revoke student housing permits after three “legitimate” complaints.  
|
| | 
| | Increase the number of rental permits from $300.00 to $5,000.00 and renewal fee from $150.00 to $1,500.00[^128].  
|
| | Concerns regarding QU students[^129]: (1) Increasing number of homes that have cars from parked on lawns and on the streets; (2) Traffic law violations...by these students. Running stop signs and traffic lights; (3) Our quiet community is changing and more residents are moving out and more students moving in. Not to mention litter is on the rise; and (4) Noise is also a concern with loud music and with parties that seem to occur without regard to the working class people in the neighborhood.  
|
| | Increase the Planning and Zoning department to so they are better equipped to deal with issues such as Paradise Nursery and Quinnipiac rental properties[^130].  
|

[^126]:  
[^127]:  
[^128]:  
[^129]:  
[^130]:  

| Legal Issues/Comment | More of a zoning or ordinance issue than a Charter issue. You may consider a charter mandate; however, in the last analysis zoning is subject to Title 8 of the C.G.S.  
|
### Recall of Elected Officials

- **Recall of Mayor, BOE Members and LC Members**: Allow for recall of a mayor, BOE members and legislative council members. Presently, we have few options to allow for a recall of an elected official unless a crime has been committed. Dereliction of duty, misuse of power, failure to work or show up for work and other means of abuse of the public trust are not grounds for a recall election. We need to add this flexibility to our Charter.

- **Add recall by petition for cause in Section 3-10 Removal of elected and appointed officials**.

- **Any Mayor or Town Manager must be answerable to the public and that includes oversight and recall ability**.

### Legal Issues/Comment

**Simons v. Canty**: Recall is not available in the State of Connecticut. Here is no express grant of authority that permits local government recall. The only recall towns are those which have special act provisions.

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1. Submitted by Lee Lee McKnight, Putnam Avenue: 10/13/2020. Note: “The preamble itself can set forth a stronger, clearer commitment to all the citizens of our Town. Merely listing inclusivity as a foundation doesn’t do service to the purposeful, challenging, and necessary work this Commission has undertaken to ensure this document adequately expresses the intentions of the Town of Hamden. A preamble highlights the spirit of a Town, and sets forth the tone in which the Town's Charter has been written or revised. As such, a clear, convincing statement of Hamden’s Intent to be inclusive must be included. More than a herald of our progressive values, this declaration must delineate the criteria by which we shall judge whether our value of inclusivity is being realized.”


8. Submitted by Elaine Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 9/21/2020. Note: “We must change the IT infrastructure to allow a more robust system in the Town government and in the BOE. Last year we had 3 months of no internet in the public schools (prior to the Pandemic closing) and the Town government email server regularly spits back emails as undeliverable. This is unacceptable because it limits the public’s ability to contact the members of their town government”.

9. Submitted by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020. Note: “Zoom and other technology that makes it possible for the public to participate in their local government meetings should be required to be used by the town even after the pandemic is over. It makes participation in our town government possible without the need to travel which can be difficult if you lack a car or a ride or mass transit is not available.”

10. Submitted by Elaine Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 9/21/2020. Note: “The town IT dept. must be capable of providing services needed to run our town so that email and other communications are reliable. There has been an ongoing problem with email delivery to town offices since at least January 2020. Emails are blocked, bounced, marked undeliverable etc. In a pandemic where town offices are closed, this is especially serious. In a democracy this is unacceptable.” See also, Elaine Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 9/21/2020.

11. Submitted by Elian Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 9/21/2020. Note: Hybrid Meeting Participation: “Hamden resident participation in public commissions has risen dramatically with the commission..."
mechanisms, agendas and back-up materials need to be posted consistently and in a timely manner in accordance with FOI requirements.


13 Public Testimony of Council President Mick McGarry 10/14/2020

14 Submitted by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road - 9/27/2020

15 Public Testimony of Council Minority Leader Betty Wetmore: 10/14/2020

16 Submitted by Joseph McDonagh Whitney Avenue: 9/22/2020.

17 Submitted by Joseph McDonagh Whitney Avenue: 9/22/2020


22 Public Testimony of Former Council President and Acting Mayor James Pascarella: 10/14/2020.

23 Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.

24 Submitted by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020. Note: “The 7th District has not had a council representative for almost 2 years. Initially due to illness and then unfortunately, due to the death of our Representative. The people of the district need and are entitled to a representative they can turn to for their district concerns, just as every other district has.”

25 Submitted by Diane Hoffman: 9/27/2020

26 Submitted by Sean Grace: 9/22/2020

27 Submitted by Sean Grace: 9/22/2020

28 Issue raised by Commissioner Kaye: 10/14/2020.

29 Submitted by Lee Lee McKnight, Putnam Avenue: 10/13/2020.


31 Submitted by Elain Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 9/21/2020

32 Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.

33 Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.


38 Submitted by Patricia C. Vener-Saavedra: 10/21/2020.


44 Submission by Stocky Clark: 9/22/2020: “Under Mayoral leadership over the years, the Town has moved slowly but surely to huge indebtedness ($1.1 Billion or $18,000 per resident)... Our regular deficit budgets has led to the borrowing that has created this huge indebtedness which in turn has led to regular downgrading of our bond status to one step above “Junk bond” with a negative outlook. Poor, incompetent or willful mismanagement of the budget seems to have been accepted for years.”


47 Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.

48 Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.


50 Note: Ms. Clark also promoted the proposed West Haven Charter revisions which are on the ballot next month. Stock Clark also added the following: “A City Manager by training and experience will have had experience in all areas of municipal administration including fiscal management, budget oversight, personnel administration and labor negotiations. We need that level of expertise to manage the difficult times ahead. We need someone who can meet the demands of office and still maintain the quality of services which we all want.” See also, Arturo Perez: 10/21/2020. See also, Franklin Edward-Flewelling Getchell: 10/21/2020. Note: “I would like to add my very strong agreement that it’s time to change the management of Hamden to a Town
Manager form of government. The extreme level of debt this small town owes is unconscionable and is trackable directly to cronyism and mismanagement for the past many years. It's equally clear that the fact of a mayoral election every two years means that any candidate is hostage to the unions whose votes the candidate must have. Given that this is our setup currently, the only and best recourse is to change the form of town governance. I totally support Ann Altman's offer to run as Hamden's last mayor, one who will transition us to the only way the town can survive: Town Management.”

54 Submitted by Stuart Gardner, Blake Road: 10/19/2020.
55 Submitted by John E. Papin, Jr.: 10/19/2020.
56 Submitted by Jacob Feigenbaum, Edgehill Terrace:10/19/2020.
57 Submitted by Stephen Marsh, PhD, Blake Road: 10/19/2020.
59 Submitted by Peter C. Patrikis, Giles Street: 10/19/2020.
60 Submitted by Mark Eggeman, Hamden Homeowner: 10/19/2020.
62 Submitted by Sheila de Bretteville, Deepwood Drive:10/19/2020.
64 Note: There is a removal provision in the Charter
65 Submitted by David G. Johnson, Costanzo Court: 10/21/2020.
66 Submitted by Elaine Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 9/21/2020. Dove submission: “Hamden needs to change what we are doing as it is not working in favor of the residents… If we fall under MARB control, we may not have a choice (see, West Haven and their charter revision).”
67 Note: Stocky Clark submission on 9/22/2020: “The Mayoral form of government has shown how not to manage town finances. Hamden has reached its” credit card” limits and requires serious financial leadership.”
68 Submitted by Jody Ian Goeler, Superintendent, Hamden Public Schools 10/19/20.
71 Public Testimony of Council President Mick McGarry: 10/14/2020.
73 Public Testimony of Council President Mick McGarry: 10/14/2020.
75 Public Testimony of Council President Mick McGarry: 10/14/2020.
77 Public Testimony of Council President Mick McGarry: 10/14/2020.
80 Public Testimony of Council President Mick McGarry: 10/14/2020.
81 Public testimony of Former Council President and Acting Mayor James Pascarella: 10/14/2020.
82 Public Testimony of Former Council President and Acting Mayor James Pascarella: 10/14/2020.
83 Public Testimony Council President Mick McGarry: 10/14/2020.
84 Submitted by Bill Garvey, Charlton Hill: 10/19/20.
85 Submitted by David G. Johnson, Costanzo Court: 10/21/2020.
86 Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.
87 Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.
88 Submitted by Elaine Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 9/21/2020.
89 Submitted by Elaine Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 9/21/2020.
91 Public testimony and written submission of Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road - 9/22/2020 and 9/27/2020, respectively.
INITIAL ISSUES RAISED BEFORE THE HAMDEN CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

91 Public testimony and written submission of Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road - 9/22/2020 and 9/27/2020, respectively. Note: The police commission did not meet for an excessive number of months while residents had serious concerns to discuss.
93 Submitted by Lee Lee McKnight, Putnam Avenue: 10/13/2020.
94 Submitted by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020. Note: “While reviewing the Charter, the possibility of conflict of interest should always be kept in mind and addressed as needed. Concerns over conflict of interest are constant and abundant in Hamden. There should be requirements addressing when town officials and employees must recuse themselves from participating in making a decision on a specific item.”
95 Submitted by Joseph McDonagh, Whitney Avenue: 9/22/2020.
96 Submitted by Lee Lee McKnight, Putnam Avenue: 10/13/2020.
100 Public Testimony of Council President Mick McGarry: 10/14/2020.
101 Public Testimony of Former Council President and Acting Mayor James Pascarella: 10/14/2020
102 Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.
104 Public Testimony of Rhonda Caldwell: 9/22/2020 and submitted testimony of Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020. Note from Hoffman testimony: “This is needed to address the recognized inequities in our criminal justice system nationwide and locally. It will help Hamden address our concerns and is needed to restore confidence in our police department so all residents feel safe.”
105 Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.
107 P.A. 20-1, §17(c) does not apply to Hamden: “The provisions of this section shall not be construed to affect the operation of, or impose any limitation upon, a civilian police review board established prior to the effective date of this section.”
108 Statute is silent on the scope of authority. If we proceed on this issue I will provide you with further legal background on the interplay between this new express statutory authority and the long-standing statutory authority for collective bargaining agreements. It is interesting because P.A. 20-1 anticipates CPRB “proceedings” although does not state that those proceedings
115 Submitted by Elaine Dove, Santa Fe Avenue: 9/21/2020; and, Submitted by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020 who noted: “There are concerns regarding nepotism. There are concerns that the town is not getting the best deal in quality and cost. The resulting contracts should have expiration dates. These bids seem to be used to rush transactions through the process and are often presented to the council at the last minute when a vote is needed immediately. Establish rules specifying when a no-bid contract can be used and consequences for abuse.”
116 Submitted by Diane Hoffman, Wilmot Road: 9/27/2020. Note: “We are in a climate crisis. Our trees are precious natural resources that provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in services to our community, not the least of which is fighting climate change. Governor Lamont has issued Executive Order #3 and working groups have been meeting for months to develop plans on mitigation, adaptation and resiliency to address the crisis. The critical importance of protecting and planting trees is a part of many of the working groups including Science and Technology and Equity and Environmental Justice. The GC3 working groups are encouraging all attendees to address the climate crisis on the local level and call for action locally as well as on the state level. In order for our Tree Warden to have the knowledge and skills to do the job properly and fully and to make difficult decisions, he/she must be a certified arborist. Please see the attached Benefits of Trees.”
117 Public Testimony of Town Attorney Sue Gruen: 10/14/2020.
120 Submitted by Arturo Perez: 10/21/2020.
121 Submitted by Patricia Mary McLaughlin: 9/22/2020.
122 Submitted by Ann M. Pari, Harrison Drive:
INITIAL ISSUES RAISED BEFORE THE HAMDEN CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

123 Submitted by Jody Ian Goeler, Superintendent, Hamden Public Schools: 10/19/20.
125 Submitted Cheryl Kaspryzcki, Paradise Avenue: 9/22/2020.
126 Submitted by and Public Testimony of Wendy Santamauro: 9/21/2020 and 9/22/2020, respectively.
127 Public testimony (9/22)(JD Notes)
130 Submitted by Victoria Simiola: 9/28/2020
133 Submitted by Patricia C. Vener-Saavedra: 10/21/2020.