



[Claremont Charter Commission](#)

2014

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2014 PROPOSED CITY CHARTER

THIS DOCUMENT REPLACES THE CURRENT CHARTER IN ITS ENTIRETY. IT IS A NEW CHARTER BASED ON THE CURRENT MANCHESTER CHARTER, BUT MODIFIED TO INCLUDE THOSE ITEMS IN THE CURRENT CHARTER UNIQUE TO CLAREMONT. ANY MENTIONS OF SPECIFIC SECTIONS OF THE CURRENT CHARTER ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY.

2014 PROPOSED CITY CHARTER

PREAMBLE:

We, the people of the City of Claremont, State of New Hampshire, in order to maintain our right of self-government and to secure the benefits and advantages granted by the state constitution, do adopt and establish this home rule charter. This charter expresses the desire we, the citizens, have to govern ourselves in the most effective, efficient and beneficial manner. We resolve for ourselves and for our children that there be a representative government which promotes the general welfare and stimulates harmony and creativity among all its citizens. Through the elective process, we secure for ourselves and future generations a municipal government which strives to achieve compassion, freedom and justice.

ADDED LANGUAGE

2014 PROPOSED CITY CHARTER

ARTICLE I. POWERS

SECTION 1.01 INCORPORATION

The residents of the city shall continue to be a body politic and corporate under the name of Claremont and shall have, exercise and enjoy all rights, immunities, powers and privileges and shall be subject to all duties and liabilities now incumbent upon them as a municipal corporation. All existing property of the city shall remain vested in it, and all existing debts and obligations of the city shall remain obligatory upon it after the adoption of this charter. All ordinances not inconsistent with the provisions of this charter shall continue to remain in full force and effect until amended or appealed.

SECTION 1.02 GENERAL POWERS

The city shall have all the powers as now or hereafter may be conferred upon cities under the New Hampshire State Constitution and under the Revised Statutes Annotated.

REFERENCE SECTIONS 1 AND 2 OF CURRENT CHARTER.

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ARTICLE II IN ITS ENTIRETY CHANGES THE CURRENT FORM OF GOVERNMENT TO A STRONG MAYOR/ALDERMAN FORM AND OUTLINES THEIR POWERS. IT ELIMINATES ARTICLE III OF THE CURRENT CHARTER AND REPLACES IT WITH THE PROPOSED ARTICLE II AND, YOU WILL SEE, MOVES SECTIONS OF IT TO OTHER ARTICLES IN THE PROPOSED CHARTER. ALL REFERENCES TO COUNCILMEN WILL BE REPLACED BY ALDERMEN AND THE REFERENCE TO THE MAYOR WILL REFER TO THE ELECTED MAYOR UNDER THE PROPOSED CHARTER AND NOT THE CURRENT MAYOR.

THE ASSISTANT MAYOR POSITION IS ELIMINATED

IN ORDER TO RUN FOR MAYOR, THE CANDIDATE SHALL HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT OF THE CITY FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR PRIOR TO FILING AND BE A REGISTERED VOTER OF THE CITY.

2014 PROPOSED CITY CHARTER

THE CURRENT SYSTEM WILL BE REPLACED BY THIS, IF THE PROPOSED CHARTER PASSES. TRANSITIONAL PLANS WILL BE DEVELOPED IF AND WHEN THIS IS APPROVED BY THE VOTERS IN NOVEMBER.

SECTION 2.09 GIVES VETO POWER TO THE MAYOR AND CAN ONLY BE OVERRIDDEN BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE ALDERMEN.

SECTION 2.10 RE-ESTABLISH STANDING COMMITTEES BUT NOW WOULD REQUIRE CITIZEN MEMBERS. THIS WAS A MAJOR ITEM WITH THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMISSION. THE PREVALENT VIEW WAS THAT THESE COMMITTEES WILL ENSURE THAT VOTERS ARE HEARD AND LISTENED TO IN RUNNING THE CITY. THEY ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE AN OBSTACLE, BUT RATHER A SUPPORT GROUP FOR THE ALDERMEN.

2014 PROPOSED CITY CHARTER

I CAN'T STRESS ENOUGH HOW IMPORTANT THE COMMISSION FEELS THESE COMMITTEES CAN BE.

REFERENCE SECTIONS 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 AND 32 OF THE CURRENT CHARTER.

2014 PROPOSED CITY CHARTER

ARTICLE III OUTLINES THE AUTHORITY OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN IN RELATION TO THE DEPARTMENT HEADS, OFFICERS AND COMMISSIONS OF THE CITY. IT CLARIFIES THEIR ROLES AND DEFINES THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. AGAIN THE TERM "ALDERMEN" IS INTENDED TO REPLACE "CITY COUNCILMEN" AND THE "MAYOR" REFERS TO THE ELECTED STRONG MAYOR RATHER THAN THE CURRENT MAYORAL POSITION. NOTE IN SECTION 3.02 WATER-ENTERPRISE FUND AND SEWER-ENTERPRISE FUND ARE THE CURRENT WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENTS.

REFERENCE SECTIONS 31, 32, 33 AND 34 OF THE CURRENT CHARTER.

2014 PROPOSED CITY CHARTER

ARTICLE IV WAS WRITTEN TO INCLUDE THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S RECOMMENDATION AND TO BRING US INTO COMPLIANCE WITH CURRENT RSAs. WE DID NOT RECOMMEND CHANGES TO WARD BOUNDARIES. REPRESENTATION IN EACH WARD WILL CHANGE TO TWO ALDERMEN FROM EACH WARD AND TWO AT-LARGE ALDERMEN.

THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE CITY, UNDER THE NEW CHARTER, WILL CONSIST OF NINE MEMBERS: TWO ALDERMEN FROM EACH WARD, TWO ALDERMEN ELECTED AT-LARGE FROM THE CITY AND THE MAYOR. THE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE CITY CONSIST OF THREE WARD COUNCILORS AND SIX AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVES (FOUR COUNCILORS, THE ASSISTANT MAYOR AND THE MAYOR).

REFERENCE ALL SECTIONS OF THE CURRENT CHARTER DEALING WITH ELECTIONS AND ELECTION PROCEDURES.

2014 PROPOSED CITY CHARTER

ARTICLE V DEFINES THE BUDGET PROCESS AND ADMINISTRATION. IT LISTS THE ROLES OF THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, FINANCE DIRECTOR AND FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE.

REFERENCE SECTIONS 36 THROUGH 49 IN THE CURRENT CHARTER.

2014 PROPOSED CITY CHARTER

ARTICLE VI WAS DESIGNED TO OUTLINE THE PURCHASING POLICIES AND ELIMINATE THE CONTROVERSIES SURROUNDING CURRENT HANDLING OF BIDS. IT ALLOWS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROCUREMENT MANAGER POSITION, IF THE MAYOR DECIDES TO DO SO.

REFERENCE SECTION 35 OF THE CURRENT CHARTER.

2014 PROPOSED CITY CHARTER

THIS IS A MAJOR CHANGE IN THAT SECTIONS 7.07 AND 7.08 EMPOWER THE VOTERS TO HAVE A PART IN THE ORDINANCE PROCESS. IT TAKES A MEASURE OF CONTROL OUT OF THE HANDS OF THE ALDERMEN AND DELEGATES IT TO THE VOTERS. MOST OF THESE PROPOSED CHANGES ARE AIMED AT GETTING MORE CITIZEN INPUT INTO THE DAILY OPERATIONS OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT.

IT ALSO DEFINES COMPENSATION FOR THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN IN SECTION 7.05 AND INCORPORATES, BY REFERENCE, THE CURRENT MERIT PLAN.

THE MAYOR WILL RECEIVE \$90,000 PER YEAR AND THE ALDERMEN WILL RECEIVE \$3,000 PER YEAR. THIS WILL BE PAID IN MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS ONLY FOR THE TIME THEY HOLD THEIR POSITIONS.

2014 PROPOSED CITY CHARTER

ARTICLE VIII DEFINES THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS TO CONDUCT THE OPEN AND HONEST OPERATION OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT AND DESCRIBES THE MAKE-UP OF THE PERSONNEL AND CONDUCT BOARD (CURRENTLY TITLED THE PERSONNEL ADVISORY BOARD) CHARGED WITH OVERSEEING THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS OF THE CITY.

REFERENCE SECTIONS 29 THROUGH 53 OF THE CURRENT CHARTER.

2014 PROPOSED CITY CHARTER

ARTICLE IX DEFINES THE CONTINUATION OF STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES AND IS INTENDED TO STATE THAT ANYTHING NOT SPECIFICALLY CHANGED IN THIS PROPOSED CHARTER REMAINS INTACT. IT ADDRESSES THE TRANSITION PERIOD. FINAL TRANSITION PROCEDURES WILL BE DEVELOPED IF AND WHEN THIS PROPOSED CHARTER PASSES IN NOVEMBER.

THIS SECTION IS DESIGNED TO ENSURE WE COVERED ALL RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE CURRENT CHARTER NOT PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED.

2014 PROPOSED CITY CHARTER

SUMMATION:

It is the purpose and intent of this Charter Commission, through these evening sessions, to educate the voters of the City of Claremont, as thoroughly as possible regarding the proposed charter change prior to the voting in November. We hope that each and every citizen will take the time to thoroughly understand the new proposed charter prior to deciding how they will vote. At the polls in November, each voter will either approve of the proposed charter in its entirety, or reject the proposed charter in its entirety. The Commission Members will do their best to answer any and all questions you have to assist you in making your decision.