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Ansonia Charter Revision Commission 2014

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SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES

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ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

The following is a summary of changes to the Ansonia Charter currently being considered by the Charter Revision Commission. A full copy of the proposed changes, presented in a red-lined version of the Charter, is available at www.cityofansoniam.com.

The changes will be reviewed and discussed by the Charter Revision Commission at a special meeting scheduled for **6:30pm on Monday, August 18, 2014 at Ansonia City Hall.**

A public hearing on the proposed changes will be held at **7:00pm on Wednesday August 20, 2014 at Ansonia City Hall**, at which time Ansonia residents are encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas.

The Charter Revision Commission will meet immediately following the public hearing to review the proposed changes and potentially accept the changes as a Draft Final Report.

The Charter Revision Commission will subsequently pass the Draft Final Report to the Ansonia Board of Aldermen for consideration at a Special Meeting of the Board of Aldermen scheduled for **August 26, 2014 at 7:00pm in Ansonia City Hall.**

Any proposed changes approved by the Board of Aldermen will be placed on the ballot for consideration by Ansonia voters this November.

- I. **The Charter Revision Commission is proposing changes to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation ("BOAT") and Annual Budget Process. The changes include the following:**
 - a. Reducing the amount of BOAT members from 12 to 7;

- b. Allowing inter-departmental transfers that do not increase a department's overall budget to be approved by the Ansonia Comptroller with written signature of the Mayor;
- c. Empowering the Board of Aldermen to override recommendations made by BOAT by the vote of a supermajority;
- d. Creating a provision for emergency allocation of funds with the joint approval of the Mayor, President of the Board of Aldermen;
- e. Changing the budget approval process so that the Board of Aldermen exercise final approval of the annual budget;
- f. Giving the Mayor the responsibility of presenting a Mayor's budget to BOAT at the outset of the budget process;
- g. Shortening the budget process by approximately one month.

II. The Charter Revision Commission is considering changes to the number wards and aldermen.

- a. Reduction of wards from 7 to 3;
- b. Reduction of the number of aldermen from 14 to 9 (3 per ward).

III. General clean-up of the Charter for the purpose of consistency and efficiency.

- a. Clarification that the Mayor as Chief Executive Officer of the City of Ansonia with the sole ability to hire and fire city personnel;
- b. Updated enumeration of Mayor's powers;
- c. Removal of Mayor's power to use force to combat resistance to his authority;
- d. Removal of Mayor's ability to chair the Board of Education;
- e. Voting quorum of the Board of Aldermen changed to simple majority present (rather than a majority of members present *and absent*);
- f. Abolishment of prohibition against political activity by police officers; and
- g. Abolishment of the following Boards and Commissions:
 - i. Board of Health;
 - ii. Department of Welfare;
 - iii. Board of Tax Review; and
 - iv. Sinking Fund Commission.