



City of Ansonia

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TOWN AND CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

August 22, 2013

Special Meeting

Present: John Marini, Chairman
Patrick Henri
Kay Jeanette
David Knapp
Christopher Lisi
William Luneski
Elizabeth Lynch
Janet Vitarius Waugh – arrived 7:10 p.m.
Lorie Vaccaro

The Special Meeting of the Ansonia Charter Revision Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Marini.

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

The secretary called the roll.

There was a quorum present.

Public Session

Chairman Marini invited anyone from the public who wished to speak.

Gene Sharkey, President Board of Aldermen
4 Pin Oak Lane
Ansonia, CT j06401
CharterRev082213

President Sharkey discussed Item #4 on the Draft Report dated August 22, 2013 presented by Chairman Marini. He said he was present at the public hearing and he heard that the 1.5% was an arbitrary figure. He said with a 60 million dollar budget, 1.5% is only \$900,000. There will be a referendum every budget. There could be insurance increases and union contract agreements that must be considered. He asked if the commission could consider 2%. He said you have to consider what has been done with the increase. He thanked the commission for their work on Charter Revision.

Chairman Marini asked about past increases and how much they were.

President Sharkey said he did not know at this time but maybe Rich Bshara would know. He said taxes are based on the Mill Rate not the percent. It needs to be higher than 1.5%.

Richard Bshara, Acting Comptroller
20 Sobin Dr.
Ansonia, Ct. 06401

Mr. Bshara said he heard a lot on the taxes increasing. It is all of the pieces together, the relationship is the Mill Rate. Making it 1.5% Mill Rate increase takes out the grants. A 1.5 % Mill Rate increase will be a better way to do what you are trying to do rather than the Budget. A mill is a Mill, it doesn't matter. He said he is happy with items 1, 2 and 3. He thanked the Commission for their work.

Chairman Marini said the Mill Rate could rise if the grants went down.

Mr. Bshara said that will drive the budget. The Mill Rate is the driver, a lot is not driven by BOAT. The Board of Aldermen votes on the contracts. There is not a lot of discretionary pieces in this puzzle. Take the Budget – we want it higher - lower, it could be targeted someplace else but I heard taxes. That number is the Mill Rate. My opinion is the mill rate.

Mr. Bshara gave everyone a copy of two spreadsheets prepared by Bob Jaskilka and himself on the budget and the mill rate for the last seven budget years with a five year average.

Copies attached.

Richard Sturges, Chairman BOAT
25 Crestwood Road
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Sturges said the Mill Rate is based on the GrandList. Every five years there is a ReVal. The taxes are the expenses minus the revenue. He said 1.5% is low, it should go higher to 2% or 2.5%.

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Carl Williams, BOAT member

Mr. Williams said everyone wants to know where the money goes. Everyone on BOAT does a fine job. We try to keep it as low as possible, we try to keep the taxes as low as possible.

Mr. Bshara said the net taxes to be collected reflect the increase in the budget. There are two pieces = the revenue and the expense. The Mill Rate is the final answer.

Mr. Bshara discussed the effects of ReVal on the property taxes and the Mill Rate.

Chairman Marini said the net tax is (for example):

\$61 million and the component of \$27 million is outside income from State and Federal. The difference is the net tax to be raised by the taxpayer.

\$61 M Budget
-27 M Outside component
\$33 M is the net tax to be raised by taxpayer.

He said this is confusing to people.

Mr. Bshara said expenses are up to \$1 million and income is \$1 million the net taxes would be the same.

Ken Plavnicky
Mountain View Road
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Plavnicky said it was discussed at 1.5%, the Commission should stay that way. He asked what it is in Seymour.

Chairman Marini said Seymour votes every year, this proposed system is a novel system.

Chairman Marini asked three (3) times if there was anyone who wished to address the Commission.

There was no one.

Chairman Marini closed the public session at 7:20 p.m.

Correspondence

Mr. Knapp made a motion to accept all correspondence. Ms. Vitarius Waugh seconded. All in favor, so carried.

1. John Marini re: 1. Draft Report for August 22, 2013 Meeting and the Revised Explanatory Text for City Questions on Ballot for Municipal Election 11/5/13
2. R. Bshara & R. Jaskilka Spread Sheets: 1. Mill Rates and 2. Approved Budgets

Chairman Marini gave the Commission members a copy of the Draft Report and the Revised Explanatory Text this evening. He said he revised the text to reflect the comments from the Public Hearing and the Board of Aldermen's meeting.

A copy of the Draft Report dated 8/22/13 and Revised Explanatory Text is attached to the minutes.

Item # 1

Chairman Marini read the change to Item # 1 as follows:

“That the Charter of the City of Ansonia be amended and revised to increase the solicitation of bids and proposals by duly advertising by publication from five thousand dollars (\$5000) to seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7500).”

Chairman Marini said the change is from \$25,000 to \$7500 because of a State Statue that was brought to his attention by the Mayor. The State Statue says the limit is \$7500.

Mrs. Lynch asked if it is worth it to change the Charter language for that little amount.

There was discussion on the proposed change to \$7500. Mr. Bshara said the change from \$5000 to \$7500 is not too much of an impact. It is more important to not have to publish in the newspaper. We use the State Bid list as much as we can.

Mrs. Lynch said historically people tend to vote less as you go on with questions on the ballot.

Ms. Vitarius Waugh asked if the Commission can change the order the questions are put on the ballot and put the Budget question first.

Mr. Henri asked what the order is on the ballot for November – Charter Revision questions first and then the Bonding questions.

Chairman Marini said we can change the order of the questions.

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President Sharkey said the Board of Aldermen can set the order of the questions for the ballot.

Mr. Vaccaro said it is not a tough question for the people to understand – it is a simple question and it should be kept on the ballot, it will save the City some money.

Mr. Henri said if the people care, they care and will come out to vote, he doesn't want to cut down the number of questions just to make it easy. We could put this question as #10 on the ballot.

Mr. Lisi said this question will pass and it should be put on the ballot.

Ms. Vitarius Waugh said the questions will be published in the newspaper and the people should know what they say when they go to the polls.

Ms. Vitarius Waugh made a motion to leave item #1 as written on the Draft Report, August 22, 2013 on the ballot and move it to the bottom of the list. Mr. Luneski seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Chairman Marini said the only change to this question is the change from \$25,000 to \$7500.

Item #2

Chairman Marini read item #2 as follows:

“That the Charter of the City of Ansonia be amended and revised so that Legal Notices, where required, may be abbreviated provided the full publication of the legal notice shall be on file with the Town Clerk and on the City’s official website.”

Chairman Marini said there were no recommendations from the Board of Aldermen for this item.

Mr. Knapp made a motion to leave Item 2 as is written in the Draft Report, August 22, 2013 on the ballot. Ms. Vitarius Waugh seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Item #3

Chairman Marini read item #3 as follows:

“That the Charter of the City of Ansonia be amended and revised to require an absentee policy for Boards and Commissions.”

Chairman Marini explained the discussion that occurred with the Board of Aldermen and their concerns regarding this policy. He said they defined that it is the Boards and Commissions that are appointed by the Board of Aldermen. They said only regular scheduled meetings of the Board or Commission.

Mr. Vaccaro asked if this is verbatim from the P&Z ordinance in the Charter.

Mr. Luneski said yes.

Mrs. Lynch asked who will enforce this policy.

Chairman Marini said enforcement will be by the Board of Aldermen when they ask for a waiver.

Mrs. Lynch asked who will report the attendance.

Chairman Marini said we don't have to put that in there. It is up to the Clerk or the Chairman. It will be up to the Administration on how to enforce it.

Mr. Henri made a motion to accept Item # 3 as written in the Draft Report, August 22, 2013 on the ballot. Mr. Luneski seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Item #1

Mr. Bshara stated that the State Statute is not withstanding. He read the Statute and explained his interpretation. He said as he reads it the amount could be \$25,000.

Chairman Marini said maybe the commission should put Item # 1 back the way it was and the Board of Aldermen can accept it as it is or they do not have to accept anything. The Board of Aldermen can accept it if it is OK with Corporation Counsel.

Mr. Knapp asked if they could go up to \$25,000.

Mr. Henri said is this allowed by the State.

Mr. Bshara said if you don't have a Charter that says something different - you can go up to \$7500. If it's in the Charter it is OK. The Board of Aldermen can only go to \$7500.

President Sharkey said leave the amount at \$25,000 if we find out we can't do it, we will take it out. We will look at it on Tuesday.

Mr. Vaccaro made a motion to keep the \$25,000 amount for Item #1. Mrs. Jeanette seconded. All in favor, so carried.

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Item 1 would read:

“That the Charter of the City of Ansonia be amended and revised to increase the solicitation of bids and proposals by duly advertising by publication from five thousand dollars (\$5000) to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).”

Item # 4

Chairman Marini read item #4 as follows:

“That the Charter of the City of Ansonia be amended and revised to institute a budget referendum system whereby the public may vote directly on the city budget in the event that the Board of Apportionment and Taxation approve a budget that represents an expenditure increase of one and a half percent (1.5%) or more from the previous fiscal year, not including additional expenditures of outside income.”

Chairman Marini discussed the following points:

1. The total budget – does the 1.5% include the money received?
2. Should the explanation be worded 1.5% increase in expenditures – 1.5% increase in net taxes.
3. 1.5% increase in Mill Rate could be caused by the Grand List.
4. Expenditures not including income is the net tax.
5. People are upset on their taxes going up. The Mill Rate goes up so what are they voting on.

Mr. Bshara said the net taxes to be collected takes ReVal out of it. You use 1.5% at budget in August and you receive a 1 million dollar grant – we take it out of reserve – do we have to go to referendum. Using the net taxes to be collected is the safest way to do it. The only way you can collect additional taxes is by levying a Special Tax.

There was discussion on the above with regard to the 1.5% increase and the net taxes collected and the Mill Rate.

Mr. Bshara said 1.5% of net taxes to be collected will not work. You have to reflect the percent.

Mr. Sturges suggested 2.5% of the Mill Rate.

Mr. Knapp asked if this discussion includes the Board of Education and the City of Ansonia together.

Chairman Marini said the whole City budget with the Board of Education. He said you would vote separately on each budget but the percent is the whole budget.

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Mr. Knapp said the public has 1.5% in their heads.

Mrs. Jeanette said there will be explanatory text to educate them.

Mr. Henri said change the percent to 2% or 2.5% and if it goes above that it goes to vote. They will vote for it or against it but it's important that they get to vote.

Mr. Knapp said the percent is 1.5% vs. 2%. or 2.5%.

Mr. Bshara said 3% is a fair number.

The commission members discussed the range of increase for the Mill Rate and the taxpayers voting if the Mill Rate doesn't go up and they vote on the budget. The percentages with the increase reflected in dollars was also discussed. (2.5% equals \$800,000).

Chairman Marini said the goal should be to pick a fair number when we go to the taxpayers.

Mr. Vaccaro said we heard from the taxpayers and we get a feel from the Board of Aldermen that they were in favor of 1.5%.

Mr. Tripp, Alderman said the budget could go up with no increase in taxes.

Chairman Marini said the voter wants to have a say when their taxes go up.

Mr. Henri said they want to vote, they want a say.

Mr. Lisi said we have been talking for 45 minutes about things we did not talk about for the last eight months. These are things we should not make a fairly large decision on. We should not make a quick decision. We should consider that we have not fully explored this. We should look at this in the future. Doing it hap- hazardly is not the right thing to do.

Chairman Marini said this is democracy. We have to think logically and answer the taxpayers concerns.

Mr. Henri said we are here to fix the language and percent policy in item 4.

Discussion continued on the percent number that would give the taxpayer a vote. The members feel the number has to be fair.

Mr. Knapp said the people will have the right to vote whether it is 1.5% or 2 %.

President Sharkey said the Commission has worked hard to get to this point. He referenced the \$800,000 figure that was previously discussed stating that is a total for the Board of Education and the City of Ansonia and that is not enough to run the City.

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Mr. Luneski said this is the net taxes to be collected.

Mr. Bshara explained the net taxes to be collected and the budget. He said the Board of Education is half the budget and the city would be going to referendum. 3% is a fair number. 4% increase in the Mill Rate will bring it to 1.4 increase in Mill Rate.

Mr. Tripp said we would be guaranteed a 1.5 Mill tax increase every year.

Chairman Marini said it is important not to confuse net taxes.

Mr. Bshara said 3% of net taxes collected is 1.02 million at 3%. \$800,000 is 1.5%. You net up 1.5%.

There was discussion on Seymour's referendum system. Chairman Marini said you would have to make tough cuts if the costs go up.

Mr. Bshara said if the bond referendum passes it will add to the budget. You borrow: revenue – expense – we have to pay it back.

President Sharkey said it has to be in the budget. Again net taxes to be collected. It still has to be on the expense side.

Chairman Marini said we have 1.5% as the number, where do we stand on it.

Mrs. Jeanette said she voted no the last meeting and she agrees with Chris. She doesn't understand all of the pieces. Everyone is fixed on 1.5% but we never discussed it. She said she is not sure on what is being presented – net taxes or mill rate.

Chairman Marini said it is net taxes to be collected.

Mrs. Jeanette said she is comfortable with what Mr. Bshara said.

Ms. Vitarius Waugh said if we were to change the initial outlook on the number we would have to live with it. She said she agrees with Mr. Bshara that 3% is a good number.

Mr. Lisi said we would have to live with it. He said he voted no to put it on the referendum.

Ms. Vitarius Waugh said we are getting educated and we would have to live with it until we get another Charter Revision Commission.

Chairman Marini reviewed the percent's again. He said the people will be able to vote on the budget.

Mr. Henri said if the people like it they will vote for it. If they do not like it they will vote against it. If it passes and it goes above that number it goes to referendum.

Chairman Marini asked who wants 3%. He asked for a show of hands.

The secretary did not get the count of hands.

Mr. Vaccaro said the commission heard from the aldermen. He said 1.5% of 33 million is different.

Mr. Bshara said 3% of the net tax collected. 1.5% on the expense. You are better off going with the net tax collected.

Chairman Marini said the average increase of the net taxes is 5% so half the time we would have gone to referendum.

There was discussion on the Mill Rate chart Mr. Bshara gave to everyone.

Ms. Vitarius Waugh made a motion to put the rate at 3% on the net tax to be collected. Mr. Luneski seconded. All in favor – one (1) no vote L. Vaccaro.

Chairman Marini said he will revise the language and the explanatory text for this question.

There was discussion on the time frame for the budget and when to publish in the newspaper for the referendum. There was a concern that the Registrar's office must have enough time to prepare for a referendum.

Chairman Marini said that the referendum could be pre-scheduled through the Registrar's Office and it could be called off if not needed. There would be four weeks and four referendums if needed.

Mr. Sturges said it is not just the referendum, you have to take into account the days for the Board to get the new numbers.

Discussion continued on the time frame.

Chairman Marini read the question to be on the ballot as follows:

“If the budget is not adopted by June 15 the city shall send out real estate tax bills based on the same taxation figures and adjusted mill rate of the prior fiscal year, which would include adjustments for the new revenues, debt service, and legal obligations for the next fiscal year, which begins on July 1. After the complete budget is passed the balance of the real estate plus personal property and motor vehicle tax bills shall be sent out based on any change brought about by the referendum vote.”

There was discussion on the time it would take to get the bills out to the taxpayers.

Mr. Bshara said that with the mill rate set by June 20th, he could get the bills out for the July 1st date. He said the dates discussed seem to work OK.

Mr. Knapp made a motion to change the date from June 15 to June 20, no later than 12 days.
Mr. Henri seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Ms. Vitarius Waugh made a motion to change the order of the questions for the ballot as follows:

Item # 1 will become Item #4
Item # 2 remains the same
Item # 3 remains the same
Item # 4 becomes Item #1

Mr. Knapp seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Ms. Vitarius Waugh made a motion to accept the new draft report with the pending revisions.
Mr. Luneski seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Bshara said what is the requirement regarding the number of voters who have to vote.

There was a discussion whether it is the percent of voters needed to vote or the percent of eligible voters on the list. Mr. Bshara said 15% is needed by State Statute 7-791. It would be a majority vote.

Adjourn

Mr. Henri made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Ms. Vitarius Waugh seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary

Attached: 1. Draft Report, August 22, 2013
2. Explanatory Text for City Questions on Ballot for Municipal Election 11/5/13
3. Mill Rate Chart
4. Approved Budget Chart

CharterRev082213

**CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
DRAFT REPORT
August 22, 2013**

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-191, the Ansonia Charter Revision Commission hereby submits this Draft Report to the City Clerk and Board of Aldermen.

Recommended Charter Revisions

1. That the Charter of the City of Ansonia be amended and revised to increase the solicitation of bids and proposals by duly advertising by publication from \$5,000 to \$7,500.
2. That the Charter of the City of Ansonia be amended and revised so that legal notices, where required, may be abbreviated provided the full publication of the legal notice shall be on file with the town clerk and on the city's official website.
3. That the Charter of the City of Ansonia be amended and revised to require an absentee policy for boards and commissions.
4. That the Charter of the City of Ansonia be amended and revised to institute a budget referendum system whereby the public may vote directly on the city budget in the event that the Board of Apportionment and Taxation approve a budget that represents an expenditure increase of one and a half percent (1.5%) or more from the previous fiscal year, not including additional expenditures of outside income.

The attached document entitled *Explanatory Text for City Questions on Ballot for Municipal Election, November 5, 2013* is hereby incorporated by reference into this Draft Report.

Additional Revisions

1. That the Charter Revision Commission process be re-initiated immediately by the Board of Aldermen so that further changes to the City of Ansonia's Budgetary System can be considered.

Recommendations which the Commission was Requested to Consider

The Charter Revision Commission was requested by the Board of Aldermen to consider the following revisions:

1. That the possession of a Certified Public Accountant degree be a pre-requisite for the hiring of the City Tax Collector.
2. That the timely payment of city taxes be a prerequisite to holding public office in Ansonia.
3. That the Ansonia Tax Office maintain a record of all tax clearance certificates issued in connection with the payment of motor vehicle taxes.
4. The Ansonia Tax Office conduct regular internal audits.

The recommendations listed above were considered by the Commission but not proposed.

The Revision Commission defers action on items 1, 3 and 4 to the Mayor's Office and Salary Commission of the Board of Aldermen, which appear to be the appropriate authorities to consider those issues.

As to item 2, the Commission believes that constitutional issues preclude the city from making payment of taxes a pre-requisite to hold office and therefore declines to act on the recommendation.

City of Ansonia



**Explanatory Text
For City Questions
On
Ballot For
Municipal Election
November 5, 2013**

Designation on the Ballot

Vote on 1st Question for Ansonia Charter Revision	Yes	No
	1. Revision of the Charter	

EXPLANATORY TEXT FOR CITY QUESTION NUMBERED 1

CONTRACTS

Explanatory Text As To the Contents and Purpose

The purpose for this Amendment to the Charter would increase the level of the monetary amount the City of Ansonia would be required to seek through bids for contracts for work and supplies without having to advertise the notice requesting sealed bids or proposals in a local publication. The current monetary amount is \$5,000.00. The cost of services has increased over the years resulting in the increase frequency of legal notices to solicit bids or proposals. The proposed increase to \$7,500.00 which would result in a savings of costs to the city by eliminating publication in a local newspaper.

Section of the Charter to be Amended Provisions to Amended are Underlined

Sec. 138 Contracts and purchases generally.

All contracts to be made or let for work to be done, or for supplies to be furnished to said city, except as in this Act otherwise provided, and all sales of personal property in the custody of the several departments or officers of said city, shall be made by direction of the board of aldermen. Whenever any work is necessary to be done to execute or perfect a particular undertaking, or any supply is needful for any particular purpose, and the several parts of said work or supply shall together involve the expenditure of up to two thousand five hundred dollars, such purchase may be made by simple award of purchase order. For expenditures of two thousand five hundred dollars to seven, five hundred, such purchase shall require solicitation of at least three bids, written or by telephone and followed up by a written bid. For expenditures of more than seven thousand five hundred dollars a written contract for such work or supplies shall be made, under such regulations as the Board of Aldermen may by vote direct, which contract shall be founded on sealed bids or proposals, made in compliance with public notice, duly advertised by publication at least ten days before the time fixed for opening said bids or proposals. If said board shall not deem it for the interest of the city to reject all bids, it shall award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder, provided, however, that if it shall not deem it practicable or for the best interests of the city to proceed as above required, for any particular work, or the obtaining of any particular supplies, it shall make a written statement to that effect, giving its reasons and the manner in which, in its opinion, the work should be done, or the supply obtained, and submit the statement to the mayor. The mayor, if he concurs, shall endorse his approval thereon, and said statement shall then be filed with the proper officer for reference, where it shall be and remain subject to public inspection; and then, and not until then, the

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work may proceed or the supply may be obtained in the manner therein stated. The terms of each contract shall be settled by the corporation counsel, and shall form a part of the specifications, and the contractor shall give security to the satisfaction of the mayor for the faithful performance of his contract. All bids or proposals shall be publicly opened by the department or officer advertising for the same, in the presence of the mayor; but the opening of bids shall not be postponed if the mayor shall, after due notice, fail to attend. If the lowest bidder shall neglect or refuse to accept the contract within five days after written notice that the same has been awarded according to his bid or proposal, or if he fails to execute his contract or to give proper security, it may be re-advertised and re-let, in the manner above provided, or with the written approval of the mayor, filed for public record with the city clerk, said contract may be awarded to the next lowest responsible bidder. If any work shall be abandoned by any contractor, it may be re-advertised and re-let in the manner provided for the original contract, or with the written approval of the mayor, the board of aldermen may cause said work to be finished without making any new contract, and the original contractor shall be liable to the city for any excess in the cost of said work over the amount of the original contract. No bid shall be accepted from or contract awarded to any person who is in arrears to the city upon debt or contract, or who is a defaulter as surety or otherwise upon any obligation to the city. Three copies of every contract shall be executed, and one of the original copies thereof shall be filed in the city clerk's office. Whenever proposals for furnishing supplies or doing work are invited by advertisement by any department or officer, such department or officer is directed to require, as a condition precedent to the reception of any proposal, the deposit with the mayor of a check drawn to the order of the mayor and certified by some reliable bank. Such checks shall accompany the proposal, and be for an amount of not less than five per centum of the amount required by said bid to be paid by the city for the proposed work to be done or supply to be furnished. Within three days after it is decided who is the lowest bidder, the mayor shall return all such checks to the persons depositing the same, except the check deposited by the lowest bidder for such contract; and if the said lowest bidder shall refuse or neglect, within five days after due notice that the contract has been awarded to him, to execute the same, the amount of the deposit made by him shall be forfeited to and retained by said city, as liquidated damages for such neglect or refusal, and shall be paid into the treasury of said city; but if the lowest bidder shall execute the contract within the time aforesaid, the amount of his deposit shall be returned to him.

Question Numbered 1

"SHALL THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF ANSONIA BE AMENDED AND REVISED TO INCREASE THE SOLICITATION OF BIDS AND PROPOSALS BY DULY ADVERTISING BY PUBLICATION FROM FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS TO SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS?"

Voters approving will vote "Yes"

Voters opposing will vote "No"

DESIGNATION ON THE BALLOT

Vote on 2nd Question for Ansonia Charter Revision	Yes	No
	2. Revision of the Charter	

EXPLANATORY TEXT FOR CITY QUESTION NUMBERED 2

ABSENTEE POLICY FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Explanatory Text As To the Contents and Purpose of Question Numbered 2

The City of Ansonia municipal government is comprised of many Boards and Commissions which are appointed by the Mayor and affirmed by the Board of Aldermen. These Boards and Commissions meet on a frequent basis. However, a quorum of members of the particular Board or Commission must be present in order for the Board or Commission to conduct business. However business cannot be conducted when a quorum is not present.

The purpose of this proposed Charter change is to provide an absentee policy for attendance by members of Boards and Commissions for the City of Ansonia to ensure that there are members present to hold meetings.

Section of the Charter to be Amended
Provisions to Amended are Underlined

Sec. 154. Absentee Policy for Boards and Commission (New)

A member of any aldermen-appointed Board or Commission of the City of Ansonia who is absent from three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled and duly called meetings of said Board or Commission shall be considered to have resigned from such body and the seat occupied by such member shall be deemed to be vacant. Any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The requirements of this section may be waived by the Board of Aldermen for good cause, duly shown, where illness or other extenuating circumstances has made it impossible for a member to have met the attendance requirement of this section.

Question Numbered 2

"SHALL THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF ANSONIA BE AMENDED AND REVISED TO REQUIRE AN ABSENTEE POLICY FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS?"

Voters approving will vote "Yes"
Voters opposing will vote "No"

DESIGNATION ON THE BALLOT

Vote on 3rd Question for	Yes	No
Ansonia Charter Revision	3. Revision of the Charter	

EXPLANATORY TEXT FOR CITY QUESTION NUMBERED 2

PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES

Explanatory Text As To the Contents and Purpose

This revision of the Charter would decrease the cost the City of Ansonia incurs in publication of notices and other legal documents not otherwise required by state statutes or federal regulations to be published in full in a local newspaper having a substantial circulation in the City of Ansonia. Various sections of the Charter, City Code and Land Use Regulations of the City of Ansonia require advertisement by publication in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the City of Ansonia. Examples of this publication requirement are solicitations for bid proposals for services or consideration of a new ordinance. This revision of the Charter would permit the content of the notices be abbreviated provided the full contents of the legal notice is available at the Town and City Clerk and on the City of Ansonia official website.

This section would not apply to those matters which must be fully advertised pursuant to local regulations, state statutes and federal regulations.

Section of the Charter to be Amended Provisions to Amended are Underlined

Sec. 155 Publication of Legal Notices

Legal Notices on behalf of the City of Ansonia may be abbreviated for publication, where required, provided that the full publication of the legal notice shall be on file with the Town and City Clerk and on the official website of the City of Ansonia. The abbreviated notice shall state that the complete information corresponding to the legal notice is on file with the Town and City Clerk and on the City of Ansonia official website.

Question Numbered 3

"SHALL THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF ANSONIA BE AMENDED AND REVISED SO THAT LEGAL NOTICES, WHERE REQUIRED, MAY BE ABBREVIATED PROVIDED THE FULL PUBLICATION OF THE LEGAL NOTICE SHALL BE ON FILE WITH THE TOWN AND CITY CLERK AND ON THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE CITY OF ANSONIA?"

Voters approving will vote "Yes"
Voters opposing will vote "No"

Designation on the Ballot

<u>Vote on 4th Question for</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>Ansonia Charter Revision</u>	<u>4. Revision of the Charter</u>	

EXPLANATORY TEXT FOR CITY QUESTION NUMBERED 4

PUBLIC VOTE ON BUDGET

Explanatory Text As To the Contents and Purpose

The purpose for this Amendment to the Charter would allow Ansonia residents to vote directly on the city budget in the event that the Board of Apportionment and Taxation approves a budget that carries an expenditure increase of one and a half percent (1.5%) or more from the previous year. Voters will have the opportunity to vote separately on the city and education budgets. The voters will be given the option to vote either "Yes" or "No" and additionally the option to vote "too high" or "too low" on each of the budgets. Rejected budgets will be sent back to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation for revision, and then back to the ballot for an additional referendum. The referendum process will continue until both budgets are approved by voters, or until the Board of Apportionment and Taxation makes a revision that brings the total budget (city and education combined) below a one and a half percent (1.5%) increase.

Section of the Charter to be Amended
Provisions to Amended are Underlined

Sec. 42

Referendum

A public referendum on the budget must be held if the budget approved by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation represents a one and a half percent (1.5%) expenditure increase from the previous fiscal year, not including additional expenditures of outside income.

The referendum shall be held not more than 5 days after approval by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation.

The referendum questions shall be presented on the ballot as follows:

- a. Shall the City Budget, as recommended by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation of (dollar amount) for the fiscal year (specify year) be adopted?

- b. Shall the Board of Education Budget, as recommended by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation, of (dollar amount) for the City of Ansonia for the fiscal year (specify year) be adopted?

The voters shall be given the option to vote either "Yes" or "No" and additionally the option to vote "too high" or "too low" on each of the budgets.

If both budgets are rejected, both budgets shall be resubmitted to the ballot after revisions by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation. In case of further rejections, the aforesaid process, under this section, shall be repeated until said budgets are accepted, or until the total City and Board of Education Budget represents less than a one and a half percent (1.5%) expenditure increase from the previous fiscal year, not including additional expenditures of outside income.

If only one of the aforesaid budgets passes, that budget shall be deemed to be approved. The budget question that is rejected shall be resubmitted to the ballot after revision by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation, and resubmitted again after further rejection and further revision by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation until said budget is accepted or until the total City and Board of Education Budget represents less than a one and a half percent (1.5%) expenditure increase from the previous fiscal year, not including additional expenditures of outside income.

If the budget is not adopted by June 15 the City shall send out real estate tax bills based on the same taxation figures and adjusted mill rate of the prior fiscal year, which would include adjustments for the new revenues, debt service, and legal obligations for the next fiscal year, which begins on July 1. After the complete budget is passed the balance of the real estate plus personal property and motor vehicle tax bills shall be sent out based on any change brought about by referendum vote.

Question Numbered 1

"SHALL THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF ANSONIA BE AMENDED AND REVISED TO INSTITUTE A BUDGET REFERENDUM SYSTEM WHEREBY THE PUBLIC MAY VOTE DIRECTLY ON THE CITY BUDGET IN THE EVENT OF A PROPOSED BUDGET INCREASE OF ONE AND A HALF PERCENT (1.5%) OR MORE?"

Voters approving will vote "Yes"

Voters opposing will vote "No"

Town City Clerk Madeline Bottone

Sec. 7-148v. Requirements for competitive bidding. Notwithstanding the provisions of any municipal charter or any special act to the contrary, any municipality may, by ordinance, establish requirements for competitive bidding for the award of any contract or the purchase of any real or personal property by the municipality. Such ordinance may provide that, except as otherwise required by any provision of the general statutes, sealed bidding shall not be required for contracts or purchases having a value less than or equal to an amount established in the ordinance, which amount shall not be greater than seven thousand five hundred dollars. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to invalidate any ordinance enacted by a municipality prior to October 1, 1989. Nothing in this section and no ordinance adopted pursuant to this section shall be construed to limit the ability of a municipality to enter into a contract pursuant to section 4a-53a.

MILL RATES

<u>GRAND LIST YEAR</u>	<u>FISCAL YEAR</u>	<u>APPROVED</u> <u>MILL RATE</u>	<u>% Diff</u>	<u>REVALUE</u>
2012	2013-2014	39.34	42.28%	YES
- 2011	2012-2013	27.65	5.33%	
- 2010	2011-2012	26.25	1.94%	
- 2009	2010-2011	25.75	1.98%	
- 2008	2009-2010	25.25	0.00%	
<u>2007</u>	2008-2009	25.25	-21.88%	YES
<u>2006</u>	2007-2008	32.32	0.06%	
2005	2006-2007	32.30	4.67%	
2004	2005-2006	30.86	1.95%	
2003	2004-2005	30.27	2.96%	
2002	2003-2004	29.40	-19.01%	YES
2001	2002-2003	36.30	12.04%	
2000	2001-2002	32.40	3.18%	
1999	2000-2001	31.40	0.00%	
1998	1999-2000	31.40	2.61%	
1997	1998-1999	30.60	5.88%	
1996	1997-1998	28.90	0.00%	
1995	- 1996-1997	28.90	-56.15%	YES
1994	1995-1996	65.90	-0.30%	
1993	1994-1995	66.10	4.42%	
1992	1993-1994	63.30	0.00%	
1991	1992-1993	63.30	13.44%	
1990	1991-1992	55.80	3.33%	
1989	1990-1991	54.00	2.86%	
1988	1989-1990	52.50	0.00%	
1987	1988-1989	52.50	2.94%	
1986	1987-1988	51.00		

as of 8/19/13

DEPARTMENT	FY 2007-2008 Approved Budget	FY 2008-2009 Approved Budget	FY 2009-2010 Approved Budget	FY 2010-2011 Approved Budget	FY 2011-2012 Approved Budget	FY 2012-2013 Approved Budget	FY 2013-2014 Approved Budget	5 Year Average
300 PRIOR TAXES	\$700,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$650,000	\$700,000	\$630,000
303 EDUCATIONAL GRANTS	\$15,668,230	\$16,248,126	\$16,124,784	\$13,990,678	\$16,120,868	\$16,115,275	\$15,957,077	\$15,661,736
304 STATE GRANTS	\$3,707,569	\$3,367,715	\$3,321,787	\$3,070,571	\$2,968,068	\$2,913,161	\$2,926,298	\$3,039,977
305 MUNICIPAL GRANTS	\$264,109	\$56,100	\$16,100	\$16,100	\$61,703	\$152,007	\$16,100	\$52,402
306 PERMITS	\$39,200	\$36,500	\$32,500	\$32,300	\$58,500	\$53,000	\$52,500	\$45,760
307 CURRENT CHARGES	\$1,525,950	\$1,172,535	\$935,610	\$1,070,660	\$1,155,955	\$1,069,669	\$1,212,200	\$1,088,819
308 FINES	\$232,000	\$258,000	\$255,000	\$255,000	\$310,000	\$311,000	\$311,000	\$288,400
310 INTEREST, REIMBURSE. & OTHER	\$2,638,474	\$1,468,000	\$1,351,000	\$1,401,000	\$1,674,000	\$1,487,380	\$1,001,000	\$1,382,876
313 SUPP EDUCATIONAL GRANTS	\$4,057,542	\$4,035,286	\$3,959,771	\$8,277,519	\$6,663,899	\$4,419,704	\$4,985,699	\$5,661,318
TOTAL ESTIMATED OUTSIDE INCOME	\$28,833,074	\$27,242,262	\$26,596,552	\$28,713,828	\$29,612,993	\$27,171,196	\$27,161,874	\$27,851,289
REVENUE - PERCENT CHANGE		-5.8%	-2.4%	7.4%	3.0%	-9.0%	-0.034%	
Gross Taxes to be Collected	\$25,506,532	\$28,443,095	\$28,359,192	\$28,918,985	\$29,611,326	\$31,509,592	\$33,924,554	\$30,464,730
Adjustment for Elderly Tax Credits	\$160,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$153,000	\$153,000	\$135,000	\$156,200
NET TAXES TO BE COLLECTED	\$25,666,532	\$28,613,095	\$28,529,192	\$29,088,985	\$29,764,326	\$31,662,592	\$34,059,554	\$30,620,930
TAX - PERCENT CHANGE		10.3%	-0.3%	1.9%	2.3%	6.0%	7.0%	
NET GRAND LIST	\$794,136,704	\$1,133,193,903	\$1,129,870,345	\$1,129,681,364	\$1,133,892,312	\$1,145,131,304	\$865,893,403	\$1,080,893,746
Projected Collection Rate	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%
MILL RATE	32.32	25.25	25.25	25.75	26.25	27.65	39.34	28.33
101 SCHOOL BLD COMMISSION	\$1,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$350	\$910
200 B O A T	\$867,890	\$772,571	\$591,211	\$635,755	\$874,357	\$412,359	\$436,731	\$590,083
201 CITY GOVERNMENT	\$1,555,880	\$1,538,832	\$1,511,639	\$1,429,836	\$3,001,701	\$3,023,425	\$2,719,055	\$2,337,131
202 ELECTIONS	\$43,610	\$43,977	\$35,977	\$50,597	\$41,140	\$58,675	\$64,585	\$50,195
210 FLOOD CONTROL	\$19,419	\$39,419	\$35,500	\$35,500	\$29,900	\$27,400	\$0	\$25,644
211 CITY ENGINEER	\$45,133	\$35,649	\$35,583	\$35,583	\$36,135	\$37,635	\$38,135	\$36,614
212 BUILDING INSPECTOR	\$102,424	\$103,575	\$106,418	\$104,151	\$113,658	\$114,902	\$118,302	\$111,486
214 NATURE CENTER	\$156,960	\$164,983	\$169,807	\$168,818	\$171,084	\$177,459	\$184,059	\$174,245
215 DEBT SERVICES AND INSURANCES	\$9,360,453	\$9,109,705	\$9,323,788	\$9,188,800	\$9,398,042	\$9,487,065	\$10,370,280	\$9,553,595
216 MAYOR'S OFFICE	\$212,359	\$233,194	\$201,257	\$200,367	\$200,367	\$204,970	\$207,981	\$202,988
220 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$31,400	\$8,280
301 POLICE	\$3,948,714	\$4,595,974	\$4,557,594	\$4,743,548	\$4,949,354	\$5,692,986	\$5,851,032	\$5,158,903
302 SENIOR CENTER	\$139,692	\$147,285	\$141,880	\$70,795	\$138,203	\$143,633	\$132,969	\$125,496
400 FIRE MARSHALL	\$73,576	\$77,321	\$70,364	\$69,483	\$71,025	\$74,436	\$73,771	\$71,816
401 FIRE	\$227,440	\$254,426	\$230,850	\$245,850	\$245,850	\$245,850	\$248,750	\$243,430
402 FINANCE	\$466,146	\$471,444	\$470,790	\$478,235	\$484,875	\$491,250	\$506,917	\$486,413
405 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$170,921	\$176,685	\$181,197	\$186,297	\$190,622	\$201,828	\$122,955	\$176,580
420 TAX DEPARTMENT	\$150,829	\$160,920	\$162,105	\$149,680	\$150,539	\$202,745	\$208,222	\$174,658
450 ASSESSORS OFFICE	\$199,798	\$129,392	\$130,280	\$180,508	\$209,372	\$222,964	\$145,266	\$177,678
502 STREETS AND BRIDGES	\$2,715,804	\$2,797,278	\$2,559,611	\$2,541,824	\$1,516,117	\$1,521,456	\$0	\$1,627,802
555 PUBLIC WORKS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,088,572	\$817,714
601 LIBRARY	\$539,396	\$582,548	\$565,346	\$514,440	\$445,310	\$490,611	\$500,994	\$503,340
602 BUILDINGS AND REFUSE	\$3,276,749	\$3,309,516	\$3,080,419	\$3,033,945	\$2,525,110	\$2,612,573	\$0	\$2,250,409
701 RECREATION	\$135,418	\$195,215	\$181,495	\$100,705	\$93,135	\$96,573	\$97,723	\$113,926
702 BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$24,788,140	\$25,577,214	\$25,577,214	\$23,932,721	\$26,377,214	\$27,000,000	\$28,000,000	\$26,177,430
801 A.R.M.S	\$315,360	\$305,868	\$304,622	\$592,715	\$620,319	\$708,435	\$750,925	\$595,403
802 TOWN AND CITY CLERK	\$168,469	\$191,380	\$178,762	\$181,450	\$183,972	\$188,835	\$193,204	\$185,245
850 MUNICIPAL GRANTS	\$332,218	\$472,200	\$471,845	\$359,266	\$366,494	\$366,494	\$750,775	\$462,975
851 EDUCATIONAL GRANTS	\$4,057,542	\$4,035,286	\$3,959,771	\$8,277,519	\$6,663,899	\$4,419,704	\$4,985,699	\$5,661,318
875 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$246,566	\$542,000	\$99,000	\$104,000	\$104,000	\$409,000	\$222,351	\$187,670
901 MUNICIPAL PLANNING	\$21,500	\$21,500	\$21,500	\$20,425	\$20,425	\$35,425	\$35,425	\$26,640
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENSES	\$54,339,606	\$55,685,357	\$54,955,744	\$57,632,813	\$59,224,319	\$58,680,788	\$61,086,428	\$58,316,018
EXPENSE - PERCENT CHANGE		2.4%	-1.3%	4.6%	2.7%	-0.9%	3.9%	