

Article 02: Charter Amendment 1:

Shall the Town of Salem approve Charter Amendment 1 below relative to amending Article 3 of the Charter by adding the position of “recording secretary” to the Town Council, adding items to be voted on by official ballot consistent with state law and modifying current language for the Town Council’s ability to sale, lease, transfer, mortgaging, pledging or conveyance of Town property?

The amendment relates to Article 3 of the Town Charter by adding the position of recording secretary to the Town Council where one Council member will be selected for a one-year term and will be responsible for record keeping during non-public sessions. Furthermore, the amendment adds items to the official ballot, which would now include Collective Bargaining Agreements, statutory citations for bond articles and debt, increasing the amount for considering the sale, lease, transfer, mortgaging, pledging and conveying town property; items placed on the ballot by the Library Trustees, initiative petitions moved to the ballot by the Town Council in accordance with § 7.3, items related to the expenditure of utility surplus funds, and any item related to the establishment of, expenditure from, transfer to or from, or discontinuance of, a Capital Reserve Fund, according to RSA 35.

Full Text of Proposed changes:

§ 3.2 Organization Meeting

The Councilors shall meet in their capacity as the Council within ten (10) calendar days following their election for the purpose of taking their respective oaths of office, adopting rules and for the transaction of business required by law or ordinance to be transacted in such meeting. The Council shall, by the affirmative vote of at least five (5) of its members, at its first regular meeting following each election, choose one of its members as Chair for a term of one (1) year. The Council shall choose one of its members as Vice Chair, for a term of one (1) year, who shall act in the absence or disability of the Chair. **The Council shall also choose one of its members, for a term of one (1) year, who shall act as a Recording Secretary, who will be responsible for record keeping during non-public sessions.** In the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall serve out the unexpired term. The Chair shall be the official head of the Town for all ceremonial purposes, shall preside at all meetings of the Council, and may speak and vote at such meetings.

§ 3.7.1 Matters that must Be Acted on By Official Ballot

The following matters must be placed on the Official Ballot. All official ballot requirements shall apply to both regular and special elections.

A. The annual operating budget and amendments thereto.

B. Bond articles and issuance of debt, in accordance with RSA ~~33:8-d, II 33:7, 33:8 and 33:8-a.~~

C. Collective bargaining agreements

D. Expenditure of surplus funds from any general fund, or from any surplus in utility accounts exceeding \$100,000 in any year, or any amount for new sewer or water systems **that would impact rates** (other than replacement of existing elements thereof, such as may be required to maintain service).

E. Sale, lease, transfer, mortgaging, pledging or conveyance by any other means, of any real property or fixed improvements to said property, or conveyance of any right or exclusive

franchise associated with such property, to any party under terms that are not available to every other party that may apply for such right if the value of said property exceeds **\$25,000. \$10,000**. This excludes any tax sales. **This provision shall not apply to any current arrangement for use of town property.**

F. Sale, or conveyance by any other means, of any right to collect or charge any fee or rent, related to any part of the publicly-owned utility system, public property, or any street or road system or any part thereof, or to grant any such right that is not available without charge to every citizen of Salem.

G. Adoption or rescinding the adoption of provisions of general laws which are optional for towns.

H. Charter amendments, and other subjects required by general law to be placed on the official ballots for towns; procedures and schedules which shall not be affected by this charter.

I. Increase in salaries of councilors.

J. Items placed on the ballot by the Library Trustees

K. Initiative petitions moved to the ballot by the Town Council in accordance with § 7.3

L. Any item related to the establishment of, expenditure from, transfer to or from, or discontinuance of a Capital Reserve Fund, according to RSA 35.