

Article __ : ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

SECTION __-1: ORGANIZATION OF TOWN AGENCIES

The organization of the town into operating agencies to provide services and administer the government may be accomplished only through an administrative order submitted to the town council by the mayor. No administrative order may originate with the town council. The mayor may, subject only to express prohibitions in a general law or this charter, submit proposals to reorganize, consolidate or abolish a town agency, in whole or in part, or to establish a new town agency as is deemed necessary, but no function assigned by this charter to a particular town agency may be discontinued or assigned to any other town agency unless specified by this charter. The mayor may prepare and submit to the town council, administrative orders that establish operating divisions for the orderly, efficient or convenient conduct of the business of the town. These administrative orders shall be accompanied by a message from the mayor which explains the expected benefits and advises the town council if an administrative order shall require amendments, insertions, revisions, repeal or otherwise of existing ordinances. Whenever the mayor proposes an administrative order, the town council shall hold 1 or more public hearings on the proposal giving notice by publication in a local newspaper, which notice shall describe the scope of the proposal and the time and place at which the public hearing will be held, not less than 7 nor more than 14 days following the publication. An organization or reorganization plan shall become effective at the expiration of 60 days following the date the proposal is submitted to the town council unless the town council shall, by a majority vote, within that 60 day period vote to disapprove the plan. The town council may vote only to approve or to disapprove the plan and may not vote to amend or to alter it.

SECTION __-2: MERIT PRINCIPLES

All appointments and promotions of town officers and employees shall be made on the basis of merit and fitness demonstrated by examination, past performance or by other evidence of competence and suitability. Each person appointed to fill an office or position shall be a person especially fitted by education, training and previous work experience to perform the duties of the office or position.

SECTION __-3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

The mayor shall appoint a Community Engagement Officer. This person shall report to the mayor and shall coordinate communication between the town government and residents, assist councilors with coordinating neighborhood meetings, provide resources for individuals inquiring about running for office, work to increase diversity in all aspects of Amherst's government, oversee the participatory budgeting process, AND???