

Proposed New Charter Stratford Will Vote On

Being anxious to give proper publicity to so momentuous [sic] a change as that proposed by the Stratford voters who favor a council-manager charter, which is to be voted on at a special election to be held Monday, July 11, the Times will publish the important items in the proposed charter in several installments, of which the first follows below.

The men who have worked hard on the campaign throughout the past winter believe they have converted a sufficient number to carry the charter. Many others believe differently. Opinions, criticism, and statements from Stratford voters will be welcomed from now until the Saturday preceding the special election. Substitute for House Bill No. 32, in "An act establishing a town council and manager form of government in the town of Stratford," enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened.

Section 1. The town of Stratford shall be governed by a council, consisting of nine members, elected as hereinafter provided, who shall have and perform all the powers, duties and authority conferred by law upon officers, boards and commissions.

Sec. 2. The council shall be elected one from each district described, who shall serve for a term of two years. All of said members shall be subject to recall. Each member shall be an elector, duly registered on the list of electors in the district from which he is elected. The members of the council and the council chairman shall serve without compensation. Save for adoption of ordinances, resolutions and other measures, and the exercising supervision and control of the town manager, the council shall exercise all its administrative functions through a town manager and his subordinates.

Sec 3. The council shall be the Judge of the election and qualification of its own members, subject to review by the courts. Any member convicted of an offense punishable by imprisonment in the state prison while in office shall thereby forfeit his office. The council, its committees or members shall not dictate appointments, or in any manner interfere with the town manager or prevent him from exercising his own Judgment. The council shall deal with the administrative service solely through the town manager, and shall not give orders to any of the subordinates of the town manager, either publicly or privately. Any such interference shall be deemed to be a misdemeanor, and any member so convicted shall be subject to removal from office.

Sec. 4. The council shall choose one of its members to act as chairman, but this office shall not deprive him of his vote. It shall appoint a town manager, a town clerk, and a town attorney; but no member shall be chosen to hold any other town office, or employment. The council may determine its own rules, punish its members for misconduct, and compel attendance. A majority of members shall constitute a quorum. The council shall appoint, all vacancies arising in the library board to the same extent that the electors have heretofore been authorized by law to fill same by election. The council shall also fill by appointment vacancies arising in the school board, and said school board, when so constituted, shall continue to exercise all powers and perform all duties as are by law provided.

Sec. 5. One week after the regular town election on the first Monday in October and every two years, the council shall meet, at which time the newly elected councilmen shall assume their office. Thereafter the council shall meet as prescribed by ordinance.

BOYS AND GIRLS
Read The Times' Great
BICYCLE OFFER
on page 10

The Bridgeport Times

AND EVENING FARMER,

WEATHER

Now Heavy, July 2—Forecast
for now Heavy and windy—
Partly cloudy tonight and Sun-
day.
Conditions favor for this al-
though partly cloudy weather with
slightly higher temperature.

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PRICE TWO CENTS

Meetings of the council, all session of committee shall be public. The council shall act by ordinance or resolution, all ordinances and resolutions, except ordinances making appropriations, shall to be confined to one subject, clearly expressed in the title. Ordinances making appropriations shall be confined to the subject. No ordinance shall be passed until readings at two separate meetings. The final reading shall be in full, unless a copy has been furnished to each member. Every ordinance or resolution shall require, on passage, the affirmative vote of a majority. No member shall be excused from voting, except on matters involving his own official conduct or financial interests. Provision may be made for the printing and publication every ordinance within ten days after its passage. The town clerk shall preserve as a public record, open to the inspection [sec] of the public at all reasonable times, a true copy of each ordinance and resolution so passed.

Sec. 6. The chairman shall preside at all meetings and perform other duties consistent with his office. He shall be recognized as the official head of the town for all ceremonial purposes, by the courts for the purpose of serving civil processes, and by the governor for military purposes. In time of public danger or emergency he may, with the consent of the council, take command of the police, maintain order and enforce the laws. During his absence his duties shall be performed by another member appointed by the council.

Sec. 7. When any vacancy occurs in the offices of selectmen, town clerks, justices of the peace or registrars of voters, the council shall fill the same, by choosing by resolution an elector or electors of said town to fill such offices. Any elector so chosen shall qualify and exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of such office as is prescribed by the

constitution and general and special laws of this state, except that the powers and duties of selectmen shall be limited to those vested in and duties imposed upon them by the constitution and laws of the state in relation to the admission of persons to the privileges of electors in said town and to the erasure from the registry list of the names of those who have forfeited the privileges of electors. All of said officers chosen shall receive such compensation for their services as the council shall determine, in lieu of all other salaries and fees.

Sec. 8. Any town clerk chosen by the council shall hold office at the pleasure of the council, and may be removed at any time without previous notice. The town clerk shall act as clerk of the council, and perform, in addition to his regular duties, such duties as the council may prescribe. Any assistant town clerk shall hold office only as long as the town clerk who appointed him.

Sec. 9. Nomination and election of state and federal officers, of representatives and judges of probate shall be conducted, and the registrars shall prepare lists of electors qualified to vote, in the manner prescribed by the constitution and the general and special laws of this state.

Sec. 10. A town election shall be held on the first Monday of October of the year 1921, and of every second year thereafter, which shall be known as the regular town election, at which one candidate from each district hereinafter established shall be elected to membership in the council.

Sec 11. The nomination of candidates for the council shall be by petition. The name of any elector of a district shall be printed upon the ballot of that district whenever a petition shall have been filed in his behalf signed by at least twenty-five electors of the district in which the candidate resides.

OPINIONS ON NEW CHARTER ARE VARIED

Interesting side lights on what newcomers to Stratford think of the town government and town affairs are discovered by a Times reporter who is endeavoring to ascertain how various persons in the community feel toward the council-manager form of government that, is to be voted for or against at a special election to be held Monday, July 11. Last Saturday The Times started printing in condensed form the proposed charter. Today the second and third instalments are given, up to Section 21. More will follow tomorrow, and each day until Saturday. In the meantime in connection with the campaign being carried on for and against the measure, opinions or letters from Stratford voters will be welcomed.

Robert B. Turney, 2287 Elm street, Stratford, manager of the offices of the East Side plant of the American Tube & Stamping Company, and who is president of the Board of Fire Commissioners, is strong for the measure. He believes that the proposed charter speaks for itself and that a majority of the voters of the town will fall in line and pass the measure.

Frank R. Sammis of 949 Academy Hill, a prominent Main street merchant in Stratford for many years, together with his son Donald, are strong supporters of the measure. The younger Sammis did much of the active campaigning during the past winter, and evidently believes the time ripe for putting the matter to vote.

William Farmer, Windsor avenue, Paradise Green, an official at the General Electric plant, and secretary of the Stratford Board of Fire Commissioners, confesses to being uninterested in the matter, rather than being non-committal. He is acquainted with the matter under dis-

cussion which is more than can be said of many others on the same street, all of whom are new residents in Stratford within the past few years.

Among these now residents a feeling that the present form of government is all wrong, is plainly discernible, though few if any have had a copy of the proposed charter put in their hands, and they for that reason are not in position to take a stand or put an opinion one way or another. What one does find among these new people to some extent is a feeling that annexation will come and that Stratford will be Bridgeport within a few years. This opinion was also expressed by a member of a well known real estate firm, many of whose operations are in Stratford, and most of whose members reside in the town.

It is pointed out that Stratford taxes are nearly as high as Bridgeport's with an indication of a slight increase, while in return the taxpayer gets small police protection, negligible fire protection, no garbage or ash collection, and in many parts of the town but one mail delivery a day. There are many new residents and property holders living in Stratford because new developments were opened during the housing shortage. They do not have the "old town" sentiments that the old timers have. They want service, are willing to pay a little more for it, and when they go to New York for a week end trip they register from Bridgeport, where most of them work.

However, the election next Monday will tell the tale. There are many of them, however, who haven't seen a copy of the new charter, and who probably won't know enough about the matter to cast a vote.

At its recent meeting the Floral Park Community association of Stratford went on

record as opposed to the proposed special tax for the purpose of holding a special election on the council and manager plan, thus adhering to its stand against any special taxes for any purpose until the next regular town meeting.

This is not to be taken to mean that the association went on record as opposed to the proposed charter. The sentiment among the members seems to be evenly divided on the subject so no stand was taken, however, the members are practically unanimously opposed to a special tax to cover the election, for few believe there are ample funds that can be diverted from the regular channels, or that the comparatively small cost of the election can be covered without any special appropriation or tax, and fail to see the necessity of a town meeting on the matter. The bill says that an election "shall" be held, which the association takes to mean that it has got to be held, on the date specified, July 11.

Sec. 12. For the purposes of election the town is divided into nine districts. All of the town south of a line beginning on the west boundary of the railroad, easterly on said railroad to a point found by extending the center line of South avenue to said railroad, thence easterly along the center line of Barnum avenue, the river. Second district. All of the town included in the boundary beginning at the intersection of the center line of Soundview avenue with the railroad, northerly along the center line of Soundview avenue to line beginning on the west boundary easterly along the center line of Barnum avenue to the center line of Broad street. easterly along the center line of Broad street to the Housatonic river to the center line of South avenue, westerly along the center line of South avenue to the point of beginning.

Third district. All of the town included in the boundary beginning at the center line

of Broad street [sic] at the Ferry creek, westerly along the center line of Broad street to the center line of Barnum avenue, easterly along the center line of Barnum avenue extended across and beyond Main street to Long brook, easterly and southerly along said brook and Ferry creek to the point of beginning. Fourth district. All of the town included in the boundary beginning at the intersection of the western boundary of the town with the railroad, northerly along said boundary to the center line of Canaan road, easterly along the center line of Canaan road to the center line of Broadbridge [sic] avenue, southerly along the center line of Broadbridge avenue to the center line of Barnum avenue, westerly along the center line of Barnum avenue to the center line of Soundview avenue, southerly along the center line of Soundview avenue to the railroad, westerly along the railroad to the point of beginning.

Fifth district. All of the town included in the boundary beginning at the intersection of the center line of the Canaan road and the western boundary of the town, northerly along said boundary to the Trumbull line, northeasterly along said Trumbull line to the center line of Nichols avenue, southerly along the center line of Nichols avenue to the center line of Barnum avenue, westerly along the center line of Barnum avenue to the center line of Broadbridge avenue, northerly along the center line of Broadbridge avenue to the center line of Canaan road, westerly along the center line of Canaan road to the point of beginning. Sixth district. All of the town included in the boundary beginning at the intersection of Nichols avenue and Barnum avenue, northerly along the center line of Nichols avenue to Trumbull boundary, easterly along said boundary line to the center line of the Huntington road, southerly along the center line of the

Huntington road and Main street to the center line of Barnum avenue, westerly along Barnum avenue to the point of beginning.

Seventh district. All of the town included in the boundary beginning at the center line of Main street opposite Barnum avenue, northly along the center line of Main street, to the center line of Wilcoxson avenue, easterly along the center line of Wilcoxson avenue to the center line of East Main street, northly along the center line of East Main street to Wakelees brook, easterly along Wakelees brook to the Housatonic river, southerly along the Housatonic river to the center line of Broad street, westerly along the center line of Broad street to the Ferry creek, northerly and westerly along the Ferry creek line of Barnum avenue, westerly to the point of beginning. Eighth district. All of the town included in the boundary beginning at the intersection of Huntington road and Main street, northerly along the center line of Huntington road to the center line of Wigwam lane, easterly along the center line of Wigwam lane to the center line of Cut Spring road, southerly along the center line of Cut Spring road to the center line of Main street northerly along the center line of Main street to the center line of East Main street, east to the river, southerly along the river to Wakelees brook, westerly along Wakelees brook to the center line of East Main street, southerly along the center line of East Main street to the center line of Wilcoxson avenue, westerly along the center line of Wilcoxson avenue to the center line of Main street, southerly along the center line of Main street to the point of beginning

Ninth district. All that portion of the town north of the boundary beginning at the intersection of the Trumbull line and the Huntington road, southerly along the center line of the Huntington road to the center line

of Wigwam lane, easterly along the center line of Wigwam lane to the center line of Cut Spring road, southerly along the center line of the Cut Spring road to the center line of Main street, northerly along the center line of Main street to the center line of East Main street, due east to the river For said regular town election there shall be provided a separate polling place in each of said districts in the manner provided by law.

Sec 13. There shall be two registrars of voters for the town. It shall be their duty to prepare in the manner prescribed by law separate lists of electors entitled to vote in each district at each regular town election.

Sec. 14. The signature to the nominating petition for the election of council members need not be appended to one paper, but to each paper there shall be attached an affidavit of the circulator, stating the number of signers and that each signature was made in his presence and is genuine. With each signature shall be stated the residence of the signer, the street and number or other description sufficient to identify.

Note:—At this point the copy of the formal form to be used for a nominating petition is shown.

Section 15—All nomination papers for regular town election comprising a petition shall be assembled and filed with the town clerk, as one instrument, not earlier than thirty nor later than fifteen days before election. Any person nominated under this charter shall file with the clerk his written acceptance of nomination not later than twenty days before the day of the election, and in the absence of acceptance his name shall not appear on the ballot.

Section 16—The full names of candidates nominated for the council shall be printed on the official ballots in the alphabetical order of the surnames.

Sec. 17. Any member of the council may be recalled and removed by the electors of the voting district by which he was elected. Any elector may file with the town clerk an affidavit containing the name of the council member whose removal is sought and a statement of the grounds. The clerk shall thereupon deliver to the elector making such affidavit copies of petition blanks [sic] or removal. Such blanks shall be issued by the clerk with his signature and official seal attached; they shall be dated and addressed to the council and contain the name of the person to whom issued, the number of blanks issued and the name of the member whose removal is sought. A copy of the petition shall be entered in a record book to be kept in the office of the clerk. The recall petition, to be effective, shall be returned and filed with the town clerk within thirty days and returned and filed shall be signed by the electors of the district to the number of at least fifteen per cent of the number who were entitled to cast, in said district, votes at the last regular election. To every signature shall be added the residence of the signer, the street and number or other description sufficient to identify. Such signatures need not be on one paper, provided each paper carry the designation of the purpose for which the paper was circulated, but the circulator of such paper shall make an affidavit that each signature is the genuine. All recall papers shall be filed as one instrument, with the endorsements of the names and addresses of three persons designated as filing same.

Section 18—Within ten days after the filing of the petition the town clerk shall ascertain whether the petition is signed by the requisite number of electors and shall attach his certificate showing the result of examination. If his certificate shows the petition to be insufficient, he shall notify in writing one or more of the persons

designated on the petition as filing same; and the petition may be amended within ten days, after the giving of notice, by the filing of a supplementary petition upon additional petition papers, issued, signed and filed [sic] as provided for the original petition. The town clerk shall, within ten days after amendment make like examination of the amended petition, and attach his certificate of the result. If then found to be insufficient, or if no amendment was made he shall file the petition in his office and shall notify each of the persons designated as filing it of that fact. The final finding of the insufficiency of a petition shall not prejudice the filing of a new petition for the same purpose.

Sec 19. If the petition or amended petition shall be certified by the town clerk to be sufficient he shall submit same with his certificate to the council at its next meeting and notify the members whose removal is sought of such action. The council shall, within ten days of the receipt of the town clerk's certificate, unless the member whose removal is sought shall have resigned, order an election to be held not less than 30 nor more than 45 days thereafter within and for the district from which the council member whose removal is sought was elected; provided, if any other regular town election is to occur within 60 days after the receipt of said certificate the council may in its discretion provide for the holding of the removal election on the date of such other election.

&sec 20. The form of the ballot at such election shall be as nearly as may be: "Shall A be recalled?", the name of the member whose recall is sought being inserted in place of A, and the ballot shall also contain the names of the candidates for election in place of the man recalled, as follows: "Candidates for the

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Read The Times' Great
BICYCLE OFFER
on page 13

The Bridgeport Times

AND EVENING FARMER

WEATHER

New Haven, July 6—Forecast for New Haven and vicinity: Fair and warmer tonight and Thursday.
Conditions favor for this vicinity fair weather with rising temperatures.

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BRIDGEPORT, CONN., WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 1921

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PRICE TWO CENTS

place of A. if recalled," but the member whose recall is sought shall not himself be a candidate. In case a majority of those voting for and against the recall of any member shall vote in favor of recall he shall thereby be removed, and in that event the candidate who receives the highest

number of votes for his place shall be elected for the balance of the unexpired term. Should the council fail or refuse to order an election as provided within the time required, such election may be ordered by any court of general jurisdiction in the county in which said town is situated.

THINK NEW PLAN NOT "POLITICAL PROOF"

E. W. Peck, 666 Longbrook avenue, and one of Stratford's leading citizens thinks that the proposed council-manager form of government is well worth trying, but far from being "political proof." He does not believe that the present type of Town government, the proposed new charter plan, nor any other form would necessarily solve the problem, but that the only solution is in the hands of the people, under any form. When the right ones are chosen, who will have the interest of the town's affairs at heart entirely, and with the right spirit, then the problem will be solved, and not until then.

Frank H. Fargo, Riverton terrace, Stratford, and a well known Bridgeport business man, states that as a rule he does not meddle much with Town affairs that border on the political unless he is directly interested in the subject at hand, but that he is rather in favor of giving the council-manager plan a trial if it means a way to better town government.

Dr. DeRuyter Howland, 2336 Main street, medical examiner, and the head of the Board of Education, stated Wednesday that he had been so busy he had not had time to read a copy of the charter and was therefore not in a position to venture an opinion.

Thomas King, Windsor avenue, connected with the LaResista Corset company, 32 Norman street, Bridgeport, like many of the newcomers to Stratford, had not had the matter brought to his attention and had not seen a copy of the charter.

Edward Bennetto, Holmes avenue, Stratford, is perfectly satisfied with the present method of taking care of the Town affairs and believes it efficient and sufficient.

Today the third installment of the proposed charter in condensed form is submitted to Times readers in Stratford. Opinions, statements, criticisms, or letters

on the charter will be welcomed and given the proper publicity. The special election will be held in Stratford next Monday, July 11, at which time the voters will accept or reject the charter which would give Stratford a council-manager form of government.

Sec. 21. The people shall have the power to propose ordinances, and measures and to adopt same at the polls, such power being known as the initiative. A petition meeting the requirements provided and requesting council to pass an ordinance, resolution, order or vote (all of these four terms hereinafter included in the term "measure" therein set forth or designated), shall be termed an initiative petition and shall be acted upon as provided.

Sec 22. Signatures to initiative petitions need not be on one paper provided each paper shall carry the designation of the purpose for which it is circulated [sic], but the circulator of every paper shall make an affidavit that each signature is genuine. With each signature shall be stated the residence of the signer, street and number or other description sufficient to identify. All such papers pertaining to any measure shall have written or printed thereon the names and addresses of at least five electors who shall be officially regarded as filing the petition, and shall constitute a committee of the petitioners for the purposes named. All such papers shall be filed in the office of the town clerk as one instrument. Attached to every such instrument shall be a certificate signed by the committee of petitioners or a majority of them stating whether the petition is intended to be a "fifteen per cent, petition" or a "twenty-five per cent, petition."

Sec 23. Within ten days after the filing of the petition the town clerk shall ascertain by examination the number of electors whose signatures are appended and whether this

number is at least fifteen [sic] per cent, or twenty-five per cent, of the total number of electors who were entitled to cast their votes at the last regular town election, and he shall attach to said petition his certificate showing the result of examination. If, by the clerk's certificate, of which notice in writing shall be given to one or more of the persons designated, the petition is shown to be insufficient it may be amended within ten days by filing supplementary petition papers with additional signatures. The town clerk shall within ten days after such amendment make like examination of the amended petition, and if his certificate shall show the same to be insufficient he shall file the petition in his office and shall notify each member of the committee. The final finding of the insufficiency of a petition shall not prejudice the filing of a new petition for the same purpose. Sec. 24. If the petition shall be found to be sufficient the town clerk shall so certify and submit the proposed measure to the council, who shall at once read and refer the same to an appropriate committee. Provision shall be made for public hearings upon the proposed measure before the committee. Thereafter the committee shall report the proposed measure to the council, with its recommendation, not later than sixty days after the date upon which such measure was submitted, to the council by the clerk. Upon receiving the proposed measure from the committee the council shall at once proceed to consider it and shall take final action withi [sic] thirty days from the date of such committee report.

Sec 25. If the council shall fail to pass the measure, or shall pass it in a form different from that set forth in the petition, then if the petition was a "twenty-five per cent, petition," the proposed measure shall be submitted by the council to the vote or the electors at the next election occurring not less than thirty days after the date of the final action by the council, and if no election

is to be held within six months from such date, then the council shall call a special election to be held not less than thirty nor more than forty-five days from such date. But if the petition was a "fifteen per cent, petition" the proposed measure shall be submitted as in the case of a "twenty-five per cent petition," except that no special election shall be called unless within thirty days after the final action by the council on the proposed measure a supplementary petition shall be filed with the clerk signed by a sufficient number of additional electors asking for the submission of the proposed measure so that the original petition combined with such supplementary petition shall become a "twenty-five per cent, petition." In such case supplementary petition is filed and no regular election is to be held within six months, the council shall call a special election to be held not less than thirty nor more than forty-five days after the receipt of the clerk's certificate that a sufficient supplementary petition has been filed. The sufficiency of any such supplementary petition shall be determined, and it may be amended in the manner provided for original petitions. When submitted the measure shall be either in its original form, or with any proposed change or addition which was presented in writing at the public hearing before the committee to which such measure was referred, or during the consideration by the council; and said committee of petitioners shall certify to the clerk the requirement of submission and the proposed measure in the form desired, within ten days after the date of final action on such measure by the council. Upon receipt of the certificate and certified copy of the measure, the clerk shall certify the fact to the council at its next meeting and such measure shall be submitted by the council to the vote of the electors in a regular or special [sic] election as provided.

BOYS AND GIRLS
Read The Times' Great
BICYCLE OFFER
on page 3

The Bridgeport Times

AND EVENING FARMER.

WEATHER

New Haven, July 7.—Forecast for New Haven and vicinity: Partly cloudy and continued warm tonight and Friday. Conditions favor for this winter more cloudy weather, slight, by higher temperature.

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BRIDGEPORT, CONN., THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1921

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PRICE TWO CENTS

At this point the form of the ballot is reproduced, after which it states that if the majority of the electors voting on any such measure shall vote in favor, it shall become an ordinance, resolution, order or vote of the town as the case may be.

Sec. 27. Any number of proposed measures may be voted upon at the same election.

Sec 28. The people shall have the power to approve or reject any measure passed by the council or submitted by the council to a vote of the electors, excepting measures levying a tax for or appropriating money to defray the general expenses of the town government or any department thereof; also measures ordering the construction of public or local improvements and levying assessments on the property specially benefited thereby, for the payment thereof. Such power shall be known as the referendum; which power shall be invoked and exercised as provided. All measures save those hereinabove specifically excepted, submitted to the council by initiative petition and passed by the council without change or passed in an amended form and not required by the committee of the petitioners to be submitted to a vote of the electors, shall be subject to the referendum in the same manner as other measures.

MOST STRATFORDITES ARE READY TO ABIDE BY THE DECISION OF THE VOTERS

The time is drawing near for the voters of Stratford to go on record favoring the retention of the present town meeting idea of government, or the institution proposed council-manager plan. The special election will be held Monday. Today and tomorrow the Times will complete the last two installments of the charter in condensed form. Opinions of men in various walks of life have been secured. Many could not be reached, and any letters, opinion or criticisms will be welcomed and published if received early tomorrow morning.

A son of Mayor Rice, New Haven, spoke at the informal meeting Wednesday evening, being opposed to the plan. He was answered by Donald Sammis of the charter committee. During the discussion it was claimed that the men fostering this idea are the same that favored the Port of Bridgeport bill, which was unpopular with many in Stratford and which was lost. It was also brought out at the meeting that the deficit supposed to have been large last year in reality did not exist, a return of money appropriated being made to the town clerk of an amount over \$700.

H. C. Lovell, town clerk and prominent merchant, spoke at the meeting and had the courage to put himself on record as opposed to the plan. Many prominent Stratford voters are bashful about making known their stand. W. H. Booth, 1112 Broadbridge avenue, does not believe the measure will pass and states several reasons that appear sound.

William H. St. John, druggist in Stratford center, who lives at 148 King Street, states that he hasn't had time to think much about it, but from what he has read and heard does not think much of the proposed plan.

Seymour Wells, the oldest merchant at Paradise Green, hasn't a great deal to say one way or another, except to offer it as his private opinion that the measure hasn't as much chance to be passed now as it would have a month ago. This view is shared by others.

Rev. R. C. Whitehead, of the Congregational church, who resides at 956 Broad street, is heartily in favor of the new plan, and thinks it a good thing if it will make the town government more responsive to the wishes of the people.

Miss Florence Allen, Stratford, assistant in the office of Judge John J. Keogh, referee in bankruptcy, has just returned from a vacation spent in the west, has not read a copy of the charter, and so cannot render an opinion.

Attorney Ivan L. Morehouse, who lives at 913 Broadway and whose Bridgeport offices are at 983 Broad street, is spending most of his time during the summer at Silver Sands, and stated today that he did not lean either way, was not greatly interested or excited over the outcome of the special election, but was perfectly willing to have the matter put to a vote, and to let the vote of the people decide the matter.

Beginning with Section 29 the proposed charter reads as follows:

Sec. 29. No measure shall go into effect until thirty days after passage unless it be an emergency measure of urgent public need for the preservation of peace, health, safety or property, the facts showing such urgency and need being specifically stated in the measure and the measure being passed by a vote of not less than six of the council. No measure amending or repealing any measure adopted by the people or by the council in compliance with an initiative petition shall be regarded as an emergency measure.

Sec 30. If, within thirty days after the final passage of any measure by the council, a petition signed by electors of the town to the number of at least ten per centum of the number of electors who were entitled to cast their vote at the last preceding regular town election, to be filed with the clerk requesting that any such measure, or any part be repealed or be submitted to a vote of the electors, it shall not, except in case of an emergency, become

operative until the steps indicated have been taken.

Sec 31. The signatures need not be on one paper, provided each paper shall carry the designation of the purpose for which it is circulated, but the circulator of every paper shall make an affidavit that each signature appended is genuine. With each signature shall be stated the place of residence of the signer, the street and number or other description sufficient to identify. All such papers shall be filed in the office of the town clerk as one instrument. A referendum petition need not contain the text of the designated and of which the repeal is sought.

Sec. 32. Within ten days after the filing of the petition the clerk shall ascertain whether or not the petition is signed by the electors of the town to the number of at least ten per cent, of the number of electors who were entitled to cast their votes at the last preceding regular town election, and he shall attach to such petition, his certificate showing the result of such examination. If, by the clerk's certificate, the petition is shown to be insufficient, it may be amended within ten days from the date of said certificate by the filing of supplementary petition papers with additional signatures. The clerk shall within ten days after such amendment, make like examination of the amended petition and certify the result thereof.

Sec 33. If the petition be found sufficient the council shall proceed to reconsider such measure or such part thereof as the petition shall specify. If, upon such reconsideration, such measure or part [sic], be not repealed or amended as demanded in the petition, the council shall provide for submitting the same, by the method provided, to a vote of the electors at the next election occurring [sic] not less than 30 days after the receipt by the council of the clerk's certificate, and such measure, or part, shall thereupon be suspended from going into effect until election and shall then be deemed repealed unless approved by a majority of those voting thereon. The council, by a two-thirds vote, may submit such measure or part with like effect to the electors at a special election to

be called by said council not less than 30 days after the receipt of said clerk's certificate

Sec 34. Proposed measures shall be submitted by ballot title. There shall appear upon the official ballot, a title which may be distinct from the legal title of any such proposed measure and which shall be a clear, concise statement, without arugment [sic] or prejudice, descriptive of the substance of the measure. The ballot title shall be prepared by the committee of the petitioners if for an initiative or a referendum measure, or by a committee of the council when submitted by the council.

Sec.35. The ballots used when voting upon such proposed measure shall designate the same, and below it the two propositions, "For the measure" and "Against the measure."

Sec. 36. Measures passed as emergency measures shall be subject to referendum like other measures, except that they shall not be suspended from going into effect while the referendum proceedings are pending. If when submitted to a vote of the electors, an emergency measure be not approved by a majority of those voting, it shall be considered repealed, as regards any further action thereunder and all rights and privilege conferred by it shall be null and void; provided such measure so repealed shall be deemed sufficient authority for any payment made or expense incurred in accordance with the measure previous to the referendum vote.

Sec. 37. The town clerk, at least 15 days before any election at which any measure is to be submitted, shall post a certified copy of such measure or measures on the town sign post and cause the same to be printed at least twice in a newspaper having a circulation in Stratford. The text of every measure shall also be displayed in a conspicuous place at the polling booths at such election.

Sec. 38. If two or more measures adopted or approved at the same election conflict in respect to any of their provisions, they shall go into effect in respect to such of their provisions as are not in conflict and the one receiving the highest affirmative vote shall prevail.

Sec. 39. The town manager shall be the chief executive and administrative officer of the

town. As such, he shall possess have and exercise all the executive and administrative powers vested in the town, except as otherwise provided. He shall be chosen by the council solely on the basis of his executive and administrative qualifications. The choice need not be limited to the inhabitants of the town or state. The town manager shall devote his entire time and business interest to the management of the town's affairs and shall not during his term of office, be an employee of, or perform any executive duty for any person, firm, corporation or institution other than the town. His salary shall be fixed by the council and he shall be required to give a bond, for the faithful performance of the duties of his office in such amount as the council may determine. He shall be appointed for an indefinite period, and shall be removable by the council at pleasure. If removed at any time after six months of service, he may demand written charges and a public hearing of the same before the council and the same shall be given him prior to the date on which his final removal shall take effect. Pending such hearing the council may suspend him from office and during such suspension, or in case of his absence or disability from any other cause, the council shall designate some properly qualified person, other than a member of the council, to perform the duties of the office.

Sec. 40. The town manager shall have special powers and duties hereinafter enumerated, and shall be directly responsible to the council for the proper administration: (a) To see that all laws and ordinances governing the town are enforced; (b) to appoint and remove at pleasure, except as otherwise in this act provided, all directors of departments and all subordinate officers and employees in such departments in both classified and unclassified service, such appointments and removals to be made upon the basis of merit and fitness alone, including proper subordination; (c) to exercise control and supervision over all departments, herein created, except as otherwise in this act provided; (d) to make a monthly report to the council and to attend all meetings of the council when requested by the council with the right to

take part in the discussion, but having no vote; (e) to recommend to the council for adoption such measures as he may deem necessary or expedient; (f) to keep the council fully advised as to the financial condition of the town; (g) to prepare and submit to the council an annual budget, as by this act required; (h) to submit to the council at each meeting an order of business covering his recommendation; (i) to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this act, or required of him by ordinance or resolution by the council.

Sec. 41. There shall be four administrative departments as follows: Public works, safety, health and welfare, and finance, the functions of which shall be prescribed by the council except as provided. The council shall fix all salaries, and the council may by a two-thirds vote of its entire membership, create new departments, combine or abolish existing departments or establish temporary departments for special work.

Sec. 42. At the head of each department there shall be a director, or the town manager may serve as a director of any or all departments until such time as a director is deemed necessary. Each director shall be chosen on the basis of his general executive and administrative experience and ability and of his education, training and experience in the class of work which he is to administer. Each director shall be appointed by the town manager and [sic] may be removed by him at any time; but in case of such removal, if the director so demands, written charges must be preferred by the town manager, and the director shall be given a public hearing before the order of removal is made final. The charges and the director's reply thereto shall be filed with the town clerk and shall be a public record. The salary of each director shall be fixed by the council from time to time.

Sec. 43. The director of finance shall exercise all powers and perform all duties now exercised and performed by assessors, that own treasurer and the collector of taxes, subject to the direction and control of the town manager at all times. He shall have direct supervision over the department of finance and the

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The Bridgeport Times

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Conditions favor for this evening;
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administration of the financial affairs of the town, including the keeping of accounts and financial records; the assessment and collection of taxes, special assessments and other revenues, the custody and disbursement of town funds and moneys, the control over expenditures, and such other duties as the council may by ordinance provide. Accounts shall be kept by the department of finance showing the financial transactions for all departments of the town. Forms for all such accounts shall be prescribed by the director of finance with the approval of the town manager; and shall be adequate to record all cash receipts and disbursements, all revenues accrued and liabilities incurred, and all transactions affecting the acquisition, custody and disposition of values and to make such reports of the financial transactions and conditions of the town as may be required by law or ordinance. Financial reports shall be prepared for each quarter and each fiscal year, and for such other periods as may be required by the town manager.

Sec. 44. The director of health and welfare shall exercise all powers and perform all duties heretofore exercised and performed by the town health officer, subject to the direction and control of the town manager.

Sec. 45. The directors of departments shall be immediately responsible to the town manager for the administration of their departments and their advice in writing may be required by him on all matters affecting their departments. They shall prepare estimates, which shall be open to public inspection, and they shall make all other reports and recommendations concerning their departments at stated intervals or when requested by the town manager.

Sec 46. The council, the town manager and any officer or board authorized by them, or either of them shall have the power to make investigations as to town affairs, to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths and compel the production of books and papers.

Sec 47. In the event a civil service commission is at any time created by the council, such commission shall promulgate rules for the classification of all employes [sic] of

all departments for open, competitive and free examinations as to fitness for an eligible list from which vacancies shall be filled for a period of probation before employment is made permanent and for promotion on the basis of merit, experience and record of service; provided in making such classified list, there shall not be included therein elective officers and those appointed by the council, heads of departments, offices and divisions, members of commissions, and one secretary or stenographer for each department, board or commission and those persons performing duties which require exceptional scientific, mechanical, professional or educational qualifications, and day laborers and unskilled workmen. From and after the creation of a civil service commission no appointment or promotion in the classified service shall be made except from names certified by the commission.

Sec. 48. All employes [sic] of the town at the time this act takes effect shall be continued as such until their successors are chosen.

Sec. 49. Not later than one month before the end of each fiscal year, the town manager shall prepare and submit to the council an annual budget for the ensuing fiscal year, based upon detailed estimates furnished by the several departments and other divisions of the town government, according to a classification as nearly uniform as possible. The budget shall present the following information: (a) An itemized statement of the appropriations recommended by the town manager for current expenses and for permanent improvements for each department and each division thereof, for the ensuing fiscal year with comparative statements in parallel columns of the appropriations and expenditures for the current and next preceding fiscal year, and the increases or decreases in the appropriations recommended; (b) an itemized statement of the taxes required and of the estimated revenues of the town from all other sources for the ensuing fiscal year, with comparative statements in parallel columns of the taxes and other revenues for the current and next preceding fiscal year, and of the increases or decreases estimated or proposed; (c) a statement of the

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financial condition of the town and (d) such other information as may be required by the council. Copies of the budget shall be printed and available for distribution not later than two weeks after its submission to the council, and a public hearing shall be given thereon by the council or a committee thereof before action by the council.

Sec 50. Not later than one month after the beginning of the fiscal year, the council shall pass an annual appropriation ordinance, which shall be based on the budget submitted by the town manager. The total amount of appropriations shall not exceed the estimated revenues of the town. Before the annual appropriation ordinance has been passed the council, with the approval in writing of the town manager, may make appropriations for current department expenses chargeable to the appropriations of the year when passed, to an amount sufficient to cover the necessary expenses of the various departments, until the

annual appropriation is in force. No other liabilities shall be incurred by any officer or employee of the town, except in accordance with the provisions of the annual appropriation ordinance or under continuing contracts and loans authorized under the provisions of this act. At any meeting and after at least one week's public notice, the council, by a two-thirds vote, may authorize the transfer of unused balances appropriated for one purpose to another purpose, or to appropriate available revenues not included in the annual budget. The budget for the fiscal year commencing on the first Tuesday after the second Monday in October, 1921, shall be prepared by the board of finance of said town in the manner provided by law, and by it submitted to the council at its first meeting to be held on the second Monday of October, 1921. The council within 30 days thereafter shall adopt said budget in its original or amended form.

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AND EVENING FARMER

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MORE OPINIONS ON STRATFORD CHARTER

The Stratford special election will be held Monday to decide upon the adoption or rejection of the council-manager form of government. Interest has seemed to gain ground the past few days, but William Hart of Judson place, an official for years of the Bridgeport Hydraulic company, does not believe it will pass and will vote against it. He believes that the change is too radical [sic] and that too many new ideas would be put over at once should the measure pass.

Walter K. Goddard, 1,433 Elm street, Stratford, head of the Stratford Trust company, stated yesterday that he "thinks we have a very able form of government under present conditions and cannot see any improvements in the proposed new charter."

Arthur V. Sammis, Judson place, cashier in the Bridgeport Savings bank, is interested in the movement and is in favor of it, but not at all certain that it will pass. He shares the belief of many that the town has outgrown the present town meeting idea.

Some believe that the solid front against the measure by those now in office will influence some of the "on the fence" voters in favor of the charter. Others believe that the present town meeting idea would be O. K., if the hall was large enough to accommodate a larger percentage of the voters, and each eligible person was given a dog tag to wear meeting nights to keep ringers on the outside.

Gordon Z. Smith, 333 Allendale drive, Paradise Lawn, submitted a letter on the subject that is reproduced below:

To the Editor of the Times:

The voters of Stratford are about to have the opportunity of adopting or rejecting a form of government which will give them a more active participation in the operation of the business of the town. There will be nine councilmen, each directly responsible to the voters in his district. The council selects a town manager to direct the affairs of the town. Thus the execution of the town's business radiates from one responsible head through the council to the people. In case these do not function as desired they, may, one and all, be removed by the recall.

If the voters of each district will exercise care in selecting the best man possible to serve as their councilman without regard to his political affiliation, or any other consideration, except that he places the best interests of the town as a whole ahead of any other consideration, then this proposed change of government will function far superior to the present form. Deficits will cease to appear in revenues to cover budgets. Illegally called meetings will not occur to amuse town-meeting orators and readers of joke columns in the press.

Under the proposed change there will be a town planning commission which will be of a large and far-reaching benefit to the town in many ways too numerous to enumerate in this limited space. It is a fact that at present the town is progressing without plan or view to its future development.—How much longer can we drift?

Vote for the new charter and take an active part in the choice of your councilmen. Be a driver not a passenger.

GORDON Z. SMITH, 333 Allyndale Drive, Stratford, Conn.

The last installment of the charter, commencing with Section 61 follows:

Sec. 61. Upon the adoption of a budget, the council shall, by ordinance, levy such tax as may be necessary to meet the appropriations made (less the estimated amount of revenue from other sources) and all sums required by law to be raised on account of the town debt, together with such addition, not exceeding five per centum, as may be necessary to meet commissions, fees and abatements in the amount of taxes, collected from the estimates.

Sec. 52. No ordinance providing for the issue of bonds shall be passed without public notice at least two weeks before final action by the council, and either the approval of two-thirds of all the members of the council or submission to the electors of the town at a regular or special election and the approval of a majority of those voting thereon. Every issue of bonds shall be payable within a term of years not to exceed the estimated period of utility of the improvement for which they are issued, and in no case to exceed

thirty years, and shall be payable in equal annual serial installments, including principal and interest. Every ordinance for the issue of bonds shall provide for a tax levy for each year to meet the annual serial installments of principals [sic] and interest, and such amounts shall be included in the tax levy for each year until said bonds shall have been paid in full.

Sec 53. No continuing contract, which involves the payment of money out of the appropriations of more than two years, shall be made for a period of more than ten years, and no such contract shall be valid without public notice at least two weeks before final action of the council and has the approval of two-thirds of all the members of the council or submission to the electors of the town at a regular or special election and the approval of a majority of those voting thereon. Any public work or improvement costing more than one thousand dollars shall be executed by contract except where a specific work or improvement is authorized by the council based on detailed estimates submitted by the department authorized to execute such work or improvement. All contracts for more than one thousand dollars shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, after public advertisement and competition, as may be prescribed by ordinance. The town manager shall have power to reject all bids and to advertise again and all advertisements shall contain a reservation of this right.

Sec. 54. Payments by the town shall be made only upon vouchers certified by the head of the appropriate department or other division of the town government, and by means of warrants on the town treasurer issued by the director of finance and countersigned by the town manager. The director of finance shall examine all pay rolls, bills and other claims and demands against the town, and shall issue no warrant for payment unless he finds that the claim is in proper form, correctly computed and duly certified, that it is justly and legally due and payable, that an appropriation has been made therefor which has not been exhausted or that the payment has been otherwise legally authorized and that there is money in the town treasury to make payment. He may require any claimant to make oath to the

validity of the claim. He may investigate any claim and for such purposes may examine witnesses under oath and if he finds it is fraudulent, erroneous or otherwise invalid he shall not issue a warrant therefor.

Sec 55. Upon the death, resignation, removal or expiration of the term of any officer of the town, other than the director of finance, the director of finance shall make an audit and investigation of the accounts of such officer and report to the town manager and council. As soon as practicable after the close of each fiscal year, an annual audit shall be made of all accounts of all town officers, and upon the death, resignation, removal or expiration of the director of finance, an audit shall be made of his accounts. Such audits, shall be made under the provisions of any law for the inspection and audit of municipal accounts by state officers, and if there is no such state inspection such audits shall be made by certified public accountants, selected by the council, who have no personal interest, direct or indirect, in the financial affairs of the town or any of its officers or employees. The council may, at any time, provide for the examination or audit of the accounts of any officer or department of the town government, other than the town court.

Sec. 56. There shall be a town planning board of ten members consisting of the town manager and nine citizen members, not all of one sex, chosen by the council, one from each district of the town to serve without pay for a definite period. The council shall supplant any member who displays lack of interest, or fails upon due notice and continuously for three months to attend the meetings of the board without leave of absence. It shall be the duty of the board to keep itself informed of the progress of town planning in this and other countries, to make studies and recommendations for the improvement of the plan of the town with a view to the present and future movement of traffic, the convenience, amenity, health, recreation, general welfare and other needs of the town dependent on the town plan; to consider and report upon the designs and their relations to the town plan of all new public ways, lands, buildings, bridges and all other public places and structures, of additions to and alterations in

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those already existing, and of the layout or plotting of new subdivisions of the town. The council may authorize the planning board to control the height, design, appearance and location of buildings, and the division of the town into building districts or zones.

Sec 57. All acts of the council or of any other branch of the town government affecting the town plan shall be submitted to the board for report and recommendations. The council may, at any time, call upon the board to report with recommendations, and the board, of its own volition, may also report to the council with recommendations on any matter which, in the opinion of either body, affects the plan of the town. Any matter referred by the council to the board shall be acted on by the board within thirty days the date of reference, unless a longer or shorter period is specified. No action by the council involving any points hereinbefore set forth shall be legal or binding until it has been referred to the said board and until its recommendations there on have been accepted or rejected by the council.

Sec. 58. The town planning board shall submit to the council an annual report summarizing the activities of the board for the fiscal year, the recommendations made by it to the council during the year and the action of the council during the year on any and all recommendations made by the board in that of former years. The annual report of the board shall also contain a program for improvements to the town plan, year by year, during the three years next ensuing, with estimates of the cost thereof and recommendations as to how the cost shall be met.

Sec. 59. The board may appoint as secretary a person of skill and experience in city planning and may employ consulting town planning experts as need may arise. The

director of public works shall serve as chief engineer of the town planning board, and it shall be his particular duty to make recommendations designed to bring all the engineering works of the town into harmony as parts of one comprehensive plan. The director of health and welfare of the town shall advise the planning board from time to time of any municipal improvements within the scope of the board, which in his opinion would improve the healthfulness of the town. The board shall have power to call upon any branch of the town government at any time for information and advice which, in the opinion of the board, will insure the efficiency of its work.

Sec. 60. All accounts and the records of every office and department of the town shall open to the public at all reasonable times under reasonable regulations, except records and documents from which might be secured information which might defeat the lawful purposes of the officer or department withholding them from the access to the public.

Sec. 61. All previous ordinances or resolutions not inconsistent with this act shall remain in force until the council may change or amend them.

Sec. 62. All such officers and employees as the council may designate shall, before qualifying and entering upon their duties, furnish a bond conditioned upon the faithful performance of their duties, to an amount and in the form approved by the council.

Sec. 63. For the purpose of nominating and electing officers town clerk of said town shall cause copies of this act to be printed and made available to the electors of the town at the town clerks [sic] office not less than two weeks before said special election. The expense of said printing shall be paid by said town.