



*Chairman Charles H. Foote, Councilor District 2*  
*James P. Morgan, Councilor at Large*  
*Joshua R. Bourdon, Councilor at Large*  
*Phyllis M. Katsakiores, Councilor at Large*

*Richard P. Tripp, Pro-Tem, Councilor District 1*  
*Neil F. Wetherbee, Councilor District 3*  
*Brian K. Chirichiello, Councilor District 4*

## ***Citizen Complaint Involving Councilor Morgan***

Resident Anne Copp appeared before the Town Council on October 20, 2020 alleging Councilor Morgan violated Sections 5.6 and 8.7 of the Town Charter. As is customary, any allegations of Charter violations against members of the Town Council are referred to the Town's attorney for review.

Additionally, Ms. Copp cited Section 14 of the Council Rules as posted on the website. Unfortunately, the Council Rules were not updated on the website as the Council adopted new rules in 2017, which have now been posted. The current Rules focus on two main issues: 1) The conduct of meetings and 2) Any references between the Council's actions/procedures and the Town Charter as adopted by the voters.

We first look at Section 8.7 of the Town Charter, Non-interference by Individual Members of the Town Council. This section prohibits any Councilor from "seeking to individually influence the official acts of the Town Administrator or any other officers.... or to interfere in any way with the performance by such officers or their duties".

Section 5.6 of the Charter sets forth the process by which the Council may remove one of its own members for cause.

Ms. Copp makes several allegations, including:

- Councilor Morgan made comments concerning the election of State Representatives on his public access program. The Town does not restrict any person's Freedom of Speech rights on the Town's Public Access Program, as that would violate FCC regulations. This is not a violation of the Town Charter.
- Councilor Morgan collaborated with the owner of the electronic sign at 23 Crystal Avenue to have political advertisement removed. The Council has not investigated this charge, as the alleged action would not have fallen within the purview of the Council.

- Councilor Morgan directed staff to remove Ms. Copp's political signs. This charge is unfounded; many Councilors have received complaints regarding political candidates violating town ordinances by placing political signs on town property. All Councilors have followed the same procedure by reporting these complaints to the Town Administrator, who is then responsible for tasking the appropriate staff members to investigate the complaint and take appropriate action. Thus, Section 8.7 was not violated.
- Councilor Morgan engaged in communications with Ms. Copp which she believes to be threatening. This issue is again outside of the purview of this Council and Ms. Copp should pursue other legal remedies to address this matter.



---

Charles Foote, Chair  
Town Council