3.13 Mayor; General Powers and Duties; Compensation

The Mayor

- shall be the chief executive officer of the City and shall have and exercise all the powers conferred upon him by this Charter or by the general laws of the State, not inconsistent with this Charter. It shall be his duty to see that the laws of the State and the ordinances, local laws and resolutions passed by the Common Council are faithfully executed within the City. He shall sign, on behalf of the City, all contracts made by it, and cause the seal of the City to be affixed thereto.

- He shall be the presiding officer of the Common Council and shall appoint all standing committees thereof. He shall have power and authority to call out and command the police and firemen of the City whenever, in his discretion, he shall deem it necessary, and such command shall be in all respects obeyed. Whenever necessary for the prevention or suppression of public disturbances, mobs or riots, it shall be his duty to take such action as is authorized by law.

- It shall be his duty to exercise a constant supervision and control over the conduct of all City officers, and he shall have power and authority to examine, at all times, the books, vouchers and papers of any officer or employee of said City, and to take and hear testimony and proof in accordance with the provisions of Article 31 of the CPLR.

- He may designate from time to time, the place in the City where he will keep his office.

- It shall be the duty of the Mayor to communicate to the Common Council as soon after his election as practicable and as often thereafter as he may deem expedient, a general statement of the affairs of the City in relation to its finances, government and improvement, with such recommendations as he may deem proper.

- The salary of the Mayor shall be fixed and determined by the Common Council and be included in and paid from the general City fund.

3.20 Aldermen; Function, Powers, Duties

It shall be the duty of every Alderman:

- to attend the regular and special meetings of the Common Council;

- to act upon committees when thereunto appointed by the Mayor or Common Council;

- to report to the Mayor all subordinate officers who are guilty of any official misconduct or neglect of duty;
• to aid in maintaining peace and good order in the City and to perform or assist in performing all such duties as are by this act enjoined upon the Alderman of the City separately or upon the Common Council thereof. The Aldermen of each ward shall be fence viewers and shall possess all the powers and authority, in respect to division fences or walls in their ward which are given by law to fence viewers of towns with respect to division fences and shall be entitled to receive the same fees as fence viewers of towns.

3.1 Executive Duties of the Mayor

• Appoint an alderman to each Board to act as a liaison

• Appoint City Chamberlain, City Clerk subject to approval by C.C.

• Supervision of Assessor, Central Garage/Fleet Operations Manager, Finance/Purchasing Agent, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Director of Community Development/Engineering (vacant) = Water, Wastewater, and Public Service; City Clerk, Judicial = City Attorney, Prosecuting Attorney, Recreation Director, Personnel Director, Code Enforcement Director, Transit (vacant)

Complications of the chain of authority as our Charter is written, and as our government practices in Oneonta:

• Mayor does not participate directly in the hiring process and is later then expected to supervise the employee

• According to the Charter, the supervisor of Streets and Parks (now the General Supervisor under Public Service) reports 1) to the Parks and Rec Commission for issues regarding public parks and playgrounds; he reports 2) to the Mayor in general, and 3) conducts his departmental operations under the director of the City Engineer

• The Charter does not clearly give the Mayor or others the means to supervise any employee

• Council is given responsibility for operation and management of the Police, Fire and Health Depts. and appoint all officers and employees within the fire and police depts. in accordance with the Civil Service Law

• C.C. makes rules and regulations for the government and discipline of the police and fire depts. as they deem necessary in accordance w/all applicable provisions of laws

• Then Charter says that the powers and duties granted to the C.C. hereby shall in no way diminish any of the powers and duties of the Mayor, but the end result is that there is no clear distinction between who has what powers, and no clear process or procedure to follow.