

**HOME RULE CHARTER**  
**OF**  
**CITY OF ELGIN, TEXAS**

*The Charter contained herein was adopted by the citizens of Elgin at an election held on August 10, 1985. Amendments adopted at an election held on May 6, 1989, May 1, 1993, May 9, 2009, and May 9, 2015 have been inserted in their proper place.*

# ELGIN CHARTER

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## **ARTICLE I**

### **INCORPORATION AND CORPORATE NAME, BOUNDARIES AND FORM OF GOVERNMENT**

#### **SECTION 1: INCORPORATION AND CORPORATE NAME**

The inhabitants within the boundaries of the City of Elgin, Bastrop County, Texas, shall constitute and continue to be a municipal body politic and corporate in perpetuity under the name of the “City of Elgin”, hereinafter referred to as the “city”.

#### **SECTION 2: BOUNDARIES**

The boundaries of the city are those so designated in the original incorporation of the city with such changes as have occurred or may occur in the future.

#### **SECTION 3: FORM OF GOVERNMENT**

The form of government for the city shall be that of Council-Manager.

## ARTICLE II

### POWERS OF THE CITY

The City shall have all the powers granted to cities by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas together with all of the implied powers necessary to carry into execution such granted powers. The city may use a corporate seal; may sue and be sued; may contract and be contracted with; may cooperate with the government of the State of Texas or any agency or any political subdivision thereof; or with the federal government or any agency thereof, to accomplish any lawful purpose for the advancement of the interest, welfare, health, morals, comfort, safety and convenience of the city and its inhabitants; may acquire property within or without its corporate limits for any municipal purpose in fee simple, or in any lesser interest or estate, by purchase, gift, devise, lease or condemnation, and, subject to the provisions of this Charter, may sell, lease, mortgage, hold, manage, improve, and control such property as may now or hereafter be owned by it; may exercise the power of eminent domain when necessary or desirable to carry out any of its powers; may pass ordinances and enact such regulations as may be expedient for the maintenance of good government, order and peace of the city and the welfare, health, morals, comfort, safety, and convenience of its inhabitants. The powers hereby conferred upon the city shall include, but are not restricted to, the powers conferred expressly and permissively by Chapter 147, page 307, of the Acts of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, Regular Session enacted in 1913 pursuant to the Home Rule Amendment of the Constitution of Texas, known as the Enabling Act and including Articles, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, and 1180 of Vernon's Annotated Civil Statutes of Texas, as now or hereafter amended, all of which are hereby adopted. In addition to the powers enumerated herein, and subject only to the limitations imposed by the State Constitution, the state laws, and this Charter, the city shall have without the necessity of express enumerated in this Charter, each and every power which, by virtue of Article XI, Section 5 of the Constitution of Texas, the people of the city are empowered by election to grant to or confer upon the city by expressly and specifically granting and enumerating the same herein. The city council may by ordinance annex territory lying adjacent to the city with or without the consent of the inhabitants in such territory of the owners thereof, not inconsistent with the procedural rules prescribed by law applicable to the citizens operating under charter adopted or amended under Article XI, Section 5 of the Constitution of the State of Texas. All such powers, whether expressed or implied, shall be exercised and enforced in the same manner prescribed by this Charter; or when no prescribed herein, in such manner as shall be provided by ordinance or the council.

The City has the power to spend taxpayer money to construct and maintain streets, roads, highways, bike trails, sidewalks and mass transit facilities, except that no taxpayer money may be spent on or contractually pledged to any passenger train project unless a public bus line shall have first demonstrated a need for train service by having 500 intercity boardings in Elgin per weekday, averaged over three months, connecting to the City of Austin.

(Revised May 9, 2015)

## **ARTICLE III**

### **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

#### **SECTION 1: CITY ELECTIONS**

- A. Schedule. The regular city election will be held annually on the Uniform Election Date prescribed by the Texas Election Code. The council shall be responsible to specify places for holding such election.  
(Revised May 9, 2009)
- B. Special Elections. The council may, by resolution, order a special election under conditions specified elsewhere in this Charter for Ordinances, bond issues, Charter Amendments, or other purposes deemed appropriate by the council. The council may fix time and places for holding such special elections, and provide all means for holding same.
- C. Voter Eligibility List. The city secretary shall obtain a copy of the official voter eligibility list certified by the county tax assessor collector for the current year, broken down by voting wards to the city, if available.
- D. Conduct and Regulation of Elections. All city elections shall be governed by the Constitution of the State of Texas, General Laws of the State, this Charter, and ordinances of the city, in the order named. Municipal elections shall be conducted by the election officials appointed or approved by the council. Sample ballots identical to the voting ballot format for the specific election shall be posted in the voting place(s) for purpose of voter orientation.

#### **SECTION 2: FILING FOR OFFICE**

- A. Eligibility to File. Candidates for an elective city office shall meet the following qualifications.
  - 1. Shall be a qualified voter of the city.
  - 2. Candidates for mayor shall reside for at least twelve (12) months immediately preceding the election within the corporate limits of the city, including territory annexed prior to the filing deadline.

Candidates for council shall reside for at least twelve (12) months immediately preceding the election within the corporate limits of the city, including territory annexed prior to the filing deadline.

3. An incumbent councilmember may not file for mayor until after tendering a resignation to the City Secretary prior to filing his/her application for Mayor.
4. No candidate's name may appear on the ballot for more than one (1) position per election.

(Revised May 9, 2009)

### **SECTION 3: OFFICIAL BALLOTS**

- A. Names on Ballot. The full names of all candidates nominated for office, except those who have withdrawn, died or become ineligible, shall be printed on the official ballots without party designation or symbol. If two (2) or more candidates have the same surname or surnames so similar as to be likely to cause confusion, their residence addresses shall be printed with their names on the ballot.
- B. Order of Listing. The order on the ballot of the names of the candidates shall be determined by lot in a drawing to be held under the supervision of the city secretary.
- C. Absentee Ballots. Procedures for voting by absentee ballot shall be consistent with current edition of Texas Election Laws.
- D. Write-In-Votes. Procedures for write-in votes shall be consistent with current edition of Texas Election Laws.

### **SECTION 4: CANVASSING AND ELECTION RESULTS: MAYOR AND WARD POSITIONS FOR WARDS NUMBERS 1, 2, 3 AND 4**

The following provisions set forth in this section shall apply with regard to elections to fill the offices of Mayor, Councilmen from Ward No. 1, Councilmen from Ward No. 2, Councilmen from Ward No. 3 and Councilmen from Ward No. 4.

- A. Conducting and Canvassing Elections. The election judges and other necessary election officials for conducting all the elections shall conduct the elections, determine, record and report the results as provided by the Texas Election Laws. Within five (5) days or as soon as practical after an election, the council shall meet, open the returns, canvass and officially declare the result of the election as to candidates and questions, and the Mayor shall issue certificates of election to candidates elected as hereinbefore provided.

B. Majority Vote. A majority vote for an elective office is that number of votes which is greater than one-half (1/2) of the total number of valid ballots cast for the office concerned. Any candidate for elective office who receives a majority vote shall be declared elected. If none of the candidates for an elective position receives a majority vote, none of such candidates shall be elected.

(Revised May 6, 1989)

C. Notification and Taking Office. It shall be the duty of the city secretary to notify all persons elected. A candidate who is elected in the regular city election or special election shall take office and enter upon his duties after qualifying by taking and subscribing to his oath of office at the next regular council meeting after closing of the polls.

D. Run-Off Election. In the event no candidate for these elective offices receives a majority of the votes cast for that position in a regular or special election, a run-off election shall be held between the candidates receiving the greatest number of votes. Such run-off election shall be held within thirty (30) days following the preceding regular or special election.

(Revised May 6, 1989)

## **SECTION 5: LAWS GOVERNING CITY ELECTIONS**

As to matters not otherwise specifically provided for herein, all city elections shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas concerning municipal and general elections.

## **SECTION 6: OATH OF OFFICE**

Every officer of the city, whether elected or appointed, before entering upon the duties of office, shall take and subscribe to the appropriate oath or affirmation to be filed and kept in the office of the city secretary.

A. Oath of Office:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of \_\_\_\_\_ of the State of Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State; and I furthermore solemnly swear (or affirm), that I have not directly or indirectly paid, offered, or promised to pay, contributed, nor promise to contribute any

money, or valuable thing, or promised any public office or employment, as a reward\* (for

the giving or withholding a vote at the election at which I was elected.) (to secure my appointment or the confirmation thereof.) So help me God.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Strike out phrase that does not apply.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**CITY COUNCIL**

**SECTION 1: GENERAL POWER AND DUTIES**

All powers of the city shall be vested in the council, except as otherwise provided by law or this Charter and the council shall provide for the exercise thereof and for the performance of all duties and obligations imposed on the city by law.

**SECTION 2: COMPOSITION**

The council shall consist of a mayor, who may reside in any portion of the city, and eight (8) members of the council who shall be elected from four (4) wards, two (2) members from each ward.

**SECTION 3: TERMS OF OFFICE**

A. The mayor and eight (8) councilmen shall be elected by a majority vote for two (2) year terms and until their successors are elected, qualified and take office in the manner hereinafter provided. The mayor and one (1) councilman from each ward shall be elected for a two (2) year term at the regular city election to be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in April of 1986 and at two (2) year intervals thereafter. One (1) councilman from each of the four (4) wards shall be elected at the regular city election to be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in April of 1987 and at two (2) year intervals thereafter.

(Revised May 6, 1989)

- B. All qualified voters of the city shall be entitled to vote for the mayor. No voter may vote for any candidate to be a councilman in any ward unless such voter is a qualified voter and a resident of such ward.
- C. The boundary lines for each ward have previously been established and shall hereinafter be periodically review by the city council and amended if legally necessary, or ordinance to comply with all applicable laws.
- D. The current mayor and each incumbent member of the city council shall continue in their respective capacities and hold office for the balance of the two (2) year terms for which each was elected as follows:

	Term Expires
Mayor Marvin Carter	April 1986
Councilman Beth L. Hall	April 1986
Councilman Jesse P. Mendez	April 1986
Councilman Eric Carlson	April 1986
Councilman Verdie P. Murphy	April 1986
Councilman Gladys Y. Ward	April 1987
Councilman Gordon Swenson	April 1987
Councilman Rudy Hernandez	April 1987

E. All candidates shall satisfy requirements of Texas Election Code in order to have their name placed on the ballot.

#### **SECTION 4: QUALIFICTIONS**

In addition to any other qualifications prescribed by law, the mayor and each council member shall meet the conditions of Article III of this Charter while in office, and shall reside within the city while in office.

#### **SECTION 5: JUDGE OF ELECTIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS**

The council shall be the final judge of all elections and qualifications of its members and any other elected officials of the city.

#### **SECTION 6: EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

Members of the council shall receive per diem for each month they serve on the council as established by ordinance. The council shall, as well, be entitled to reimbursement for all other expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties upon approval of the mayor.

#### **SECTION 7: MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO-TEM**

The mayor shall be the official head of the city government. He shall be the chairman, and shall preside at all meetings of the council. The mayor may vote on every proposition before the council, but shall have no power of veto. He shall, when directed by the council, sign all official documents such as ordinances, resolutions, conveyances, grant agreements, official plats, contracts, and bonds. He shall appoint committees and commission members with the advice and consent of the council members. He shall perform such other duties consistent with this Charter as may be imposed upon him by the council.

The mayor pro tem shall be a council member elected by the council at the first regular council meeting following each regular city election. The mayor protem shall act as mayor during the absence or disability of the mayor, and shall have power to perform every act the mayor could perform if present.

(Revised May 6, 1989)

## **SECTION 8: VACANCIES, FORFEITURE, FILLING OF VACANCIES**

- A. Vacancies. The office of a councilman or office of the mayor shall become vacant upon his death, resignation, removal from office in any manner authorized by law, or forfeiture of his office.
- B. Forfeiture of Office. A councilman or the mayor shall forfeit his office if he:
1. Lacks at any time during his term of office any qualification for the office prescribed by this Charter or by law;
  2. Is convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude; or
  3. Fails to attend three (3) consecutive regular council meetings without being excused by the council.
- C. Filling of Vacancies. When any vacancy occurs on the council for any reason, a special election shall be ordered as soon as practicable and shall be held in accordance with the Texas Election Code; and further providing that, if such vacancy occurs within 90 days of the Next Regular Election, the Council shall not appoint a replacement but if such vacancy occurs at a time greater than 90 days of the next Regular Election, the Council shall appoint a replacement.

(Revised May 9, 2009)

## **SECTION 9: PROHIBITIONS**

- A. Holding other Office. Except where authorized by law, no mayor or councilman shall hold any other office or city employment during his term as mayor or councilman, and no former mayor or councilman shall hold any compensated appointive city office or employment or contractual agreement until one year after the expiration of his term as mayor or councilman.
- B. Appointments and Removals. Neither the council nor any of its members shall in any manner dictate the appointment or removal of any city administrative officers or employees who the city manager or any of his subordinates are empowered to appoint, but the council may express its views and fully and freely discuss with the city manager anything pertaining to appointment and removal of such officers and employees.

C. Interference with Administration. The council or its members shall deal with city officers and employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the city manager solely through the city manager, and neither the council nor its members shall give orders to any such officer or employee, either publicly or privately.

## **SECTION 10: MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

The council shall hold at least one (1) regular meeting each month as many additional meetings as it deems necessary to transact the business of the city and its citizens. The council shall fix, by ordinance, the days and time of the regular meetings. All meetings of the council may recess to an executive session for any purpose outlined in applicable state laws. Special meetings of the council shall be held on the call of the mayor or of a quorum of the council members, and, whenever practical, upon no less than twelve (12) hours notice to each member. Emergency meetings can be called with as few as two (2) hours notice if allowed by applicable State Law.

(Revised May 9, 2009)

## **SECTION 11: RULES OF PROCEDURE AND QUORUM REQUIREMENTS**

The council shall, by ordinance, determine its own rules and order of business and the rules shall provide that citizens of the city shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard at any meeting in regard to any matter under consideration. The council shall provide for minutes to be taken and recorded of all meetings, and such minutes shall be a public record. Voting, except on procedural motions, shall be by roll call and each member's vote shall be recorded in the minutes. Five (5) council members, including the mayor, shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transaction of business and no action of the council shall be valid or binding unless adopted by the affirmative vote of five (5) or more members of the council including the mayor, unless applicable state law requires a greater number.

All members of the council present, including the mayor, shall vote upon every resolution or ordinance, except where there is a conflict of interest, the reason for which shall be stated concisely.

(Revised May 18, 1993)

## **SECTION 12: ORDINANCES IN GENERAL**

Any ordinance, or its caption, which deals with budget and/or taxes, franchises, public service companies or the setting of their rates, or which provides penalty for its violations, must be posted on the City's WEB Site for at least 30 days after passage.

(Revised May 9, 2009)

### **SECTION 13: EMERGENCY ORDINANCES**

To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property, or the public peace, the council may adopt emergency ordinances. Such ordinances shall not levy taxes, grant or renew or extend a franchise, or regulate the rate charged by any public utility service company for its services. Neither shall they authorize the borrowing of money except as provided elsewhere in this Charter. An emergency ordinance shall be introduced in the form and manner generally prescribed for ordinances, except that it shall be plainly designated in the title as an emergency ordinance and shall contain, after the enacting clause, a declaration stating that an emergency exists and describing it in clear and specific terms. Such emergency clause shall require the affirmative vote of five (5) members of the council.

Every emergency ordinance so adopted, except one authorizing the borrowing of money as described herein, shall automatically stand repealed as of the sixty-first day following the day on which it became effective, but this shall not prevent reenactment of the ordinance.

### **SECTION 14: AUTHENTICATION AND RECORDING, CODIFICATION**

- A. Authentication and Recording: The city secretary shall authenticate by his signature and record in full in a properly indexed book kept for the purpose, all ordinances and resolutions adopted by the council. All ordinances shall be categorically filed in the order in which adopted. This record shall be open for public inspection.
- B. Codification. The Elgin City Code shall be reviewed and revised at least every five (5) years. The council shall repeal and revise any ordinances as may be obsolete or in conflict with this Charter.

### **SECTION 15: BONDS FOR CITY EMPLOYEES**

The council shall require bonds of all municipal officers and employees who receive or pay out any monies of the city. The amount of such bonds shall be determined by the council and the cost hereof shall be borne by the city.

## **SECTION 16: INVESTIGATION BY THE CITY COUNCIL**

The council may make investigations into affairs of the city and the conduct of any city department, division, or office and for this purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony and require the production of evidence. Any person who fails or refuses to obey a lawful order issued in the exercise of these powers by the council shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine which shall have been set, by ordinance, by the council.

## ARTICLE V

### ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

#### SECTION 1: CITY MANAGER

- A. Appointment and Removal. The council shall appoint an officer of the city who shall have the title of “city manager,” who shall have the powers and perform the duties as provided in this Charter. No mayor or council member shall receive such appointment during the term for which he shall have been elected or within one (1) year after the expiration of his term.
- B. Qualifications. The city manager shall be chosen by the council solely on the basis of his executive and administrative qualifications with special reference to his actual experience in, or his knowledge of, accepted practice in respect to the duties of his office as hereinafter during his tenure of office he shall reside within the Elgin Independent School District’s boundaries.

(Revised May 18, 1993)

- C. Term. The city manager shall not be appointed for a definite term but may be removed at the discretion of the council, by vote of the majority of the entire council. The action of the council in suspending or removing the city manager shall be final, it being the intention of this Charter to rest all authority and fix all responsibility for such suspension or removal in the city council. During the extended absence or disability of the city manager, the council shall designate some properly qualified person to perform the duties of the office.

#### SECTION 2: POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE CITY MANAGER

- A. Appointment and Removal of Employees. He shall appoint and remove any officer or employee of the city except those officers and employees whose appointment or election is otherwise provided for by law of this Charter.
- B. Preparation of Budget. He shall prepare the budget annually, submit it to the council and be responsible for its administration after its adoption.

- C. Information for the Council. He shall keep the council informed of the financial condition of the city and make recommendations on current and future needs of the city as may seem desirable.
1. Prepare and submit a quarterly report to the council on the finances and administrative activities of each department.
  2. Prepare and submit to the council at the end of the fiscal year a complete report on the finances and administrative activities of the city for proceeding fiscal year.
- D. Delegation to Contract. The council may, by ordinance, confer upon the city manager general authority to contract for budgeted expenditures involving an amount approved by the Council.
- E. Other Responsibilities. He shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Charter or required of him by the council which are not inconsistent with the provision of the Charter.

(Revised May 18, 1993)

### **SECTION 3: RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR POLICE AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS**

The public works director and the chief of police shall not be required to reside within the city limits of Elgin. They each must, however, reside within such proximity to the city limits as to allow for their response to a civil emergency in the city within thirty (30) minutes or less.

(May 18, 1993)

### **SECTION 4: CITY ATTORNEY**

The council shall appoint an attorney, or attorneys, licensed to practice law in the State of Texas, to serve as legal advisor to the city and to all officers and departments of the city. He shall represent the city or be responsible for the representation of the city in all cases. He shall either draft, approve, or file his written legal objections to every ordinance adopted by the council and he shall pass upon all documents, contracts, and legal instruments in which the city may have an interest.

## **SECTION 5: CITY SECRETARY**

The city manager, with the consent of council, shall appoint the city secretary and such assistant city secretaries as may be necessary and advisable. The duties of the city secretary, or an assistant city secretary, shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. He shall give notice of council meetings.
2. Record the minutes of all official meetings of the council; provided, however, only the captions of duly enacted ordinances and resolutions shall be recorded in the minutes;
3. Be the custodian of all official records of the council;
4. Recommend to the council rules and regulations to be adopted by ordinances to protect the safety and security of the municipal records;
5. Hold and maintain the city seal and affix to all instruments requiring such seal; and
6. He shall perform such other duties as the city manager shall assign and those elsewhere provided for in this Charter.

(Revised May 9, 2009)

## **SECTION 6: MUNICIPAL COURT**

- A. Powers and Duties. There shall be a municipal court of the city which shall have such jurisdictions, powers and duties as are prescribed by the laws of the State of Texas.
- B. Judge of the Court. The Judge of the Municipal Court shall be appointed and removed by the council and shall receive a salary as may be fixed by the council.

(Revised May 6, 1989)

- C. Clerk of the Court. The city manager may appoint a clerk of the municipal court.
- D. Appointment of Temporary Replacement Judges. The council may also appoint one (1) or more temporary replacement judges to act for the regular judge when the regular judge is unable to act for any reason.

## **SECTION 7: VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS**

The city may allow volunteer organizations to serve to accomplish the purposes of the city. These organizations shall work under the authority of the department most appropriate to their function as assigned by the city manager in accordance with ordinances, resolutions or minute orders adopted by the council.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **TAX ADMINISTRATION**

#### **SECTION 1: DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**

A. Powers of Taxation. The city shall have the power to levy assess, and collect taxes of every character and type not prohibited by the constitution and laws of the State of Texas, and for any municipal purpose.

#### **SECTION 2: COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES**

The council shall have the power to provide for the collection of delinquent taxes in any manner not inconsistent with the laws of the State of Texas.

#### **SECTION 3: PAYMENT OF TAXES**

Neither the council nor any other official of the city shall extend the time for payment of taxes not remit, discount or compromise any tax legally due the city, nor waive the penalty and interest that may be due thereon to any persons, firms, or corporations owing taxes to the city for such year or years; provided, however, that this provision shall not prevent the compromise of any tax suit, or the correction of any errors in assessment or preparation of a tax statement. Such compromise or correction of errors shall first have the approval of the council by majority vote of all councilmen qualified and serving.

#### **SECTION 4: LEVY OF TAXES**

The council of the city shall have the power, and is hereby authorized to levy, assess, and collect annual taxes of all property having a situs within the corporate limits of the city, and to grant such exemptions not prohibited by the laws of the State of Texas.

(Revised May 6, 1989)

#### **SECTION 5: TAX COLLECTOR**

There shall be a tax collector responsible for the collection of taxes levied by the city. This person or designated entity shall be bonded.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

#### **SECTION 1: FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year shall begin on October 1 each year and end on the following September 30. The fiscal year may be changed by the council by ordinance, provided that no change shall be until six (6) months after final passage of such ordinance, and that no more than one (1) change in the fiscal year be made in any period of three (3) calendar years. All funds collected by the city during any fiscal year, including both current and delinquent revenues, shall belong to such fiscal year and, except for funds derived to pay interest and create a sinking fund on the bonded indebtedness of the city, may be applied to the payment of expense incurred during such fiscal year, except as provided in this Charter. Any revenues uncollected at the end of any fiscal year, and any unencumbered funds actually on hand shall become resources of the next fiscal year.

#### **SECTION 2: BUDGET**

The department heads of the city shall prepare annual departmental budget requests for the ensuing fiscal year as directed by the city manager and submit said requests to him for his review. It shall be the duty of the city manager to submit a balanced annual budget not later than forty-five (45) days prior to the end of the current fiscal year to the council for review, consideration, and revision, if desired. The council shall call a public hearing on the budget in accordance with the state laws.

When recommended by the city manager and in the discretion of the city council the budget may contain a reasonable sum set aside as an unallocated reserve fund, to meet unexpected and unforeseen contingencies in current operating costs of any budget project.

The budget shall be finally adopted not later than three (3) calendar days prior to the end of the fiscal year by the favorable votes of at least a majority of all members of the council. Should the council take no final action on or prior to such day on a proposed budget which has been timely and duly submitted by the city manager, the budget, as submitted, shall be deemed to have been adopted by the council. In the event the city manager fails to timely submit a proposed budget as provided herein, the council may cause the same to be prepared by someone else and may consider and adopt the same.

### **SECTION 3: DISPOSITION OF FUNDS**

All checks, vouchers, or warrants for the withdrawal of money from the city depositors shall have affixed thereto the legal signatures of both the mayor or mayor pro tem and the city manager or the city secretary.

### **SECTION 4: PURCHASING**

All purchases made and contracts executed by the city shall be made in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and Statutes of the State of Texas and such other rules as the city may deem necessary.

### **SECTION 5: EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS**

To meet a public emergency created by a natural disaster or manmade calamity affecting life, health, property, or the public peace, the council may make emergency appropriations, not to exceed five (5) percent of the current fiscal year's budgeted receipts. Such appropriations may be made by emergency ordinance in accordance with the provisions of this Charter. To the extent that there are no available unappropriated revenues to meet such appropriations, the council may by such emergency ordinance authorize the issuance of emergency notes, which may be renewed from time to time.

### **SECTION 6: INDEPENDENT AUDIT**

At, or within thirty (30) days of, the close of the fiscal year, and at such other time as it may be deemed necessary, the council shall cause an independent audit to be made of all accounts of the city by a certified public accountant, and each member of the council may receive a copy. The certified public accountant so selected shall have no personal interest, directly or indirectly, in the financial affairs of the city or any of its officers. Upon completion of the audit, the results thereof shall be reported in writing to the council as soon as reasonably possible, which report shall be a public record.

### **SECTION 7: BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

During the fiscal year the council shall have the power to transfer funds allocated by the budget from one activity, function, or department to another activity, function, or department, or to re-estimate revenues and expenditures.

## **SECTION 8: BORROWING**

The council shall have the power, except as prohibited by law, to borrow money by whatever method it may deem to be in the public interest.

## **SECTION 9: GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS**

The city shall have the power to borrow money on the credit of the city and to issue its general obligations for permanent public improvements or for any other public purpose not prohibited by Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas, and to issue refunding bonds to refund outstanding obligations of the city previously issued. All such obligations shall be issued in conformity with the laws of the State of Texas and shall be used only for the purpose for which they were issued.

(Revised May 6, 1989)

## **SECTION 10: REVENUE BONDS**

The city shall have the power to borrow money for the purpose of constructing, purchasing, improving, extending or repairing of public municipal facilities, recreational public municipal facilities, or any other self-liquidating municipal facilities not prohibited by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, and to issue revenue obligations to the revenue or property pledged, the holders thereof shall never have the right to demand payment thereof out of monies raised or to be raised by taxation. All such obligations shall be issued in conformity with the laws of the State of Texas.

## **SECTION 11: BONDS: INCONTESTABLE**

All obligations of the city having been issued and having been delivered to the purchaser thereof, shall thereafter be incontestable and all bonds issued to refund in exchange for outstanding obligations previously issued shall, and after said exchange, be incontestable.

## **SECTION 12: DEPOSITORY**

The council shall designate a financial institution as its official depository and the depository institution shall invest or cause funds of the city, under the direction of the city manager, to be invested in a manner that will produce income to the city. The council shall review the terms and conditions of the city depository every year. The council may solicit applications for a depository, as it deems necessary, in accordance with applicable state laws.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **FRANCHISES AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES**

#### **SECTION 1: POWERS OF THE CITY**

In addition to the city's power to buy, construct, lease, maintain, operate, and regulate public utilities and to manufacture, distribute and sell the output of such utility operations, the city shall have such further powers as mayor now or hereafter be granted under the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas.

#### **SECTION 2: FRANCHISES: POWER OF THE COUNCIL**

A. Requirement for Franchise and Power to Grant. The council shall have the power by ordinance to grant, renew, and extend any franchise to any person, company, corporation or other entity furnishing, supplying and/or selling any type of service or product ordinarily required or used by the public generally, which person, company, corporation or entity uses public streets, alleys and/or rights-of-way within the city for the purpose of locating or maintaining overhead or underground lines, pipelines, cables, or other conduits for the purpose of transmitting and/or distributing its service and/or product. Any such person, company, corporation or entity shall be required to have a franchise from the city in order to so use the public streets, alleys, and rights-of-way. No franchise shall be granted for an indeterminate term, and not franchise shall be granted for a term of more than twenty-five (25) years from the date of grant, renewal, or extension.

(Revised May 6, 1989)

B. Ordinance Granting Franchise. Every ordinance granting, renewing, extending, or amending a public service company franchise shall be presented at three (3) consecutive meetings of the council, and shall not be finally acted upon until twenty-eight (28) days after the first presentation thereof. Within seven (7) days following the first presentation of the ordinance the full text of the ordinance shall be published once each week for three (3) consecutive weeks in the official newspaper of the city, and the expense of such publication shall be borne by the prospective franchise holder.

(Revised May 6, 1989)

- C. **Grant Not To Be Exclusive.** No grant or franchise to construct, maintain or operate a public service company and no renewal or extension of such grant shall be exclusive.
- D. **Transfer of Franchise.** No public service company franchise shall be transferable except with the approval of the council as expressed by ordinance. The term “transferable”, as used herein, shall not be construed in such a manner as to prevent the franchise holder from pledging said franchise as security for a valid debt or mortgage.

### **SECTION 3: FRANCHISE VALUE NOT TO BE ALLOWED**

In fixing reasonable rates and charges for public service companies within the city and in determining the just compensation to be paid by the city for public service company property which the city may acquire by condemnation or otherwise, nothing shall be included as the value of any franchise granted by the city under this Article.

### **SECTION 4: RIGHT OF REGULATIONS**

All grants, renewals, extensions, or amendments of public service company franchises, whether it be so provided in the ordinance or not, shall be subject to the right of the city:

- A. Repeal of Franchise. To repeal the same by ordinance at any time for failure to begin construction or operation within the time prescribed or for failure to otherwise comply with the terms of the franchise, such power to be exercised only after due notice and hearing;
- B. Require Highest Quality Service. To require an adequate and reasonable extension of plant and service, and the maintenance of the plant and fixtures at the standards necessary to render the highest reasonable quality of service to the public;
- C. Establish Standards of Service. To establish reasonable standards of service and quality of products and prevent unjust discrimination in service or rates;
- D. Prescribe Accounting Procedures. To prescribe the form of accounts kept by each such public service company. If the franchise or ordinance does not prescribe the form of accounts kept by such public service company, then such accounts shall be kept in accordance with the system of accounts for said public service company prescribed by this appropriate state and/or federal regulatory agencies;

- E. Audit Records and Reports. To examine and audit the accounts and other records of any such public service company at any time and to require annual and other reports, including reports on local operations by each such public service company;
- F. Protect the Public. To impose such reasonable regulations and restrictions as may be deemed desirable or conducive to the safety, welfare, and accommodation of the public.
- G. Follow Appropriate Procedural Rules. To ensure that procedural rules and regulations dealing with public service companies conform to the requirements of the appropriate state regulatory agencies.

## **SECTION 5: CONSENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNERS NOT REQUIRED**

The consent of abutting and adjacent property owners shall not be required for the construction, extension, maintenance or operation of any public service company, but nothing in this Charter or in any franchise granted hereunder shall ever be construed to deprive any such property owner of any right of action for damage or injury to his property as now or hereafter provided by law, except as to notice of claim as provided in Section 11 of Article X of this Charter.

## **SECTION 6: EXTENSIONS**

All extensions of a public service company's services within the city limits shall become a part of the aggregate property of the public service company, shall be operated as such, and shall be subject to all the obligations and reserved rights contained in this Charter and in any original grant hereafter made. In case of an extension of a public service company operated under a franchise hereafter granted, such right shall be terminable at the same time and under the same conditions as the original grant.

## **SECTION 7: ACCOUNTS OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY**

Accounts shall be kept for each public service company owned or operated by the city, in such manner as to show the true and complete financial results of such city ownership and operation, including all assets, appropriately subdivided into different classes, all liabilities subdivided by classes, depreciation reserve, other reserves, and surplus; also liabilities subdivided by classes, depreciation reserve, other reserves, and surplus; also revenues, operating expenses including depreciation, interest payments, rental and other disposition of annual income. The accounts shall show the actual capital cost to the city of each public service company owned, also the cost

of all extensions, additions and improvements, and the source of the funds expended for such capital purposes. They shall show as nearly as possible the cost of any service furnished to, or rendered by, any such public service company to any other city or governmental department. The council shall annually cause to be made and published a report showing the financial results of such city ownership and operations, giving the information specified in this section and such data as the council shall deem expedient.

## **SECTION 8: REGULATION OF FRANCHISE RATES**

The council shall have full power after notice and hearing to regulate by ordinance the rates, charges and fares of any franchise holder operating in the city. Any franchise holder requesting an increase in rates, charges, or fares shall have, at the hearing on such request, the burden of establishing by clear, and convincing evidence the value of its investments and the amount or character of its expenses and revenues. No franchise holder shall institute any legal action to contest any rate, charge, or fare fixed by the council until such franchise holder has filed a motion for rehearing with the council specifically setting out each ground of its complaint against the rate, charge, or fare fixed by the council, and until the council shall have acted upon such motion. To the extent that the application of this section is in conflict with the Public Utility Regulatory Act of Texas or any other state statute as applied to any franchise holder, then to the extent of such conflict, the matter of regulation of such franchise holder's rates shall be governed by said Public Utility Regulatory Act or other state statute.

## **SECTION 9: FRANCHISE RECORDS**

Within six (6) months after this Charter takes effect, every public service company and every owner of a public service company franchise shall file with the city certified copies of all franchises owned or claimed, or under which such public service company is operated. The city shall compile and maintain a public record of public service company franchises.

## **SECTION 10: OTHER CONDITIONS**

All franchises heretofore granted are recognized as contracts between the city and the grantee, and the contractual rights as contained in any such franchise shall not be impaired by the provisions of this Charter, except that the power of the city to exercise the right of eminent domain in the acquisition of any public service company property is in all things reserved, and except the general power of the city heretofore existing and herein provided for to regulation the

rates and services of a public service company, which shall include the right to require adequate and reasonable extension of plant and service and the maintenance of the plant fixtures at the standard necessary to render the highest reasonable quality of service to the public. Every public service company franchise hereafter granted shall be held subject to all the terms and conditions contained in the various sections of this Article whether or not such terms are specifically mentioned in the franchises. Nothing in this Charter shall operate to limit in any way, as specifically stated, the discretion of the council or the voters of the city in imposing terms and conditions as may be reasonable in connection with any franchise grant, including the right to require such compensation or rental as may be permitted by the laws of the State of Texas.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND RECALL**

#### **SECTION 1: POWER IS INITIATIVE**

The qualified and registered voters shall have the power to propose any ordinance, and to adopt or reject the same as the polls, except an ordinance appropriating money or authorizing the levy of taxes or issuing bonds, or an ordinance affecting zoning, or an ordinance relating to employee personnel matters concerning hiring, termination of employment, or compensation; such power being known as initiative. Such ordinances may be passed by the council without change or submitted to the voters at an election called for that purpose.

#### **SECTION 2: POWER OF REFERENDUM**

The qualified and registered voters shall have power to approve or reject at the polls any ordinance passed by the council, or submitted by the council to a vote of the electors, such power being known as referendum. The qualified and registered voters of the city shall have power to require reconsideration by the council of any ordinance, within thirty (30) days of its adoption, and if the council fails to repeal an ordinance so considered, to approve or reject it at a city election, provided that such power shall not extend to the budget or capital program or ordinance relating to appropriation of money, or levy of taxes, or to bonds, or ordinance affecting zoning, or an ordinance relating to employee personnel matters concerning hiring, termination of employment or compensation, or as to any subject of municipal legislation which has been established by the court of this state not to be subject to the power of referendum.

#### **SECTION 3: POWER OF RECALL**

The mayor or any member of the council, whether elected or appointed, may be removed from office by recall.

#### **SECTION 4: FREQUENCY OF ELECTIONS FOR INITIATED OR REFERRED ORDINANCES**

Special election for initiated or referred ordinance shall not be held more frequently than one each six (6) months, and no ordinance on the same subject as an initiated ordinance which has been defeated, or on the same subject as a referred ordinance which has been approved at any election, may be proposed by the voters within one (1) year from the date of such election.

**SECTION 5: COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS:  
PETITIONERS' COMMITTEE AND AFFIDAVIT**

Any five (5) qualified and registered voters may commence initiative or referendum proceedings by filing with the city secretary an affidavit stating they will constitute the petitioners' committee and shall become circulators of the petition, and will be responsible for filing it in proper form, stating their names and addresses, and specifying the addresses to which all notices to the committee are to be sent, and setting out in full the proposed initiative ordinances or citing the ordinance sought to be reconsidered.

Immediately after the affidavit of the petitioners' committee is filed, the city secretary shall issue the appropriate blanks to the petitioners' committee.

**SECTION 6: PETITIONS**

A. Number of Signatures. Initiative and Referendum petitions must be signed by qualified and registered voters of the city equal in number to at least twenty-five (25) percent of the number of votes cast in the last regular municipal election of the city, or two hundred (200), whichever is greater.

B. Form and Content. All papers of a petition shall be uniform in size and style and shall be assembled as one instrument for filing. Each signature shall be dated, and shall be executed in ink or indelible pencil and shall be followed by his place of residence by street and number or other description sufficient to identify the place. Petitions shall contain or have attached thereto throughout their circulation and the full text of the ordinance proposed or sought to be reconsidered.

(Revised May 6, 1989)

**SECTION 7: AFFIDAVIT OR CIRCULATOR**

When filed, each paper of a petition shall have attached to it an affidavit executed by the circulator thereof stating that the circulator personally circulated the paper, that the signatures were affixed in his presence, that he believes them to be the genuine signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be, and that each signer had an opportunity before signing to read the full text of the ordinance proposed or sought to be reconsidered.

**SECTION 8: TIME FOR FILING-INITIATIVE  
OR REFERENDUM PETITIONS**

Initiative or referendum petitions must be filed within thirty (30) days after issuance by the city secretary of the appropriate blanks for initiating adoption of an ordinance or for reconsideration of any ordinance adopted by the council.

**SECTION 9: FILING, EXAMINATION AND CERTIFICATION OF PETITIONS**

Petitions for initiative and referendum shall be filed with the city secretary. Within twenty (20) days after a petition is filed, the city secretary shall examine such petition and determine its sufficiency, and shall certify the result of such examination to the council at its next regular meeting. If such petition is insufficient, the city secretary shall notify the petitioners; committee of his findings by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the addresses of the circulators shown on the petitions.

**SECTION 10: AMENDMENT OF PETITIONS**

An initiative or referendum petition may be amended at any time within ten (10) days after notification of insufficiency has been sent by the city secretary, by filing a supplementary petition upon additional papers being signed and filed as provided in the case of an original petition. The city secretary shall, within five (5) days after such an amendment is filed, make examination of the amended petition, and, if the petition is still insufficient, the city secretary shall file his certificate to that effect in his office and notify the petitioners' committee of his finding by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address of the circulators shown on the petition. No further action shall be had on such insufficient petition. The finding of insufficiency of a petition shall not prejudice the filing of a new petition for the same purpose.

**SECTION 11: CONSIDERATION BY COUNCIL  
OF INITIATIVE REFERENDUM**

Whenever the council receives a certified initiative or referendum petition from the city secretary, it shall consider such petition at the next regular meeting. A proposed initiative ordinance shall be read and provision shall be made for a public hearing upon the proposed ordinance. The council shall take final action on such ordinance not later than sixty (60) days after the date on which it was submitted to the council by the city secretary. A referred ordinance shall be reconsidered by the council and its final vote upon such consideration shall be upon the question. "Shall the ordinance specified in the referendum petition be repealed?"

## **SECTION 12: SUBMISSION TO VOTERS OF INITIATIVE OR REFERRED PETITIONS**

If the council shall fail to pass an ordinance proposed by initiative petition in the exact form proposed, or it fails to repeal a referred ordinance, the initiated or referred ordinance shall be submitted to the voters not less than thirty (30) days no more than ninety (90) days from the date the council takes its final vote thereon, or upon the next official election date, as authorized by state law, should an official election date not fall within the designated time specified.

## **SECTION 13: FORM OF BALLOTS**

The ballots used when voting upon such initiated and referred ordinances, shall set forth their nature sufficiently to identify them and shall also set forth upon separate lines the words:

**“FOR THE ORDINANCE” AND  
“AGAINST THE ORDINANCE”**

## **SECTION 14: RESULTS OF ELECTION**

- A. Implementation. If a majority of the registered electors voting on a proposed initiative ordinance vote in favor, it shall be considered adopted upon certification of the election results and shall be treated in the same manner as ordinance of the same kind adopted by the council.
- B. Conflicting Ordinances. If conflicting ordinances are approved at the same election, the one receiving the greater number of affirmative votes shall prevail.
- C. Repeal or Amendment of an Initiated Ordinance. An ordinance adopted by initiative may be replaced or amended at any time after the expiration of two (2) years by an affirmative vote of seven (7) or more of the council members qualified and serving.
- D. Referendum. If a majority of the registered electors voting on a referred ordinance vote against the ordinance, it shall be considered repealed upon certification of the election results. If a majority of the registered electors voting on a referred ordinance vote for the ordinance, it shall be considered in effect and the petition shall become void.
- E. Adoption of an Ordinance Repealed by Referendum. An ordinance repealed by referendum may be re-enacted at any time after the expiration of two (2) years by an affirmative vote of seven (7) or more of the council members qualified and serving.

## **SECTION 15: PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES**

Initiative ordinances adopted or approved by the electors shall be published in the official newspaper of the city within thirty (30) days after certification of the election.

## **SECTION 16: RECALL PROCEDURE**

The qualified and registered voters shall have the power to recall any elected or appointed member of the council, and may exercise such power by filing with the city secretary a petition which shall be signed and verified by the same number of signers with the same qualifications and in the same manner required in this Charter for an initiative petition. If the petition is certified by the city secretary to be sufficient, the council shall order and hold an election to determine whether such officer shall be recalled.

## **SECTION 17: RESULTS OF RECALL ELECTION**

If the majority of the legal votes cast at a recall election be for the recall of the officer named on the ballot, the council shall immediately declare his office vacant and such vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of this Charter.

## **SECTION 18: LIMITATION OF RECALL**

No recall petition shall be filed against any officer within six (6) months after he takes office, and no officer shall be subject to more than one (1) recall election during a term of office.

## **SECTION 19: FAILURE OF COUNCIL TO CALL AN ELECTION FOR INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM OR RECALL**

Should the council fail or refuse to order any of the elections as provided for in this Article, when all the requirements for such elections have been complied with, the petitioners may thereafter petition any district judge having jurisdiction over Bastrop County for appropriate legal remedies to enforce this provision.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **SECTION 1: SUBMISSION OF CHARTER TO ELECTORS AND ELECTION FOR ADOPTION**

The Charter Commission for the city finds that it is impracticable to segregate each topic to permit a “yes-no” vote on same and that the Charter is constructed for it to work and function in its entirety. For this reason, the Charter Commission directs that the Charter be voted upon as a whole and that it be submitted to the voters of the city at an election to be held in accordance with terms and provisions of the applicable laws of the State of Texas. Within five (5) days after such election, the council should meet to canvass the returns of the election and if a majority of the voters vote in favor of the adoption of this Charter, it shall then and there become effective as the Charter of the City of Elgin, Texas.

#### **SECTION 2: EFFECT OF CHARTER ON EXISTING LAW**

All ordinances, resolution, rules and regulations in force within the City on the effective date of this Charter, and not in conflict with this Charter, shall remain in force until altered, amended or repealed by the council. All taxes, assessments, liens, encumbrances or demands, of or against the city, fixed or established before such date, shall be valid when properly fixed or established under the law in force at the time or under the law upon the adoption of this Charter.

#### **SECTION 3: BUDGET**

The last currently adopted budget for the city immediately prior to the adoption of this Charter shall be and become the budget for the same fiscal year under the terms and provisions of this Charter and shall be in force as such.

#### **SECTION 4: SEPARABILITY CLAUSE**

If any section or part of a section of this Charter is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not invalidate or impair the validity, force or effect of any other section or part of a section of this Charter.

## **SECTION 5: INTERIM MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT**

Persons who, on the date this Charter is adopted, are employed or filling appointive positions with the city which are retained under this Charter, may continue to fill those positions for the term for which they were employed or appointed.

All rights, claims, orders, contracts, and legal or administrative proceedings shall continue except as modified pursuant to the provisions of this Charter and in each case shall be maintained, carried on, or dealt with by the city department, office or agency appropriate under this Charter.

## **SECTION 6: AMENDING THE CHARTER**

Amendments to this Charter may be framed and submitted to the voters of the city in the manner provided by V.T.C.A., Local Government Code, and its successor statutes.

(Revised May 6, 1989)

## **SECTION 7: PERSONAL FINANCIAL INTERESTS**

The Mayor, council members, candidates for mayor or city council, and other officials and employees of the city shall not have a substantial interest, either directly or indirectly, in any contract, job, work or service to the city, including the sale or lease of any real or personal property by or to the city

“Substantial interest” is defined as 1) owning 10 percent or more of the voting stock or shares of a business entity or owning either 10 percent or more or \$5,000.00 or more of the fair market value of a business entity, or 2) if the finds received by person from the city exceed 10 percent of the person’s gross income for the previous year, or 3) if a person has an equitable or legal ownership on real or personal property of \$2,500.00 or more. A person is considered to have a substantial interest if a person is related to the mayor, council member, candidate for mayor or city council, or an officer of employee of the city in the first degree by consanguinity of affinity, as determined under Article 5996h V.A.T.S.

If a mayor, councilmember or candidate for mayor or city council knowingly violates this section, he or she shall immediately forfeit his or her office

(Revised May 1, 1993)

## **SECTION 8: NEPOTISM**

No person related within the second degree of affinity, or within the third degree of consanguinity to any elected officer of the city, or to the city manager, shall be elected, appointed, or employed in any office, position or clerkship or other service to the city. This prohibition shall not apply to any person who shall have been employed by the city prior to and

at the time of the election of the mayor or council member or the appointment of the city manager so related to him.

## **SECTION 9: PUBLIC RECORDS**

All public records of every office, department or agency of the city shall be open to inspection by any citizen at all reasonable times. Public records, as used in this section, do not include any personnel records, police records, litigation data or other matters, the confidentiality of which has been established by law. Nothing in this section shall preclude the city from charging a reasonable fee for furnishing copies of such public records.

## **SECTION 10: OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER**

The council shall contract annually with, and by resolution designate, a public newspaper of general circulation in the city as official organ thereof, to continue as such until another is designated, and shall cause to be published therein all ordinances, notices and other matters required by this Charter, by the ordinances of the city, or by the Constitution and/or laws of the State of Texas to be published.

## **SECTION 11: NOTICE OF CLAIM**

The city shall not be held liable on account of any claim for the death of any person or injuries to any person or damage to any property unless the person making such complaint or claiming such damages shall, within six (6) months after the time at which it is claimed such damages were inflicted upon such person or property, file with the city manager a written statement, stating the nature and character of such damages or injuries, the extent of the same, the place where same happened, the circumstances under which same happened and the conditions causing same, with a detailed statement of each item of damages and the amount thereof, and if it be for personal injuries, giving a list of any witnesses known by affiant to have seen the accident. Providing that nothing herein contained shall be construed to mean the city waives any rights, privileges, defenses, or immunities in tort action which are provided under the common law, the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas.

(Revised May 6, 1989)

## **SECTION 12: ASSIGNMENT, EXECUTION AND GARNISHMENT**

The property, real and personal, belonging to the city shall not be liable for sale or appropriation under any writ of execution. The funds belonging to the city in the hands of any person, firm or corporation shall not be liable to garnishment on account of any debt it may owe or funds or property it may have on hand or owing to any person.

Neither the city nor any of its officers or agents shall be required to answer any such writ of garnishment on any account whatever. The city shall not be obligated to recognize any assignment of wages or funds by its employees, agents or contractors.

### **SECTION 13: SECURITY OR BOND NOT REQUIRED**

It shall not be necessary in any action, suit or proceedings, in which the city shall be a party, for any bond, undertaking or security to be executed in behalf of the city, but all actions, suits, and proceedings shall be conducted in the same manner as if such bond, undertaking, or security had been given. The city shall have all remedies of appeal provided by law to all courts without bond or security of any kind. For the purpose<sup>3</sup> of all such actions, suits, proceedings and appeals, the city shall be liable in the same manner and to the same extent as if the bond, undertaking or security had been executed and given.

### **SECTION 14: STREETS, PARKS AND PUBLIC GROUNDS**

The council shall provide by ordinance for the control and improvement of all public streets, alleys, sidewalks, parks, public buildings and public grounds, and shall cause the same to be kept in repair and free from nuisance.

### **SECTION 15: PUBLIC MEETINGS**

All meetings of any elected or appointed bodies of the city shall be held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Article 6252-17, V.T.C.S. as now or hereafter amended.

### **SECTION 16: GENDER TERMS**

A work importing the masculine gender, only, shall extend and be applied to include females, firms, partnerships and corporations as well as males.

**SECTION 17: REARRANGEMENT AND RENUMBER OF  
CHARTER PROVISIONS**

In order to preserve unity, the council shall have the power, by ordinance, to renumber and rearrange all articles, section, and paragraphs of this Charter or any amendments thereto, and upon the passage of any such ordinance, a copy thereof, certified by the city manager shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State for filing.

(Revised May 6, 1989)

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

The city council shall have the authority to establish by ordinance such boards and commissions as it may deem necessary for the conduct of city business and management of municipal affairs. The authority, functions, and responsibilities of such boards and commissions shall be such as is spelled out in the ordinance establishing them. All existing boards and commissions heretofore established shall be continued in accordance with the ordinance or other acts under which they have been created , or until the city council shall by ordinance abolish, modify, or alter the ordinances or acts under which they exist. Notwithstanding, any other provision of this Charter the elected city council shall have paramount authority over all matters affecting the budgets, appropriation of funds expenditures, purchases, and sale of properties and procedures for accounting therefore consistent with the express provisions of this Charter and applicable provisions of the State Constitution and law of this State.

(Revised May 6, 1989)