

Elkins City Charter

Adopted 1901

Elkins City Code

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Chapter CH: CHARTER

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Section CH-1 Charter

THE CHARTER.

Editor's note.-- The city Charter herein set out is Acts 1901, Chapter 151, as amended by the state legislature and by Home Rule Amendment pursuant to law as indicated by the historical citation following affected sections. A frontal analysis has been added for the convenience of the user. Some section catch lines have been altered and some material has been inserted in brackets for the purpose of clarification, no portion of which should be regarded as official. A uniform system of capitalization has been used and numbers have been spelled out rather than set out in arabic numerals. Editor's notes have been added to certain sections where the section is no longer accurate.

The legislature, in its 1969 revision and consolidation of chapters 8 and 8A of the Code of West Virginia into a new chapter 8, recognized, in section 8-1-6, "that when the provisions of existing special legislative charters are compared with and are considered in the light of the provisions of this chapter [i.e., the new chapter 8], there are five basic possibilities as to the relationship between such charter provisions and the provisions of this chapter, namely: (1) As to any particular charter provisions, such charter provisions may be inconsistent or in conflict with the pertinent provisions of this chapter; (2) although relating to the same subject matter and although not inconsistent or in conflict with any provisions of this chapter, certain charter provisions may be sufficiently different from pertinent provisions of this chapter as to indicate, as a matter of practical construction, that either the charter provisions or the provisions of this chapter, but not both, should be applicable; (3) although varying in certain respects, certain charter provisions may be similar to and in essential harmony with corresponding provisions of this chapter; (4) as to any particular charter provisions, there may be no counterpart of such provisions in this chapter; and (5) as to any provisions of this chapter, there may be no counterpart charter provisions."

Section 8-1-6, therefore, sets forth certain rules to be applied, in addition to the usual and ordinary rules of statutory construction, with respect to construction and applicability of legislative charters, and it is suggested that users of this city Code refer to W. Va. Code. § 8-1-6, in determining the present construction and applicability of any portion of the Elkins Charter to any given situation.

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- § 39. Ordinances, etc., not inconsistent and bonds, etc., remain in effect.
- § 40. City to take over corporate assets and assume obligations of town of South Elkins.
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- § 42. Former rights, powers, etc., of city undisturbed.
- § 43. Inconsistent ordinances and acts repealed.

Sec. 1. Corporate name and powers.

The inhabitants of so much of the county of Randolph as is within the bounds prescribed by section two of this act [this Charter], and their successors, shall be and remain and they are hereby made a body politic and corporate by the name of "The City of Elkins," and as such shall have perpetual succession and a common seal; and by that name may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, purchase, lease and hold real estate, and personal property necessary for the purpose of said corporation. (1901, ch. 151, § 1.)

Sec. 2. Corporate limits.

The corporate limits of said city shall hereafter be as follows: Beginning at the southern abutment of Bridge Number two of the Western Maryland Railway, across the Tygarts Valley River on its Huttonsville branch, being the bridge of said railway, situated about one thousand feet south of the junction of the Belington extension and Huttonsville branch of said railway, and running thence down said Tygarts Valley River on the east bank thereof to a stone the southwest corner of the Davis and Elkins College property; thence with six lines thereof S. 60 E. 478.5 feet to a white oak; N. 47.30 E. 316.8 feet to a stone; N. 48 E. 268.6 feet to a white oak; N. 59 E. 255.5 feet to a stone; N. 21.30 E. 115.5 feet to a stone; N. 68 E. 328 feet to a stone in the west lines of the Beverly and Fairmont Pike; thence with the western line of said pike in a northerly direction 489 feet to a stake; thence N. 62.15 E. 582 feet to a small

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oak tree; thence N. 38.55 E. 1405 feet to a small oak; thence N. 19.15 E. 957 feet to the Woolwine Run; thence S. 58 E. 1885 feet to a post in the line between Woolwine and Taylor 40 Feet southeast of Judson Goddin' s corner; thence N. 17 E. 900 feet to a stone, corner to Wees, Woolwine and Taylor; thence N. 26 W. 2662 feet to the southeastern corner of the reservoir lot on the top of "Wees Hill"; thence with the back line of said reservoir lot to the northern corner thereof; the same being an oak; thence by a straight line to a point where the Buffalo and Leading Creek Pike crosses Cravens Run; thence by a straight line to the nearest corner of Maplewood Cemetery; thence with the line of said cemetery on the northern boundary thereof to the northwestern corner of the new addition to said cemetery; thence by a straight line due west to a stake in the elongation of Isaac Scott' s eastern line; thence with said line S. 13.45 W. to a large chestnut, a corner of said Scott' s land; thence with another line of said Scott' s land S. 24.30 W. 1333.7 feet to the western line of Harrison Avenue; thence with the western line of said avenue S. 77 E. 201.8 feet to a stake; thence S. 25 W. 1024.5 feet to a stake; thence S. 65 E. 166 feet to the western line of Robert E. Lee Avenue; thence with western line of said avenue; S. 25 W. 690 feet to a stake standing N.65 W. 30 feet from a stone monument; thence S. 14.40 W. 940 feet to the river; thence with a straight line to the beginning. (1901, ch. 151, § 2; 1911, ch. 81; 1915, Munl, Chtr., ch. 16; 1921, Munl. Chtr., ch. 8.)

Editor' s note. --The corporate limits description set out in this section is no longer valid as there have been subsequent additions to the city by annexations as provided for by state law. Copies of such annexations are on file in the city clerk' s office.

Sec. 3. Wards.

The territory of said city shall be divided into wards as follows:

First ward. Beginning at the beginning point of the corporate boundary, at Bridge Number two, and running thence down the Tygarts Valley River, with the meanders thereof, to the point where said river crosses the western boundary of said city and with said western boundary to the place of beginning.

Second ward. Beginning at the point where the second corporate boundary line crosses the Beverly and Fairmont Pike, near the residence of W. H. Head and running thence with said Beverly and Fairmont Pike to the point where it intersects the Buffalo and Leading Creek Pike; thence with said last mentioned pike to the point where it crosses Cravens Run on the corporate boundary and shall include all the territory lying between said two pikes and the eastern boundary of the city.

Third ward. Beginning at the point where the boundary of the First Ward crosses the West Virginia Central and Pittsburgh Railway, in the Tygarts Valley River, at Bridge Number one, near the intersection of Railroad Avenue and First Street, and running thence down said river with the meanders thereof to the point where the said river crosses the northern boundary of the city, thence with said northern boundary, in a northern direction to the point where said boundary line crosses said railroad, near Maplewood Cemetery, thence with said railroad to the place of beginning.

Fourth ward. Beginning on the West Virginia Central and Pittsburgh Railway at the junction of Railroad Avenue and Second Street and running thence with Second Street to John Street; thence with John Street to Randolph Avenue, thence with Randolph Avenue to the junction of said avenue with Buffalo Street (a point in the boundary of the second ward) and shall include all the territory lying west and south of the streets just named which is not embraced in the First and Second Wards as above bounded.

Fifth ward. Shall include all the territory within the corporate boundary lying north of the fourth ward, between the Second and Third Wards as above bounded.

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The number and boundary of the wards of said city may be changed at any time by the council thereof, but the number of wards shall not be reduced below three or increased above seven in number and shall be made as nearly equal in population as practical; provided, however, that no change in number or boundary of said wards shall be made nearer than sixty days before any general or special election to be held in said city; and provided, further, that no such change shall be made until public notice is given for at least thirty days, such notice to be posted at the front door of the mayor's office and at five or more public places in said city at least one of which notices shall be posted in each ward. (1901, ch. 151, § 3.)

Editor's note. --The ward descriptions set out in this section are no longer valid because of annexations to the city. Present ward boundary descriptions are on file in the city clerk's office.

Sec. 4. Elective municipal authorities.

The municipal authorities of said city shall consist of a mayor, to be elected by the voters of the whole city, and two councilmen from each ward, to be elected by the voters of such wards, (ten councilmen as provided by this Charter but the number thereof to be increased or diminished if the number of wards be increased or diminished), who together shall form a common council and who shall receive such compensation as the council shall from time to time determine, and which shall not be increased or diminished during their term of office. (1901, ch. 151, § 4.)

For related provisions of general law, see W. Va. Code, § 8-5-7, subsecs. (a) and (b).

Sec. 5. Council to exercise corporate powers.

All the corporate powers of said corporation shall be exercised by said council or under their authority, except when otherwise provided. (1901, ch. 151, § 5.)

Sec. 6. Qualification of mayor and councilmen.

The mayor and councilmen must severally at the time of their election, be assessed with property, real or personal, or both in the aggregate, of the value of at least two hundred dollars and have paid taxes for the preceding year on property situated within the corporate limits of said city of an assessed value of at least two hundred dollars, and at the time of their election be entitled to vote in said city for members of the common council thereof. (1901, ch. 151, § 6.)

Editor's note. --The provisions of this section have been declared unconstitutional. *State ex rel City of Follansbee, 233 SE2d 419 (1977).*

For related provisions of general law, providing, inter alia, that mayors and councilmen of municipalities must be assessed with only \$100 worth of property, with exceptions thereto for honorably discharged veterans of the armed forces of the U.S. for two years after discharge, see W. Va. Code, § 8-5-7, subsec. (c).

Sec. 7. Appointive officers and their qualifications.

There shall be a chief of police, city attorney, superintendent of streets, commissioner of waterworks, city assessor, city collector and treasurer, and city clerk, who at the time of their election or appointment shall be entitled to vote for members of the common council. These several offices or any two or more of them may be held by the same person, except that the offices of city clerk and city attorney shall be deemed incompatible with any other city office. These several offices shall be filled by

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appointment by the common council and to be held by the appointee during the pleasure of the council, and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; provided, however, that the common council by ordinance may provide for the election of any of said officers and prescribe their term of office at not less than one, nor more than two years. (1901, ch. 151, § 7.)

Editor's note. --Inasmuch as county assessors now perform the duties heretofore performed by municipal assessors, a city assessor is no longer appointed.

Sec. 8. Election of mayor and other officers.

On the first Tuesday in March, one thousand nine hundred and eleven, and every two years thereafter, on the first Tuesday in March, there shall be elected by the qualified voters of said city, a mayor and such other officers as may be prescribed by ordinance as provided for in the preceding section. The mayor shall hold his office for the term of two years, commencing on the first day of April after his election until his successor shall be elected and qualified.

Sec. 9. Election of councilmen; vacancies.

On the same day mentioned in the preceding section, one member of the common council shall be elected in each ward of the city, who shall reside in the ward from which they were [he is] elected, and shall hold their [his] office for the term of two years, or until their successors are [his successor is] elected and qualified. On the first Tuesday in March, 1912, one member of the common council shall be elected in each ward of the said city, who shall reside in the ward from which they are [he is] elected, and shall hold their [his] office for the period of three years from the first day of April next succeeding their [his] election, or until their successors are [his successor is] elected and qualified; on the first Tuesday in March, 1913, and on the same day of every second year thereafter, one member of [the common] council shall be elected in each ward, whose term of office shall begin on the first day of April next succeeding his election, and continue for the term of four years, and until his successor is elected and qualified; but if any member of the common council remove from the ward in which he was elected, his office shall thereby become vacant, and the council, shall fill such vacancy by appointment, until the next general election, of some qualified person residing in the ward. Each ward shall constitute an election precinct, and the council of the city, in office at the time of the passage of this act [this Charter], shall establish a voting place in each ward, at which the first election above provided for shall be held, and unless such new places be established, the election shall be held at the several places now established therefor. No voter shall be allowed to vote at any city election, excepting in the ward in which he resides. (1901, ch. 151, § 9; 1911, ch. 81.)

For general law relating to municipal voting precincts and duty of governing bodies to establish them so as to coincide with county precincts, see W. Va. Code, § 3-1-6. As to municipal precinct registration records, see W. Va. Code, § 3-1-27.

Sec. 10. Qualifications and registration of voters.

Editor's note. --The text of this section (being Acts 1901, ch. 151, § 10; 1911, ch. 81; 1915, Munl. Chtr., ch. 16; 1921, Munl. Chtr., ch. 8) is omitted as obsolete in all respects.
For general law as to qualifications and registration of voters, see W. Va. Code, ch. 3, arts. 1 and 2; see also, § 8-5-13.

Sec. 11. Elections; mode of voting; law governing.

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The mode of voting shall be by ballot, but the voter shall be left free to vote an open, sealed or secret ballot, as he may elect. The elections in said city shall be held and conducted and the result thereof certified, returned and finally determined under the laws in force in this state, relating to general elections, as they exist at the time any such election is being held, except that the persons conducting said elections shall on the day after the election is held deliver the ballots, tally sheets and poll books to the city clerk, and thereafter the common council of said city shall meet on the sixth day succeeding said election and canvass the returns of said election, and declare the result thereof, and in all respects comply with the requirements of the statutes relating to general elections as they are in force at the time of holding said election, The corporate authorities of said city shall perform all the duties in relation to such election required by general law of county courts [county commissions] and officers in the general election laws of this state, and the provisions of chapter 3 of the Code of West Virginia, in effect at the date of such election, concerning elections by the people, shall govern such elections and be applicable thereto, and the penalties therein prescribed for offenses relating to elections shall be enforced against the offenders at such corporate election; and the said general election laws shall have the same force and effect as if they were specially enacted for corporate elections and were by this act [this Charter] specially reenacted in extenso, except as modified in this amended Charter to the city of Elkins. (1901, ch. 151, § 11; 1911, ch. 81.)

For general law as to applicability of state election laws to municipal elections, see W. Va. Code, § 8-5-6. As to the canvassing of municipal elections, see W. Va. Code, § 8-5-17.

Sec. 12. Determination of ties.

Whenever two or more persons shall receive an equal number of votes for mayor, councilman or other city office, such tie shall be decided by the council in being at the time the election was held. (1901, ch. 151, § 12.)

For general law as to determination of tie votes in municipal elections, see W. Va. Code, § 8-5-15.

Sec. 13. Determination of contested elections.

All contested elections shall be heard and determined by the common council and the contest shall be made and conducted in the same manner as provided for in contests for county and district officers, and the common council by their proceedings in such cases shall comply as nearly as practicable in conformity with like proceedings of the county courts [county commissions] in such cases. (1901, ch. 151, § 13.)

For general law as to determination of contested municipal elections, see W. Va. Code, § 8-5-17.

Sec. 14. Vacancies.

Whenever a vacancy from any cause shall occur in any office the council shall by a majority vote of those present fill such vacancy. (1901, ch. 151, § 14.)

For general law as to filling vacancies in elective municipal offices, see W. Va. Code, § 8-5-10.

Sec. 15. Council to have power to provide for additional officers and to set forth the power, duties, bonds, compensation, etc., of all officers; certain officers set forth.

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(a) The council shall also have authority to provide by ordinance for the appointment of such other officers as shall be necessary and proper to carry into full force and authority the power, capacity, jurisdiction and duties of said city which is [are] or shall be vested therein, or in the council, or in the mayor or any other officer or body of officers thereof, and to grant to the officers so appointed the power necessary or proper for the purposes above mentioned. The council by ordinance shall define the duties of all officers so appointed or elected as aforesaid, and allow them reasonable compensation which shall be by monthly or quarterly salaries and not otherwise, except as to the collection of taxes, and fees to the mayor and chief of police in criminal convictions wherein the fees are recovered from the defendant, which compensation shall not be increased or diminished during their term of office; and shall require and take from all of them whose duty it shall be to receive its funds, assets or property, or have charge of the same, such bonds, obligations or other writings as they shall deem necessary or proper to insure the faithful performance of their several duties. All officers whether appointed or elected may be removed from office for malfeasance, nonfeasance or misfeasance by the council; but provided always that any appointed officer who holds his office at the pleasure of the council may be removed from his office at any time without notice.

For 1974 amendment to state constitution providing, in pertinent part, that no "judge of a municipal, police or mayor's court or any officer thereof shall be compensated for his services on a fee base or receive for his own use for his services any pecuniary compensation reward or benefit other than the salary prescribed therefor," see Const. , art. 8, § 11.

(b) Powers, duties, etc. , of chief of police. The chief of police shall have all powers, rights and privileges within the corporate limits of said city in regard to the arrests of persons, the collection of claims, the execution and return of process, that can be legally exercised by a constable of a district within this state; and may without having any warrant or other process therefor arrest any person who commits any offense against the laws of this state or infraction of the ordinances of said city, in his presence. He shall be ex officio the keeper of the jail and have charge of the city prisoners confined therein, and may confine any persons arrested by him in the city jail until such time as the charges against such person can be inquired into by the mayor. Any person fined by the mayor for infraction of any of the ordinances of the city may pay such fine to either the mayor or chief of police; and the said chief of police and his sureties shall be liable to all fines, penalties and forfeitures that a constable of a district is liable to for any failure or dereliction in his said office to be recovered in the same manner and in the same courts that the said fines, penalties and forfeitures are now recovered against a district constable.

(c) Powers, duties, etc. , of collector and treasurer. It shall be the duty of the collector and treasurer to collect city taxes, licenses, levies, assessments, and other such city claims as are placed in his hands for collection by the council, and [he] may distrain and sell therefor in like manner as a sheriff may distrain and sell for state taxes, and he shall in all other respects have the same powers as the sheriff to enforce the payment and collection thereof. (1901, ch. 151, § 15.)

Sec. 16. To whom official bonds made payable and proceedings thereon.

All bonds, obligations or other writings taken in pursuance of any provision of this act, [this Charter], or under the provisions of any ordinance of said city, shall be made payable to "The City of Elkins ," and the obligors therein and their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, bound thereby shall be subject to the same proceedings on such bonds, obligations or writings for enforcing the conditions of the terms thereof, by motion or otherwise before any court of record or justice of the peace having jurisdiction thereof, held or acting in, or for said Randolph county, or any district thereof or elsewhere, that the sheriff or collector of said county and his sureties are or shall be subject to on his bond taken for the enforcement of his duties in the payment of the county levies. (1901, ch. 151, § 16.)

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For constitutional provision abolishing office of justice of the peace as of January 1, 1977, see W. Va. Const., art. 8, § 15.

Sec. 17. Oaths of officers.

The mayor and council and all other officers provided for in this act [this Charter] shall each, before entering upon the duties of their office, and within thirty days after their election or appointment, take the oath or affirmation prescribed by law for all officers in this state, and make oath or affirmation that they will truly, faithfully and impartially, to the best of their ability, discharge the duties of their respective offices so long as they continue therein. Said oath or affirmation may be taken before any person authorized to administer oaths under the laws in force at the time the same is taken, or before the mayor or city clerk of said city, but in any event a copy of said oath of said officers shall be filed with the city clerk. (1901, ch. 151, § 17.)

For general law as to oath of office of municipal officers, and requirement for filing certified copy in office of the county clerk, see W. Va. Code, § 8-5-5.

Sec. 18. When officers' duties begin.

The mayor and councilmen, and all other elected officers, shall enter upon the duties of their office on the first day of April next after their election, or as soon thereafter as they have qualified, and all appointed officers shall enter upon the duties of their offices as soon as they have qualified; and all officers shall remain in office until their successors are elected and qualified or until removed therefrom. (1901, ch. 151, § 18.)

Sec. 19. Procedure when officer-elect is ineligible or fails to qualify.

If any person elected to any office shall not be eligible thereto under the provisions of this act [this Charter] or shall fail to qualify as herein required, the council shall declare his said office vacant and proceed to fill the vacancy as required by this act. (1901, ch. 151, § 19.)

Sec. 20. Executive and judicial powers of mayor.

The mayor shall be the chief executive officer of the city, and shall take care that the orders, by-laws, ordinances, acts and resolutions of the council thereof are faithfully executed. He shall be ex officio a justice and conservator of the peace within the city, and shall within the same have, possess and exercise all the powers and perform all the duties vested by law in a justice of the peace, except [that] he shall have no jurisdiction in civil cases or causes of action arising out of the corporate limits of the city unless the defendant resides or is found therein and process therein served upon him, He shall have the same power to issue attachments in a civil suit as a justice of his county has, but in such cases he shall have no power to try the same, but such attachments shall be made returnable and heard before a justice of the peace of his county. Any warrant or other process issued by him may be executed at any place in the county. He shall have control of the police of the city and may appoint special police officers whenever he deems it necessary, and may suspend any police officer until the next regular meeting of the council. And it shall be his duty especially to see that the peace and good order of the city are preserved, and that persons and property therein are protected, and to this end he may arrest, or cause the arrest and detention of, all violators of the laws of the state and the ordinances of the city, before issuing his warrant therefor if the offence is committed in his presence. He shall have power to issue executions for all fines, penalties and costs imposed by him, or he may require the immediate payment thereof and in default of such payment he may commit the party in default to the jail of the county of Randolph or other place of

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imprisonment in such corporation, if there be one, until the fine or penalty and costs shall be paid; but the term of imprisonment in such cases shall not exceed thirty days. And in all cases when a person is sentenced to imprisonment or to the payment of a fine of ten dollars or more (and in no case shall a judgment for a fine be for less than ten dollars if the defendant, his agent or attorney object to a less fine being imposed), such person shall be allowed an appeal from such decision to the circuit court of the county of Randolph upon the execution of an appeal bond with security deemed sufficient by the mayor, in a penalty sufficient to cover said fine and costs before the mayor, and the costs in the circuit court in case said judgment be affirmed, with condition that the person proposing to appeal will perform and satisfy any judgment which may be rendered against him by the circuit court on such appeal. If such appeal be taken the warrant of arrest (if any), a transcript of the judgment, the appeal bond and other papers in the case, shall be forthwith delivered by the mayor to the clerk of said court, and the court shall proceed to try the case as upon indictment or presentment, and render such judgment, including costs, as the law and the evidence may require. The mayor shall from time to time recommend to the council such measures as he may deem needful for the welfare of the city. The expense of maintaining any person committed to the jail of the county by him, except it be to answer an indictment, shall be paid by the city and taxed as costs against the defendant. The mayor before acting shall execute bond with good security in the penalty of not less than one thousand dollars, or in such additional penalty as the council may require, subject to the approval of the council, with the same conditions as required in bonds executed by [a] justice of the peace by chapter 50 of the said Code [of West Virginia]; and all the provisions of said chapters relating to money received by a justice shall apply to like moneys received by the mayor. (1901, ch. 151, § 20.)

For constitutional provisions that mayor's courts in incorporated cities shall have jurisdiction to enforce municipal ordinances, but that on and after January 1, 1977, any other jurisdiction theretofore exercised by such courts shall cease, see W. Va. Const., art. 8, § 11. As to abolition of office of justice of the peace as of January 1, 1977, see W. Va. Const., art. 8, § 15.

Sec. 21. City clerk to keep records, etc., and act as mayor in his absence.

The city clerk shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the council, and have charge of and preserve the records of the city, and in case of the absence from the city, or in case of the sickness or inability of the mayor to act, or during any vacancy in the office of mayor, he shall perform such duties of the mayor as pertain to him as chief executive of the city and be vested with all power necessary for the performance of such duties, but shall not be vested with any of the authority of the mayor, pertaining to civil suits. He shall be a conservator of the peace within the city. (1901, ch. 151, § 21.)

For constitutional provision divesting municipal mayor of jurisdiction over civil suits, see W. Va. Const., art. 8, § 11.

Sec. 22. Quorum.

The presence of a majority of the council shall be necessary to make a quorum for the transaction of business. (1901, ch. 151, § 22.)

For general law as to quorum at meetings of municipal governing bodies, see W. Va. Code, § 8-9-1.

Sec. 23. Powers and duties and books required to be kept by city clerk.

The council shall cause to be kept by the clerk in a well bound book to be called the "Minute Book," an accurate record of all its proceedings, ordinances, acts, orders and resolutions, and in another to

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be called "Ordinance Book," accurate copies of all general ordinances adopted by the council; both of which shall be accurately indexed and open to [the] inspection of anyone required to pay taxes in the city, or who may be otherwise interested therein. All oaths and bonds of officers in the town, and all papers of the council shall be endorsed, filed and securely kept by the clerk. The bond of officers shall be recorded in a well bound book to be called "Record of Bonds." The clerk shall perform such other duties as may by ordinance of the council be prescribed. The transcripts of ordinances, acts, orders and resolutions certified by the clerk under the seal of the city shall be deemed prima facie correct when sought to be used in any court or before any justice. (1901, ch. 151, § 23.)

For constitutional provisions abolishing office of justice of the peace as of January 1, 1977, see W. Va. Const. , art. 8, § 15.

For general law as to records and minutes of municipal governing bodies, and duties of clerks and recorders with respect thereto, see W. Va. Code, §§ 8-9-3, 8-10-3.

Sec. 24. Minutes of previous meeting to be read; roll call of council.

At each meeting of the council the proceedings of the last meeting shall be read and corrected if erroneous and signed by the presiding officer for the time being. Upon the call of any member the ayes and noes on any question shall be taken and recorded by the clerk in the minute book. The call of the members for such vote shall be made alphabetically. (1901, ch. 151, § 24.)

For corresponding provisions of general law, see W. Va. Code, § 8-9-3.

Sec. 25. Mayor to vote only in case of a tie.

The mayor shall have no vote upon any proceedings before the council except in the case of a tie. (1901, ch. 151, § 25.)

For general law as to authority of municipal mayor to cast tie-breaking vote "unless he has previously voted," see W. Va. Code, § 8-9-2.

Sec. 26. Regular and special meetings and compulsory attendance thereto.

The regular meeting of the council shall be held at such time and at such places in the city as they shall from time to time ordain and appoint; and it shall be lawful for the council by ordinance to vest in any officer of the city, or in any member or number of members of their own body, the authority to call special meetings and prescribe the modes in which notice of such special meetings shall be given. If a majority of the members of the council do not attend any regular or special meeting, those in attendance shall have authority to compel the attendance of absent members under such reasonable penalties as they may think proper to impose; all questions put to a vote, except such matters as are hereinafter provided for, shall be decided by a majority of the members present. (1901, ch. 151, § 26.)

For general law as to proceedings of municipal governing bodies, see W. Va. Code, § 8-9-1 through 8-9-3.

Sec. 27. City collector and treasurer to keep all city moneys; how paid out.

All moneys belonging to the city shall be paid over to the city collector and treasurer; and no money shall be paid out by him except as the same shall have been appropriated by the council and upon an order signed by the mayor and city clerk, and not otherwise, except [that] at the expiration of his term

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of office upon the order of the council, signed by the mayor and clerk, he shall pay over to his successor all the money remaining in his hands. (1901, ch. 151, § 27.)

Sec. 28. General corporate powers and duties of council.

Editor's note.--The subsection numbers in this section are supplied by the editors to facilitate reference thereto, and are not to be regarded as official.

For state law as to general powers of municipalities, see W. Va. Code, § 8-12-1 et seq.

(1) The council of said city shall have the following general powers, and may provide by ordinance and resolution for the exercise and enforcement of the same, namely:

(2) To lay off, open, close, vacate and maintain public grounds, parks and public places, and name and re-name the same.

(3) To regulate the planting, trimming and preservation of shade trees by persons and corporations in streets, alleys, roads, public grounds and places, and to provide for the planting, removal, trimming and preservation of such trees and other ornamental shrubbery by the municipality.

(4) To declare as public nuisances any trees, shrubbery, etc., growing on private property within said city, the roots of which clog or choke any public sewer belonging to said city, or damage the streets or sidewalks of said city, and provide for the removal or destruction of said trees or shrubbery.

(5) To establish, maintain and regulate free public libraries and reading rooms, and to purchase books, papers, maps, and manuscripts therefor, and receive donations and bequests of money or property for the same, in trust or otherwise, and to provide for the rent and compensation for the use of any existing free public libraries established or managed by private corporations or associations organized for that purpose.

(6) To protect divine worship in or about the premises where held.

(7) To locate, lay off, close, open, alter, grade, straighten, widen, narrow, vacate, pave, repave, construct and keep in repair bridges, viaducts, undergrade crossings, roads, streets, alleys, sidewalks, crosswalks, drains and gutters, for the use of the public, or any of the citizens thereof, and to improve and light the same, and keep them clean and free from obstruction on or over them; provided, the municipality shall not be liable for or respond in damages for injury to persons or property caused by or from a defect or obstruction in or on the plat [plot] of ground between the gutter or curb of any street and the paved or plank sidewalk extending there along, or between any such sidewalks and the property lying next adjacent thereto, unless the municipality had actual notice of such defect or obstruction prior to the time of the injury complained of.

(8) To enter into a contract with any internal improvement company for the joint ownership of any bridge erected by the municipality and such improvement company, upon such terms as may be prescribed in the contract between them, but such bridge or bridges shall be in a public highway, and the interest of the company shall only be such proportionate part thereof as it may pay for, or that [which] may be named in the contract.

(9) To regulate the width of sidewalks and streets, and the width and care of public grounds or grass plots abutting thereon, and to order the sidewalks, footways, crosswalks, drains and gutters to be curbed and paved, or repaved and kept in good order, free and clean, and to provide for the removal of ice and snow therefrom and for sprinkling the same, by the owners or occupants of the real estate next

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adjacent thereto.

(10) To regulate the use of walks, highways and bridges and the rate of speed or travel thereon, and to prevent and punish for fast driving or riding thereon of any horse, bicycle, wheeled vehicle, wagon, steam or electric or traction engine, motor car or automobile, and to prevent injury to or waste on such streets, alleys, roads or highways from overloaded or improperly loaded vehicles.

(11) To regulate the making of division fences and party walls by the owners of adjoining and adjacent premises and lots, and to regulate or require drainage by the owner of such lots or other real estate by the proper drains, ditches and sewers, and to fill and cause to be filled any lot below the established elevation or grade.

For a case holding that the legislative grant to regulate division fences does not authorize the municipal council to declare a fence a nuisance unless and until it has, by a general ordinance, in fact declared the nature and character of the fences that may properly be built and maintained, see Donohoe v. Fredlock, 72 W. Va. 712, 79 SE 736 (1913).

(12) To regulate the erection and use of radio aerials and other radio equipment.

(13) To regulate or prohibit street carnivals, street fairs, or street parades, advertising exhibitions or other exhibitions thereon, or the exhibition of natural or artificial curiosities thereon.

(14) To regulate or prohibit the ringing of bells, blowing of steam whistles, sounding of motor car or automobile horns, or use of hand organs or other musical instruments of any annoying character or other music of itinerant performers in the streets, roads, parks or public places of the municipality; provided, however, that this regulation shall not apply to common carriers in the ordinary discharge of their duties.

(15) To license, regulate or prohibit auctioneering.

(16) To license or prohibit the sale of goods, wares, merchandise, drugs or medicines on the streets or other public places.

(17) To impose a license tax on persons keeping for hire taxis, carriages, hacks, buggies, wagons or for carrying for hire persons or baggage in such vehicles, and to regulate the charge for such services within the corporate limits of said city.

(18) To establish and regulate hack stands and stands for automobiles, coaches, cabs and omnibuses kept on the streets for hire.

(19) To regulate, assess and collect a license fee for the use of the municipality on anything or business for which a state license is required by chapter 32 of the Code, subject to the exemption as provided therein; and excepting herefrom the right to require licenses under subsections (s) and (t) of section 1 of chapter 32 of the Code.

Editor's note. --The statutory citations in subsection (19) are to Barne's Code, Annotated, 1923, which were carried over into the Official Code of West Virginia, 1931, as article 12, chapter 11 thereof. What was § 1 of ch. 32 of Barne's Code has since been repealed; and the whole of article 12, chapter 11 of the Official Code of 1931, relating to state license taxes, was repealed and reenacted so as to provide for state business franchise certificates instead; but see W. Va. Code, § 11-12-4 as to authority of municipalities to impose license taxes pursuant to W. Va. Code, § 8-13-4,

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up to the amount of the state license tax in effect on January 1, 1970, "with like effect as if this article 1/4art. 12, ch. 11 1/2 had not been enacted."

(20) To establish, locate and keep in repair market places and market houses, and regulate markets, prescribe the time for holding the same and to authorize the seizure thereat and destruction of any and all such foods and drink products as shall be found unwholesome, dangerous or offensive, and without recourse against the municipality for its [the] cost or value.

(21) To regulate the sale of all food or drink products, milk, fresh meats, fish and vegetables, and provide for inspection of the same.

(22) To appoint market masters and invest them with power to make arrests for the violation of the municipal ordinances or regulations.

(23) To regulate and provide for the weighing of hay, coal and other articles for sale in the markets.

(24) To prevent injury or annoyance to the public or individuals from anything dangerous, offensive or unwholesome, and to prevent and [or] regulate the distribution by canvassers, agents or other persons of sample packages of drugs, medicine, powders, paint, or other articles which may be dangerous or unwholesome for children.

*For a case holding that, under the grant of power "To prevent injury or annoyance to the public or individuals from anything dangerous, offensive or unwholesome...," the common council may abate only that as a nuisance which is recognized as such per se or branded as such by lawful statute or ordinance, see *Donohoe v. Fredlock*, 72 W. Va. 712, 79 SE 736 (1913).*

(25) To regulate or prohibit the keeping, handling and transportation of explosives and dangerous combustibles within the municipality.

(26) To regulate or prohibit the erection or maintenance, in what council deems an improper locality within the municipality, of any blacksmith shop, livery stable, cow house, cattle pen, poultry house, pigpen, privy, billboard, signboard, gas or other engine, or the use of walls and walks for signs, and to abate by summary proceedings whatever in the opinion of the council is a nuisance; provided, that nothing in this paragraph shall apply to common carriers in the construction, erection or maintenance of shops, engines, machinery, or structures upon their own property.

*For a case holding that, under the legislative grant of power to the common council "to abate or cause to be abated anything which in the opinion of a majority of the whole council shall be a nuisance," the council may abate only that as a nuisance which is recognized as such per se or branded as such by lawful statute or ordinance, see *Donohoe v. Fredlock*, 72 W. Va. 712, 79 SE 736 (1913).*

(27) To regulate or prohibit the distribution of hand-bills, circulars and other advertisements of like kind on the streets, roads, alleys and public places, or in private yards or buildings, without first having procured the consent of the owner or occupier thereof.

(28) To prohibit within the municipality or within one mile of its corporate limits the erection or maintenance of any slaughter house, soap factory, glue factory, lampblack factory, tannery or other house, shop or factory, of like kind or character.

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(29) To establish, regulate and maintain baths, bath houses, swimming pools, drinking fountains, water troughs and public toilet stations and free public band concerts, and to regulate the time and place of bathing in pools, streams and public waters within the police jurisdiction of the municipal corporation.

(30) To prevent hogs, cattle, sheep, horses and other animals and fowls of all kinds from going at large in the municipality and to establish and maintain places for their detention, to make regulations respecting the keeping and sale of same, and to appoint a poundmaster and define his duties.

(31) To arrest, convict and punish any person for keeping an assignation house, house of ill fame, or for leasing or letting to another person any house or other building for the purpose of being used or kept as an assignation house or house of ill fame, or for knowingly permitting any house owned by him or under his control to be used as an assignation house or house of ill fame or loafing, boarding or loitering in an assignation house or house of ill fame, or frequenting the same.

(32) To arrest, convict and punish any person for importing, printing, publishing, selling or distributing any book, picture or device or other thing containing obscene language or pictures, or making indecent representations.

(33) To restrain and punish vagrants, mendicants, beggars, tramps, common prostitutes and their associates, and drunken and disorderly persons within the municipality, and to provide for their arrest and manner of punishment.

(34) To establish a board of health and invest it with the necessary power to attain its object.

(35) To establish quarantine and to erect and maintain pest houses and places of detention, and to make and enforce necessary orders for controlling or preventing the spread of infectious and contagious diseases, and for abating pestilence.

(36) To prohibit and punish by fine any person, firm or corporation knowingly bringing into the corporate limits persons who are paupers, or persons afflicted with contagious diseases, or to punish by fine, or by fine and imprisonment, any persons so bringing within the corporate limits such pauper or diseased person.

(37) To provide for the poor of the municipality, and to that end the municipality may contract with the county court [commission] of Randolph county for keeping such poor at the county poorhouse at a price and on such terms as may be agreed upon between the county court and such municipal authorities.

(38) To authorize the taking up and provide for the safekeeping and education, for such periods of time as may be deemed expedient, of all children who are destitute or are without proper parental or other care and who are growing up in mendicancy, ignorance, idleness or vice.

(39) To arrest, convict and punish any person for cruelty, unnecessarily or needlessly beating, torturing, mutilating, killing or overloading, overdriving or wilfully depriving of necessary sustenance, any horse or other domestic animals.

(40) To restrain fraudulent practices within the municipality.

(41) To arrest, convict and punish any person for gambling or keeping any gaming tables, commonly called faro bank, table and chips used in playing such game; crap table or chips used in

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playing such game; or roulette or the wheel or chips used in playing such game; or keno table or table of like kind or device used in playing the same; or table of like kind under any denomination, whether the game or games be played with cards, dice or otherwise, or any person who shall be a partner, or concerned in interest in the keeping or exhibiting of such gaming table, faro bank table, or chips, roulette table or chips, crap table or chips, keno table or devices, or keeping or maintaining any gambling house or place, or betting or gambling for money or anything of value, and to destroy such gambling paraphernalia as may be found in use on any such premises.

(42) To restrain all felons and persons guilty of offense against this state or the United States and deliver them over to the authorities or court having jurisdiction of the offense whereof such person is accused.

(43) To apprehend and punish any person, who, without a state license therefor, is guilty of carrying about his person within the municipality any revolver or other pistol, dirk, bowie knife, slingshot, razor, billy, metallic or other false knuckles, or any other dangerous or deadly weapons of like kind and character, as provided by chapter 51 of the acts of the legislature of 1909 [W. Va. Code, § 61-7-1] and the punishment therefor, whether for the first or other offense, shall be that prescribed by said chapter for any such person guilty under the misdemeanor clause provided therein, but the place of confinement of such guilty person may be in the jail or lockup of the municipality, in lieu of the county jail; provided, that the mayor of the municipality or other person exercising the functions of his office, may, in his discretion, decline to inflict the punishment herein mentioned, and instead thereof may require or hold such guilty person to answer an indictment by the grand jury of Randolph county for the violation of such law; and it shall be the duty of the prosecuting attorney of said county, when requested by the mayor of the municipality, to appear and prosecute such offending person before such mayor; provided, further, that regularly appointed police officers of the municipality, whose services are rendered to and paid for by the municipality, shall not be required to give bond, or any bond provided by said chapter 51 of the acts of the legislature of 1909 [W. Va. Code, § 61-7-2].

(44) To provide in or near the corporate limits of the municipality a cemetery or other place for the burial of the dead, and to regulate interments therein, and to guard and police the same, and to provide for the cremation and incineration of dead human bodies when from the nature of the malady or pestilence from which death ensued, the municipal board of health may direct.

(45) To regulate the erection, construction, alteration and repair of dwelling houses, buildings and other structures within the municipality and to compel the numbering of the same by the owners or occupants thereof; provided, that the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to common carriers in the erection, construction, alteration or repair of structures upon their own property.

(46) To regulate by license and otherwise, plumbers, electricians, sewer tappers and vault cleaners, except when such persons are employed by a common carrier upon its own property.

(47) To regulate the hanging of doors and construction of stairways, elevators and fire escapes in theatres, churches, school buildings, factories and other places where many persons are received at one time, and to require the construction of fire escapes in such buildings.

(48) To establish fire limits, and to regulate the construction of buildings and designate material to be used in the construction of buildings within such limits.

(49) To regulate the building of fire walls, fireplaces, chimneys, boilers, smokestacks and stovepipes.

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(50) To take down and remove, or make safe and secure, any and all buildings hereafter erected and require the alteration and repair of any by the owners thereof, that are or may become dangerous, or to require the owners or their agents to take down and remove them or put them in a safe and sound condition at their own expense.

(51) To regulate the height, construction and inspection of all new buildings hereafter erected, and the alteration and repair of any buildings now or hereafter erected in the municipality, and to require permits to be obtained of the municipality for such building and structures, and the repair and alteration thereof, and that plans and specifications thereof be submitted to the council or some person designated by it; provided, that the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to buildings or structures located upon the property of common carriers.

(52) To regulate the limits within which it shall be lawful to erect any steps, porticos, bay windows, bow windows, show windows, awnings, signs, columns, piers, or other projection or structural ornaments of any kind for the houses or buildings on any street.

(53) To provide for the prevention and extinguishment of fires, and for this purpose to organize, equip and govern fire companies, and to prescribe the powers and duties of such companies and department, and of the several officers thereof, and to impose on those who fail to obey any lawful command of the officers in charge of such company any penalty which the council is authorized to impose for the violation of an ordinance, and to give authority to such fire officer to direct the pulling down of any building or the destruction of any fence, wall, building or other thing if such officer deem it necessary to prevent the spreading of fire.

(54) To protect the persons and property within the corporate limits and to preserve the peace and good order therein, and for this purpose to appoint, when necessary, a police force and such other officers as may be deemed necessary.

(55) To prescribe the powers and define the duties of the officers appointed under corporate authority, fix their term of service and compensation, if not otherwise prescribed in this chapter [Charter], and to require and take from them bonds, when deemed necessary, payable to the State of West Virginia, or the City of Elkins, with such securities and in such penalties as may be prescribed, conditioned for the faithful discharge of their duties.

(56) To erect, authorize and prohibit the erection of power plants, heating plants, gasworks, electric light works or waterworks in the municipality for public service, and to erect, purchase, own or lease and maintain within or without the corporate limits of the municipality such gasworks, electric lights, power works, waterworks and reservoir to supply the municipality or its inhabitants, water, light, heat and power, and to prevent injury to the same or the pollution of the water or to impair the healthfulness thereof and may acquire land for said purposes by purchase, lease or condemnation.

(57) To grant, by ordinance or franchise, for periods not exceeding twenty-five years, the use of its streets, roads, alleys and public places, to lay pipes, conduits, manholes, drains, and other necessary fixtures and appliances, to be used for supplying the municipality and its inhabitants with steam or hot water, or both, for heat and power purposes, or both, or for illuminating purposes, and to grant by ordinance or franchise, for periods of not exceeding twenty-five years, the use of its streets, roads, alleys and public places for the construction of movable or rolling roads for the conveying or moving of passengers, freight and other property, and those in charge of the same, upon such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

(58) To grant by ordinance or resolution permits for the temporary use of its streets, roads,

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alleys and public places for the construction of moving or rolling roads for the conveying or moving of passengers, freight, vehicles, animals or other property, upon such conditions as may be prescribed.

(59) To provide a revenue for the municipality and appropriate the same to its expense; and to cause to be assessed and collected in each year an ad valorem tax, within the limits of the general tax laws of the state, on all property in the municipality subject to state and county taxes, as valued and returned for such taxation by the county assessor.

(60) To levy an annual capitation tax of not more than two dollars upon each male resident of the municipality who has attained the age of twenty-one years, and from which persons afflicted with bodily injury and those having attained the age of fifty years shall be excepted.

Editor's note.--Sec. 2, art. 10 of the constitution of West Virginia, authorizing a capitation tax as provided in subsections (60) and (61), has been repealed.

(61) To provide for the collection of said capitation at the time, and in the manner as the regular capitation tax is collected, which may be done either through the county assessor or by any other person designated by the municipality; but if the county assessor or other person than city assessor, he shall give such bond as may be required by the council before making such collection.

(62) To issue and sell bonds in the manner provided by general laws governing the same, and in addition to other taxes, to levy for the maintenance of a sinking fund where such bonds have been issued and are unpaid, and to control such sinking fund and to make temporary loans thereof, or to make temporary investments thereof, or of any specific fund for the time such fund cannot be advantageously used for the purpose for which it was levied and collected.

(63) To provide for the rent and compensation for the use of any existing free public hospital, established or managed by a private association or corporation organized for that purpose.

(64) To provide for the removal and abatement of nuisances; and to carry out and enforce sanitary regulations.

(65) To compel the attendance at public meetings of the members of the council, or other body exercising their respective functions.

(66) To buy, lease and operate, either within or without the municipality, stone quarries, crushers and land for said purposes, for the purpose of furnishing a supply of stone or other material suitable for macadamizing or paving the streets, sidewalks and alleys and improving public property.

(67) Subject to the approval of the public service commission, the council may regulate the running of steam and electric cars over and across any street or alley, and when deemed proper by the council, it may by resolution require any railroad company or street car company to provide at its own expense a suitable watchman at any crossing of any street or alley during such hours as may be designated by the council or otherwise regulate such crossings in order to protect persons walking or driving over them.

(68) Whenever in the opinion and judgment of the council of the municipality it is necessary, it shall have power to construct such sewers as in its opinion and judgment are needful to the comfort, health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of said municipality or of the public, and may construct such sewers at such places within or without the corporate limits, and in such manner as in the opinion and judgment of said council may be proper; but so far as practicable, shall construct such sewers under the

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streets, alleys or roads of the city; and whenever in the opinion and judgment of said council any street or alley of said city should be paved or repaired with brick, or other suitable substance for paving purposes, or surfaced and repaired with amiesite or other suitable material, the said council may cause the same to be done in such manner as in the opinion and judgment of the council is most suitable for the purpose, and whenever in the opinion and judgment of the council any sidewalks or walks of stone, brick, cement or other suitable substances, are necessary, or beneficial, and for the best interest of the inhabitants of said city, the council may order the same to be constructed in such manner and of such material as in the opinion and judgment of the council are most suitable for the purpose, and for the purpose of paying the expenses and cost of any such sewer, paving, sidewalks or footwalks, the said council may levy a special assessment for the cost thereof against the real estate benefited thereby, and which bounds or abuts thereon, and may cause such special assessment with interest thereon after thirty days from the levying of such assessment, at the rate of six per cent per annum, to be collected as city taxes are collected against real estate in said city, as provided in chapter 151 of the acts of 1901 [this Charter] , and as provided for the collection of state taxes assessed against real estate in said city; but in the case of any sewer constructed under and along any street, alley or road, or in case of any pavement constructed upon any street or alley the bounding or abutting real estate on each side of the street or alley shall be held liable to pay one-half of the cost of such sewer and pavement, repavement or surfacing of pavement heretofore laid, and in case of any sidewalks or footwalks, the real estate next adjacent thereto shall be held liable to pay the whole cost of such sidewalks or footwalks; provided, that in case of the construction of any sewer, the amount to be assessed against the abutting property shall be ascertained by taking one-half of the total costs of such sewer, including mains and laterals, on all the streets or alleys or through private property which enters into such mains, and together make one complete sewer line, and from one-half of the total cost and total length of such sewer, the cost per foot shall be ascertained. This sum shall then be multiplied by the number of feet which any lot, part of lot, or other real estate, abuts thereon which is liable to assessment under this act, and the amount so ascertained shall be assessed against the abutting property as hereinbefore provided, but no lot already having sewer service and occupied by a dwelling shall be assessed with any portion of the cost of any new sewer unless it is necessary for the owner of such lot to connect with such new sewer.

For a case holding that the language of this subsection to the effect that "no lot already having sewer service shall be assessed with any portion of the cost of any new sewer," does not apply to a property owner who has secured a connection to an unsanitary sewer, which renders necessary the construction by the city of the new sewer, see City of Elkins v. Haggerty, 111 W. Va. 422, 162 SE 313 (1932).

*For a case construing similar language in a predecessor of this subsection, that is "**** and for the purpose of paying the expenses and cost of any *** sidewalks or footwalks, the said council may levy a special assessment for the cost thereof against the real estate benefitted thereby which bounds or abuts thereon. *** and in case of any sidewalks or footwalks the real estate next adjacent thereto shall be held liable to pay the whole cost of such sidewalks or footwalks," see Lee v. City of Elkins, 99 W. Va. 201, 128 SE 83 (1925).*

For a case construing, in the light of prior state Code provisions (now W. Va. Code, § 11A-2-2), certain language of a predecessor of this subsection which is similar to language hereof, and holding that the city's right to a personal judgment was barred five years after the assessment was laid, see City of Elkins v. Stickley, 114 W. Va. 103, 170 SE 902 (1933).

For a case construing some similar language of a predecessor of this section, and holding that "a legal severance of property is not made by a mere easement over it," and that a sewer laid through an easement over a single lot under single ownership did not create separate lots abutting the sides of such easement, see City of Elkins v. Stickley, supra.

For state law, see W. Va. Code, § 8-18-1 et seq.

(69) The said city council is hereby given full right and authority to require any person or lot

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owner in said city to connect a sewer leading from his or her house or lot into any public sewer which is located in any public street or alley adjoining the same, and if such house or lot owner fails or refuses so to do after having been given reasonable notice, the said council may enter upon said lot and construct such sewers and may levy the actual cost thereof against the lot upon which the same is built and collect such cost from the owner *of* such lot in the same manner as city or state taxes are collected.

(70) And, provided, further, that in the case of the grading, regrading, paving, repaving, and surfacing old pavements, the cost of construction, including material and labor, grading, cuts and fills, shall be charged to the bounding and abutting property ratably, according to the extent of the several parcels of real estate adjacent thereto, and assessed and collected from the owners thereof as other assessments and taxes are collected, and the amount of such assessments against the several properties shall be ascertained by the apportionment of the total cost thereof upon any particular street or part of a street or alley so paved or improved, according to the relative frontage of each parcel to the entire extent of such work; and the council may also cause certificates of the several assessments so made, showing the separate parcels of property, the owner, amount of the assessment thereon, with such general description as will identify the property, to be prepared, certified and recorded in the deed of trust record in the office of the clerk of the county court [commission] of Randolph county, and such record shall constitute a lien upon such property in favor of the said city for the amount of such assessment and may be enforced in equity as other liens are enforced. The amount so assessed and for which such certificates are issued shall be payable in ten payments as follows: One-tenth of such amount shall be payable as soon as said assessments are laid; and a like one-tenth, together with interest on the whole remaining unpaid for one year, shall be paid on or before one year thereafter until all of such assessments are paid; providing [provided] , that any abutting owner so liable for any portion of the costs of such improvement shall have the right at any time after the same is certified as aforesaid to the treasurer for collection to anticipate the payment of any and all such assessments, and shall be allowed to pay the face of any and all such assessments with interest at six per cent per annum only to the time of such payment.

(71) When such assessments or certificates are perfected, as aforesaid, the council may by resolution entered of record by it, sell, assign or transfer to any person or persons for cash all or any of the assessments or certificates, perfected as herein provided, and apply the proceeds received thereby to the cost of such improvements, providing that the city in transferring such certificates shall not be held as guarantor or in any way liable therefor, except upon the direct action of the council, expressed by resolution of record before sale.

(72) Said certificates shall be exempt from state, county, district and municipal taxes.

(73) When all assessments are paid, the treasurer shall issue a release of such lien which may be recorded in the office of the clerk of the county court [commission].

(74) But in case of grading, paving, or repaving, or otherwise permanently improving any street or alley, before the council shall direct the undertaking of such work, it shall enter an ordinance reciting the necessity thereof and the opinion and judgment of the council favoring such work, and shall cause survey, profiles and estimates of the cost thereof to be made and filed with the council, and give notice to all parties affected thereby, by publication of notice for two successive weeks in some newspaper of general circulation in the city, describing in a general way the work to be undertaken and appointing a day after the completion of the publication of the said notice, for hearing before the council upon the advisability of undertaking said work, at which time all parties interested therein may appear, either in person or by agent or attorney and shall have access to the said surveys, plans, specifications, etc., and upon such hearing the council may undertake the said work; provided, the same is favored by three-fifths vote of the members of said council, or may decline to undertake the said work.

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(75) In case the council shall determine to undertake said work, it shall be carried on, completed and paid for as hereinbefore provided for; and in which case the certificates or liens acquired on failure of any property owner to pay his assessment and apportionment, such certificates may be issued and sold, or negotiated to the contractor doing the work, or to any other person if the council deems it expedient to do so; provided, the city, in issuing such certificates, shall not be held as guarantor or in any way liable for the payment thereof, except upon a direct action of the council expressed by resolution, of record, before such sale; provided, the city shall pay for street intersections and also engineering, supervision and inspection out of the city treasury.

(76) The council shall have the authority to pass all ordinances not repugnant to the Constitution [and] laws of the United States, and of this state, which shall be necessary or proper to carry into full effect and power, authority and capacity, the jurisdiction which is or shall be granted to or vested in the said city, or in the council, or in any officer or body of officers of said city, and to enforce any or all their ordinances by reasonable fines and penalties, and by imprisoning the offender or offenders, and upon failure to pay any fine or penalty imposed may compel the offender to labor without compensation at and upon any of the public works or improvements undertaken or to be undertaken by said city, or to labor at any work which the said council may lawfully employ [any such offender] upon at such a reasonable rate per diem as the council may fix, until any fine or fines and costs imposed upon any such offender by said city have been fully paid and discharged, after deducting reasonable charges of support while in the custody of the officers of the city; provided, however, that no fine shall be imposed exceeding one hundred dollars and costs, and that no person shall be imprisoned or compelled to labor as aforesaid for more than one hundred days for any one offense. And in all cases where a fine is imposed for an amount exceeding ten dollars and costs, or a person be imprisoned or compelled to labor as aforesaid for a term greater than ten days, an appeal may be taken from such decision upon the same terms and conditions that appeals are taken from the judgment of a justice of this state.

For constitutional provision abolishing office of justice of the peace as of January 1, 1977, see W. Va. Const., art. 8, § 15.

Such fines and penalties shall be imposed and recovered, and such imprisonment inflicted and enforced by and under the judgment of the mayor of said city; or, in case of his absence or inability to act, by the clerk of said city, or if he be unable to act, then by any member of the council to be appointed by the council for that purpose; and for his services in trying cases, whether civil, criminal or infractions of the ordinances of the city, the mayor shall be entitled to receive such fees as are paid to justices of the peace for similar services, but in cases of infractions of the ordinances of the city the mayor shall not be paid such fees unless they are collected from the defendant, and in all cases the chief of police shall be entitled to receive such fees as are paid to constables for similar services, except that for cases for the infraction of the ordinances of the city he shall not receive such fees unless collected from the defendant; and, provided, further, that the fees for making any arrest shall be one dollar, to be paid to the officer making the arrest, whether such offender be the chief of police or other officer, if collected from the defendant, but not otherwise.

For 1974 Amendment to state Constitution providing, in pertinent part, that no "judge of a municipal police or mayor's court or any officer thereof" be compensated for his services on a fee basis, but only by salary, see W. Va. Const., art. 8, § 11.

An alternative method of making certain improvements.

(77) In addition to the foregoing powers, the council shall have the full right and power to provide by ordinance for establishing an alternative method for grading, paving, repaving and surfacing streets and alleys, within the city of Elkins, and also for laying sewers and sewer mains within and also

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without the city limits where necessary to afford adequate drainage facilities to promote the health of the city, whereby the full amount of the costs thereof shall be assessed and charged to adjacent and abutting property, either in case of lots or parts of lots, or to property not laid off in lots, within the city as well as lands and property not within the city limits, in cases where it is or may become necessary to afford such adequate drainage, ratably, according to the extent of continuity of such property.

For state law, see W. Va. Code, § 8-18-1 et seq.

(78) But this alternative method shall be adopted and enforced in cases only where a majority of the owners of such adjacent and abutting property petition therefor in writing.

(79) And then in such cases the council shall prepare plans, profiles, specifications and estimates of costs and appoint a time for hearing thereon, not less than twenty days after giving written notice to all parties affected thereby, but where owners of such property are not known or do not reside in the county of Randolph, such notice may be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, for two successive weeks before the hearing, at which hearing all persons affected by such proposed improvement may appear in person or by agent or attorney and be heard in favor of, or in opposition thereto.

(80) If the council shall determine to undertake such work they shall advertise for bids therefor according to said plans and specifications for four successive weeks in two newspapers of general circulation, and award the contract, if satisfactory, to the lowest and best bidder. Such contract shall provide for an alternative method of payment, that is to say, those who elect to do so may pay their proper share of the total cost when the work is finished and the final estimates and assessments are made, or give negotiable notes acceptable to the contractor; and as to the shares of those who do not settle as above provided, the council shall charge them to the property and make out proper assessment certificates showing in detail the property, the work, the name of the owner, amount of the payments, divided into ten equal annual payments, and when duly certified such certificates shall be recorded in the deed of trust records of Randolph county and when so recorded shall be and constitute a lien on such property from that date until paid for such share or assessment, together with the interest thereon from the date of the assessment. And the cash so paid shall go to contractor, and the notes and certificates shall be assigned and transferred to him by the mayor when authorized by order of council and such notes and certificates may be enforced by said contractor or his assignees in any court having jurisdiction thereof. And when payment in full or in part is made, proper releases shall be executed and recorded in the record of the release of liens.

(81) The council shall provide at public expense all engineering, plans, specifications and inspection, and reserve the right of supervision and inspection of all work and material, in progress, as well as final approval of all such work, and the council shall likewise pay the full cost of paving all street and alley intersections.

(82) No part of the proceeds or funds arising from any such improvement shall be applied to any other purpose, but all such proceeds and funds shall be used and applied to the identical job and improvement from which the same arose.

(83) All assessment certificates of deferred payments that may be issued hereunder shall be exempt from taxation.

(84) In contracting such improvements, the council may agree with the contractor to accept the method of payment provided for herein, that is to say, that such contractor, upon completion of the work, shall receive the cash payments, negotiable notes, if any, and the certificates and liens, to be

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assigned and delivered to him, in full payment and discharge of his claims against the city for such improvement. And upon acceptance and receipt thereof, the city shall not be liable as assignor or otherwise for any part of such contract or work.

For state law, see W. Va. Code, § 8-18-1 et seq.

(85) All acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed. (1901, ch. 151, § 28; 1905, ch. 6; 1911, ch. 81; 1915, (Munl. Chtr.), ch. 16; 1917, ch. 115; 1921, (Munl. Chtr.), ch. 8; 1927, (Munl. Chtr), ch. 3.)

Sec. 28-(a). Authority to erect community building.

The council of the City of Elkins shall have power to erect a community and municipal building or buildings for such purposes as shall be designated by the council. The council shall have power to borrow a sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate one hundred thousand dollars from the reconstruction finance corporation or other source to be used to pay the cost of construction and of the land upon which the building shall be erected, and may execute a lien or liens upon such land and building to secure payment of such loan or loans and may do any and all other things required by the reconstruction finance corporation or necessary and proper to obtain such loan or loans, to secure payment thereof and to build and maintain the building. The council shall make provision for the payment of such loan or loans from the income of the building but in no event shall it incur any indebtedness or issue any evidence of obligation imposing any liability upon the city or its taxpayers with respect thereto or impose any tax or assessment to provide for the payment of such loan or loans. (1933, 1st Ex. Sess., ch. 67.)

Sec. 29. Mayor' s docket and what shall be contained therein; record of cases.

A well bound book, indexed, to be denominated the "Mayor' s Docket," shall be kept in the office of the mayor in which shall be noted each case brought before or tried by him together with the proceedings therein, including a statement of the complaint, the warrant or summons, the return, the fact of appearance or nonappearance, the defence, the hearing, the judgment, the costs, and, in case the judgment be one of conviction, the action taken to enforce the same. The record of each case shall be signed by the mayor and the original papers thereof, if no appeal be taken, shall be kept together and preserved in his office. (1901, ch. 151, § 29.)

Sec. 30. Annual estimate of expenses and levy of taxes; statement of receipts and expenditures to be published annually.

The council shall cause to be made up annually and spread upon its minute book an accurate estimate of all sums which are or may become chargeable against the city and which ought to be paid within one year; and it shall order a levy at a meeting held by it in either the month of June or July of each year, of so much as will in its judgment be necessary to pay the same, such levy shall be upon all real and personal property therein subject to a state tax, and shall designate the same as the "general tax," and may include a poll tax of not exceeding two dollars each year upon each able-bodied man therein who is above the age of twenty-one years and not over fifty years of age; which poll tax shall be used exclusively upon the opening, improving and maintaining the roads, streets and alleys of the city, and shall designate the same as the "street tax"; provided, that such levy for the general tax shall not exceed one dollar on every one hundred dollars of assessed value of the property upon which the same is levied; and the said council may also impose such license tax upon dogs and other animals as they may deem proper and collect the same from the owners of such animals as other taxes are collected and prescribe such rules, regulations

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and penalties governing the payment of such tax on animals as they may deem reasonable. At least once in each year the council shall cause to be made up and published in one or more of the newspapers published in the city an accurate statement of the revenue received from all sources and of all the expenditures upon all the different accounts for the preceding year. (1901, ch. 151, § 30.)

Editor's note. --W. Va. Const. , art. 10, § 2, which authorized a capitation (poll) tax has been repealed; and art. 10, § 1 has been amended so as to limit the aggregate of taxes for any one year on personal property used for agricultural purposes and upon money and securities 50¢ per \$100 of valuation; on realty occupied by its owner for a residence to \$1 per \$100 of valuation; and to \$2 per \$100 of valuation on all other realty within a municipality. In addition to these constitutional provisions, the general laws of the state have been amended since enactment of this section in 1901 so as to render it almost wholly obsolete.

For general law as to annual financial estimate and tax levies by municipalities, see W. Va. Code, §§ 11-8-9, 11-9-14. As to dog taxes, see W. Va. Code, § 11A-1-15.

Sec. 31. City assessor--Powers and duties generally.

Editor's note.--The text of this section is omitted as obsolete. The city no longer has an assessor, as his functions have been taken over completely by the county assessor; see W. Va. Code, ch. 11, arts. 2 through 6. As to payment by county sheriff to municipal treasury of municipal taxes collected by him, see W. Va. Code, § 11A-1-15.

Sec. 32. Same--Assessment books.

Editor's note. --The text of this section is omitted for the reasons stated in the note under § 31 of this Charter.

Sec. 33. Lien for taxes, fines, etc., and enforcement thereof.

There shall be a lien on real estate within said city for city taxes assessed thereon, and for all fines and penalties assessed to or imposed upon the owners thereof, by the authorities of such city, including expenses for making sidewalks and streets and paving the same, and constructing sewers, and for furnishing water, electric lights or other public utility when furnished by said city, from the time the same are so assessed or imposed, which shall have priority over all other liens except taxes or dues due the United States and the lien for taxes due the state, county or district; and such lien may be enforced by the council in the same manner provided by law for the enforcement of a lien for county taxes, and any time after six months after such lien attaches the city may in its own corporate name proceed to the enforcement of said lien against the real estate chargeable therewith by a suit in equity. If any real estate within said city be returned delinquent for the non-payment of city taxes due thereon, a copy of such delinquent list shall be certified by the council to the auditor of this state and the same may be sold for city taxes, interest and commissions thereon in the same manner, at the same time, and by the same officers as real estate is sold for state taxes; and a return of such sales made to and deed executed therefor, if not redeemed, in the same manner and with like effect, as the return of sales of real estate sold for state taxes are made and deeds therefor executed to purchasers. (1901, ch. 151, § 33; 1911, ch. 81.)

Editor's note. --The last sentence of this section is now obsolete; see W. Va. Code, § 11A-3-1 et seq.

Sec. 34. Duties, bond, etc. , of city collector and treasurer.

It shall be the duty of the city collector and treasurer, when the extended copies of the assessor's

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books are completed, to receive a copy thereof, receipting to the council for the same, and it shall be his duty to collect from the parties the entire amount of the taxes with which they are severally charged therein, and may proceed to collect the same at any time after the first day of August, and may enforce payment thereof by levy upon the personal property and sale thereof, of the person so charged with taxes at any time after the first of October next after said taxes are assessed; said taxes shall be a lien upon the property upon which they are assessed from and after the time the assessor's books are completed, verified and returned to the city council, and shall write the word "paid" opposite the name of each person who pays the taxes assessed against him and shall also give to the person paying such taxes a receipt therefor; provided, however, that said assessor [collector] and treasurer may distrain at any time for any taxes assessed against a person who is about to remote or who has removed from said city after such taxes are assessed, and the books returned as aforesaid. He shall also receive such other moneys of the city as he is authorized by this act [Charter] to receive, and also all moneys ordered by the council to be paid to him, giving receipt therefor to the parties paying the same, and shall keep an accurate, itemized account of all moneys received by him; and his books shall at all times be open for the inspection of the mayor, council, city clerk, and to any taxpayer of the city. He shall pay out the money in his hands only upon the order of the council upon orders signed by the mayor and city clerk and keep an itemized statement of the money so paid out by him. He shall on or before the last meeting of the council in each year just before the expiration of the term of office of the mayor, and at such other times as the council may require, present to the council a full and complete statement of all the moneys with which he is chargeable or that have been received by him and not previously accounted for, and shall at the same time, in like manner, furnish a complete statement, by separate items of all disbursements made by him during such period, with his vouchers evidencing the same. He shall receive all taxes upon licenses and receipt to the party paying the same by endorsement upon the permit granted by order of the council, or mayor as the case may be.

Editor's note.--The provisions of this subsection as to assessment of property for taxes and the collection of taxes are now obsolete, inasmuch as the county assessor and the sheriff perform the duties herein imposed upon the city collector and treasurer; see W. Va. Code, § 8-13-1, ch. 11, art. 1, and ch. 11A.

He shall receive upon all moneys coming into his hands and paid out by him as his compensation for receiving and disbursing the same such sum as may be fixed by the council, not to exceed five per cent thereof. He shall upon the expiration of his term of office turn over to the council all books and other property in his possession belonging to the city, except the money in his hands, which he shall turn over to his successor upon the order of the council as hereinbefore provided; and shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, execute a bond with good security payable to said city, in a penalty of not less than double the estimated amount of money that is liable to come into his hands each year during his term of office, conditioned that he will faithfully discharge the duties of his office and account for and pay over as required by law and the orders, ordinances, rules and regulations of the council of said city, all money which shall come into his hands, which bond shall be subject to the approval of the council. He shall be chargeable with all the city taxes, levies and assessments and money of the city which shall come into his hands and shall account therefor. (1901, ch. 151, § 34.)

Editor's note.--The city collector and treasurer no longer receives any percentage of city money collected by him.

Sec. 35. License ordinances and payment of tax thereon.

The council shall prescribe by ordinance the time and manner in which licenses of all kinds shall be applied for and granted, and shall require the payment of the tax thereon to the city collector and treasurer before the delivery thereof to the person applying therefor. (1901, ch. 151, § 35.)

Sec. 36. Provisions of law applicable to licenses and expiration date of certain licenses.

The provisions of the section 29 of chapter 32 of the Code of West Virginia shall be deemed applicable to licenses of a similar character to those therein mentioned when granted by or under authority of the council of said city; licenses for the keeping of dogs, or other animals, shall also expire on the thirteenth day of April next after they are granted. (1901, ch. 151, § 36.)

Editor's note. --Chapter 32 of the state Code as of 1901 related to state licenses, and the subject matter thereof, as in effect at the time of adoption of the Official Code of West Virginia, 1931, was carried over into that Code as article 12 of Chapter 11, which article has since been repealed, and replaced by a new article 12 which related to state business franchise registration certificates. See, however, W. Va. Code, § 11-12-4 as to authority of municipalities to impose license taxes pursuant to W. Va. Code, § 8-13-4, up to the amount of state license tax in effect on January 1, 1970, "with like effect as if this article (art. 12, ch. 11) had not been enacted."

The provisions of this section as to dog taxes are completely obsolete, see W. Va. Code, § 15-20-2.

Sec. 37. Condemnation of real estate for public use.

The council shall have a right to institute and prosecute proceedings in the name of the city for condemnation of real estate for streets, alleys, roads, drains, sewers, market grounds, city prison, water works, electric light plant or other works, or purpose of public utility. Such proceedings shall conform to the provisions of chapter 42, [eminent domain] of the Code of West Virginia, and the expenses thereof shall be borne by the city, except in cases where it is proper under said chapter to charge such expenses or any part thereof against the defendant. (1901, ch. 151, § 37.)

For general law as to eminent domain, see W. Va. Code, ch. 54.

Sec. 38. Charter of South Elkins abolished.

The Charter of the Town of South Elkins is hereby abolished. (1901, ch. 151, § 38.)

Sec. 39. Ordinances, etc., not inconsistent and bonds, etc., remain in effect.

All the ordinances, by-laws, resolutions and rules of the city of Elkins in force on the day preceding the passage of this act [Charter] , which are not inconsistent therewith, shall be and remain in full force over the whole of the territory embraced in the boundary of said city as established by this act, and the officers in office in the city of Elkins at the time this act takes effect shall remain in office until their successors are elected, or appointed, and qualified under the provisions of this act; and after this act takes effect, shall have jurisdiction over the whole of the territory embraced in the boundary specified in this act; but nothing in this act shall be construed or held to in any way affect or impair any of the bonds or obligations of said city of Elkins issued or contracted prior to the passage of this act; on the contrary, all such bonds and obligations shall be and remain in full force and effect just as though this act had not been passed, except that the whole of the taxable property of persons residing within the corporate limits of said city as created by this act shall be subject to taxation to pay and discharge such bonds and obligations. (1901, ch. 151, § 39.)

Sec. 40. City to take over corporate assets and assume obligations of town of South Elkins.

The corporate authorities of the town of South Elkins shall, before July first, 1901, turn over to

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the corporate authorities of the city of Elkins all corporate assets, including money, taxes, license fees payable, and all other corporate property, to the council of the city of Elkins to be disposed of by it as corporate property now owned by said city of Elkins is disposed of; and if said town of South Elkins at the time this act [Charter] takes effect has any outstanding contracts or obligations proper for it to contract, including licenses granted, the said city of Elkins shall assume the same and carry the same into execution in manner, form and effect as contracted by said town of South Elkins. (1901, ch. 151, § 40.)

Sec. 41. Duties of council as to first election, etc.

The council in being in the city of Elkins at the time this act [Charter] shall take effect shall provide places for voting in the several wards in said city and appoint commissioners residing in each ward to hold and conduct the first election hereinbefore provided to be held, and shall pass all proper ordinances and orders to give this act full force and effect. (1901, ch. 151, § 41.)

Sec. 42. Former rights, powers, etc., of city undisturbed.

The said city shall succeed to all the rights, powers and responsibilities of the City of Elkins as they exist the day preceding the day on which this act [Charter] takes effect, and shall enjoy such rights, exercise such power and discharge such responsibilities in the same manner as the same should have been enjoyed, exercised or discharged if this act had not been passed. (1901, ch. 151, § 42.)

For a case holding that this section preserves to the city all of the rights, powers and responsibilities which it had prior to enactment of this Charter, (such rights, etc., being contained in the then W. Va. Code, ch. 47); and that by virtue of the language of § 28 of that ch. 47 (now set out in W. Va. Code 1931, as amended, § 8-12-5, subsec. (15)), the city council is empowered to "make regulations guarding against danger or damage by fire," see Harvey v. City of Elkins, 65W. Va. 305, 64 SE 247 (submitted 1907, decided 1909).

Sec. 43. Inconsistent ordinances and acts repealed.

All ordinances of the City of Elkins as they exist at the time of the passage of this act [Charter] which are inconsistent therewith are hereby abrogated, and all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with any of the provisions of this act are hereby repealed. (1901, ch. 151, § 43.)

Editor's note. --The Elkins Charter act was approved by the governor February 18, 1901, in effect ninety days from passage.

Chapter 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Sections:

- 1-1 How Code designated and cited.**
- 1-2 Definitions and rules of construction.**
- 1-3 Provisions considered as continuations of existing ordinances.**
- 1-4 Catchlines and headings of portions of Code.**
- 1-5 Severability of parts of this Code, and of codes and other regulations adopted by reference.**
- 1-6 Effect of repeal or expiration of ordinance.**
- 1-7 General penalty; continuing violations.**
- 1-8 Grades and elevations--Official city base established.**