

CITY OF TEXAS CITY
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY CHARTER

ARTICLES XI, XIV, XVII and XVIII

(Note: Current charter to be deleted is [bracketed and underlined]).

All amendatory language is *italicized and in bold face*).

ARTICLE XI. FINANCE ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

There shall be a department of finance, the director of which shall be [the chief executive officer or a person] appointed by the chief executive officer and confirmed by a majority of the city commission. The director of finance shall have knowledge of municipal accounting and taxation and shall have had experience in budgeting and financial control. The department of finance shall have authority and shall be required:

(1) To prepare the budget, as outlined in sections 3, 4 and 5 of this article and to assist the chief executive officer in its execution after authorization by the commission as required by section 6.

(2) To maintain accounting control over the finances of the city government, for which purpose it is empowered to operate a set of general accounts embracing all the financial transactions of the city, and such subsidiary accounts and cost records as may be required by ordinance or by the chief executive officer for purposes of administrative direction and financial control; to prescribe the forms of receipts, vouchers, bills, or claims to be filed by all departments and agencies of the city government; to examine and approve all contracts, orders, and other documents by which the city incurs financial obligations, having ascertained before approval that the moneys have been duly appropriated and allotted to meet such obligations and will become available when the obligations have become due and payable; to audit and approve all bills, invoices, payrolls, and other evidences of claims, demands or charges against the city government and to determine the regularity, legality, and correctness of such claims, demands, or charges; to make monthly reports on all receipts and expenditures of the city government, to make monthly reports on funds, appropriations, allotments, encumbrances, and authorized payments, to the chief executive officer, the commission, and the head of the department or agency directly concerned; to inspect and audit any accounts or records of financial transactions which may be maintained in any department or agency of the city government apart from or subsidiary to the general accounts; and to perform such other duties pertaining to the financial records of the city government as the commission may require by ordinance.

SECTION 2. FISCAL YEAR

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 3. CITY BUDGET

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 4. FILING OF BUDGET

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 5. BUDGET HEARING

The city commission shall each year provide for a public hearing on such budget, which hearing shall take place on some date to be fixed by the city commission not less than fifteen days subsequent to the time such budget is filed as provided in this section, and prior to the time the city commission makes its tax levy. Public notice of the hour, date and place of such hearing shall be given by the city commission by publication in the official newspaper for at least two issues immediately preceding the date of said hearing, and any taxpayer of the city shall have the right to be present and participate in such hearing. At the conclusion of such hearing, the budget as prepared by the finance department shall be acted upon by the city commission. The city commission shall have the authority to make such changes in the budget as in their judgment the law warrants and the best interest of the taxpayers of the city demand. When the budget has been finally approved by the city commission, the budget as so approved shall be filed with the city secretary and taxes levied only in accordance therewith, and no expenditure of the funds of the city shall thereafter be made except in strict compliance with such adopted budget, except that in case of grave public necessity, emergency expenditures to meet unusual and unforeseen conditions, which could not, by reasonably diligent thought and attention, have been included in the original budget, may from time to time be authorized by the city commission, as amendments to the original budget. In all cases where such amendment to the original budget is made, a copy of the order or resolution of the city commission amending such budget shall be filed with the city secretary and attached to the budget originally adopted. [Immediately after the adoption of said budget, and all amendments thereto, the chief executive officer shall file or cause to be filed, a true copy of said approval budget, and all amendments thereto, in the office of the county clerk of Galveston County, Texas, and with the state comptroller at Austin, Texas.] In the preparation of the budget, the chief executive officer shall have the authority to require the heads of all departments to furnish such information as may be necessary for the chief executive officer to have in order that the budget covering the expenditures of the city may be properly prepared.

SECTION 6. TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 7. MONEY TO BE DRAWN FROM TREASURY IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROPRIATION

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 8. CONTRACTS AND PURCHASES

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 9. CUSTODY OF CITY MONEYS

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 10. ISSURANCE OF BONDS

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 11. LOANS IN ANTICIPATION OF BOND SALES

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 12. TEMPORARY BORROWING

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 13. ANNUAL AUDIT

As soon as practicable after the close of each fiscal year, an independent audit shall be made of all accounts of the city government and corporations established by the city. The certified public accountants, appointed by the commission, shall have no personal interest, directly or indirectly, in the financial affairs of the city or any of its officers. The scope of the audit shall require a limited review of city-owned property and the results shall be reported with each annual audited financial report. Upon completion of the annual audit, the combined balance sheet thereof shall be published in the official newspaper of the city within thirty (30) days of commission acceptance of such audit. Copies of all audits shall be placed on file with the city's public library, the director of finance and the city secretary.

ARTICLE XIV. CITY PLANNING BOARD AND CITY ZONING COMMISSION

SECTION 1. CITY PLANNING BOARD ESTABLISHMENT, MEMBERSHIP, DUTIES, AND TERMS

The commission may at any time after the adoption of this Charter establish and maintain a city planning board of five members to serve without compensation and to have such powers and duties as the commission may prescribe relative to city planning in accordance with state law. The commission by duly enacted ordinance may increase the specified number of board members. One of the members of the planning board shall be the mayor, another shall be a member of the commission designated by the commission upon recommendation of the mayor. *Two of the members of the planning board shall also be members of the city commission, who shall be appointed by the commission upon the recommendation of the mayor.* Each member appointed shall be appointed for a term of four years. Any vacancy in and during the unexpired term of an appointed member shall be filled by the commission upon recommendation of the mayor. The chief executive officer shall provide the planning board with the necessary clerical

help, office equipment, and supplies.

SECTION 2. CITY ZONING COMMISSION ESTABLISHMENT, MEMBERSHIP, DUTIES, AND TERMS

The commission may at any time after the adoption of this Charter establish and maintain a city zoning commission of five members to serve without compensation and to have such powers and duties as the commission may prescribe relative to city zoning in accordance with state law. The commission by duly enacted ordinance may increase the specified number of board members. Members of the board shall be appointed by the commission, upon the recommendation of the mayor. Each member appointed shall be appointed for a term of two years. Any vacancy in and during the unexpired term of an appointed member shall be filled by the commission upon recommendation of the mayor. The chief executive officer shall provide the zoning commission with the necessary help, office equipment, and supplies.

ARTICLE XVII. PUBLIC UTILITIES AND FRANCHISES

SECTION 1. POWERS OF THE CITY

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 2. FRANCHISES; POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 3. TERM OF FRANCHISE

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 4. RIGHT OF REGULATION

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 5. CONSENT OF PROPERTY OWNERS

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 6. REVOCABLE PERMITS

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 7. EXTENTIONS

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 8. OTHER CONDITIONS

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 9. FRANCHISE RECORDS

Within six months after this Charter takes effect every public utility and every owner of a public utility franchise shall file with the city, as may be prescribed by ordinance, certified copies of all the franchises owned or claimed, or under which such utility is operated. The city shall compile and maintain a public record of public utility franchises [and of all public utility fixtures in the streets of] *operating within* the city.

SECTION 10. ACCOUNTS OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED UTILITIES

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 11. PUBLIC UTILITIES

The commission shall have the power and shall be authorized to regulate, by ordinance, the rates and compensation to be charged by all persons, companies, or corporations, using the streets, alleys or public grounds of the City of Texas City, and engaged in furnishing water, gas, [telephone,] light, power, electricity or sewerage service to the public, and also to prescribe rules and regulations under which such commodities shall be furnished, and service rendered, and to fix penalties to enforce such charges, rules and regulations. The governing body shall not prescribe any rate or compensation which will yield more than a fair return upon the fair value of the property used and useful in rendering such services to the public, but which return in no event shall ever exceed 8% per annum.

SECTION 12. STREET RENTAL

No amendatory action proposed.

ARTICLE XVIII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. PUBLICITY OF RECORDS

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 2. PERSONAL INTEREST

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 3. COMPENSATION AND TENURE OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 4. OFFICIAL BONDS

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 5. OATH OF OFFICE

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 6. SPECIAL PROVISION FOR GARBAGE DISPOSAL

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 7. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 8. POWER OF CONDEMNATION AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 9. PROVISION RELATING TO ASSIGNMENT, EXECUTION AND GARNISHMENT

The property, real and personal, belonging to the city shall not be liable to be sold or appropriated under any writ of execution of cost bill; *and no lien of any kind shall ever exist against any such property owned by the city except that the lien be created or authorized by this Charter or state law.* The funds belonging to the city in the hands of any person, firm or corporation, shall not be liable to garnishment; nor shall the city be liable to garnishment on account of any debt it may owe for funds or property it may have on hand or owing to any person. Neither the city nor any of its officers or agents shall be required to answer any writ of garnishment on any account whatever. The city shall not be obligated to recognize any assignment of wages or funds by its employees, agents, or contractors, *except as required by state or federal law.*

SECTION 10. POWER OF THE CITY TO ENFORCE ORDINANCES

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 11. MEANING OF WORDS AND DESIGNATIONS

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 12. SAVING CLAUSE

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 13. ORDINANCES

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 14. POWER TO OWN AND CONSTRUCT

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 15. AMENDING THE CHARTER

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 16. MEETINGS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

All permanent boards [, committees] and commissions established in this Charter [or by the city commission] shall meet at least once quarterly and submit the minutes of their meetings to the city commission. All meetings shall be held in accordance with Article III, Section 1 of this Charter. The need for other boards, committees and commissions appointed by the city commission will be reviewed annually by the chief executive officer, and appropriate recommendation for their continuance made to the city commission.

SECTION 17. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 18. RULES OF PROCEDURE

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 19. AUTHORITY TO REARRANGE AND RENUMBER

No amendatory action proposed.

SECTION 20. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL CHARTER TO ELECTORS

This Charter shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the City of Texas City at an election to be held for that purpose on the 16th day of February, 1946, and if a majority of the qualified voters voting in such election shall vote in favor of the adoption of this Charter, it shall become the Charter of the City of Texas City, and after the returns have been canvassed, the same shall be declared adopted and the city commission shall file an official copy of the Charter with the records of the city. The commission shall furnish the mayor a copy of said Charter, which copy of the Charter as adopted, authenticated, and certified by his signature and the seal of the city,

shall be forwarded by the mayor to the secretary of state of the State of Texas and shall show the approval of such Charter by a majority vote of the qualified voters voting at such election.

In not less than thirty days prior to such election the city commission shall cause the city secretary to mail a copy of this Charter to each qualified voter of the City of Texas City.]