A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend an Act providing a new charter for the City of Jefferson, approved April 13, 2001 (Ga. L. 2001, p. 3940), as amended, so as to fully replace the current charter; to provide for incorporation, boundaries, and powers of the city; to provide for a governing authority of such city and the powers, duties, authority, election, districts, terms, method of filling vacancies, compensation, qualifications, prohibitions, and removal from office relative to members of such governing authority; to provide for inquiries and investigations; to provide for organization and procedures; to provide for ordinances and codes; to provide for the office of mayor and certain duties and powers relative to the office of mayor; to provide for administrative responsibilities; to provide for a city manager and certain duties and powers relative thereto; to provide for boards, commissions, and authorities; to provide for a city attorney, a city clerk, a city treasurer, and other personnel; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for a municipal court and the judge or judges thereof; to provide for practices and procedures; to provide for taxation and fees; to provide for franchises, service charges, and assessments; to provide for bonded and other indebtedness; to provide for accounting and budgeting; to provide for purchases; to provide for the sale of property; to provide for bonds for officials; to provide for eminent domain; to provide for other matters relative to the foregoing; to provide for severability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

An Act providing a new charter for the City of Jefferson, approved April 13, 2001 (Ga. L. 2001, p. 3940), as amended, is amended by revising Articles I through VII as follows:

"ARTICLE I.

INCORPORATION AND POWERS

SECTION 1.10.

Name.

The city and the inhabitants thereof are incorporated by the enactment of this charter and are constituted and declared a body public and corporate under the name and style of City of Jefferson, Georgia, and by that name shall have perpetual succession.

SECTION 1.11.

Corporate boundaries.

(a) The boundaries of the city shall be those existing on the effective date of the adoption of this charter with such alterations as may be made from time to time in the manner provided by law. The boundaries of this city at all times shall be shown on a map, a written description, or any combination thereof, to be retained permanently in the office of the city clerk and to be designated, as the case may be: "Official Map or Description of the Corporate Limits of the City of Jefferson, Georgia." Photographic, typed, or other copies of such map or description certified by the mayor shall be admitted as evidence in all courts and shall have the same force and effect as the original map or description.

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(b) The city council may provide for the redrawing of any such map by ordinance to reflect lawful changes in the corporate boundaries. A redrawn map shall supersede for all purposes the entire map or maps which it is designated to replace.

SECTION 1.12.
Municipal powers.

(a) The city shall have all powers possible for a city to have under the present or future Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia as fully and completely as though they were specifically enumerated in this charter. The city shall have all the powers of self-government not otherwise prohibited by this charter or by general law.

(b) The powers of the city shall be construed liberally in favor of the city. The specific mention or failure to mention particular powers shall not be construed as limiting in any way the powers of this city. Said powers shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Air and water pollution. To regulate the emission of smoke or other exhaust which pollutes the air and to prevent the pollution of natural streams which flow within the corporate limits of the city and to establish regulations to prohibit noise pollution;

2. Animal regulations. To regulate and license or to prohibit the keeping or running at large of animals and fowl and to provide for the impoundment of the same if in violation of any ordinance or lawful order; to provide for the disposition by sale, gift, or humane destruction of animals and fowl when not redeemed as provided by ordinance, and to provide punishment for violation of ordinances enacted hereunder;

3. Appropriations and expenditures. To make appropriations for the support of the government of the city; to authorize the expenditure of money for any purposes authorized by this charter and for any purposes for which a municipality is authorized by the laws of the State of Georgia; and to provide for the payment of expenses of this city;
(4) Building regulations. To regulate and to license the erection and construction of buildings and all other structures; to adopt building, housing, plumbing, fire safety, electrical, gas, and heating and air conditioning codes; and to regulate all housing and building trades;

(5) Business regulation and taxation. To levy and to provide for the collection of regulatory fees and taxes on privileges, occupations, trades, and professions, as authorized by Title 48 of the O.C.G.A. or other such applicable laws as are or may be hereafter enacted; to permit and regulate the same; to provide for the manner and method of payment of such licenses and taxes; and to revoke such licenses after due process for the failure to pay any city taxes or fees;

(6) Condemnation. To condemn property, inside or outside the corporate limits of the city, for present or future use and for any corporate purpose deemed necessary by the governing authority, utilizing procedures enumerated in Title 22 of the O.C.G.A. or such other laws as are or may hereafter be enacted;

(7) Contracts. To enter into contracts and agreements with other governments and entities and with private persons, firms, and corporations;

(8) Emergencies. To establish procedure for determining and proclaiming that an emergency situation exists within or without the city and to make and carry out all reasonable provisions deemed necessary to deal with or meet such an emergency for the protection, safety, health, or well-being of the citizens of the city;

(9) Environmental protection. To protect and preserve the natural resources, environment, and vital areas of the state through the preservation and improvement of air quality, the restoration and maintenance of water resources, the control of erosion and sedimentation, the management of stormwater and establishment of a stormwater utility, the management of solid and hazardous waste, and other necessary actions for the protection of the environment;
(10) Fire regulations. To fix and establish fire limits and from time to time extend, enlarge, or restrict the same; to prescribe fire safety regulations, not inconsistent with general law relating to both fire prevention and detection and to firefighting, and to prescribe penalties and punishment for violations thereof;

(11) Garbage fees. To levy, fix, assess, and collect a garbage, refuse, and trash collection and disposal and other sanitary service charge, tax, or fee for such services as may be necessary in the operation of the city from all individuals, firms, and corporations residing in or doing business therein benefiting from such services; to enforce the payment of such charges, taxes, or fees; and to provide for the manner and method of collecting such service charges;

(12) General health, safety, and welfare. To define, regulate, and prohibit any act, practice, conduct, or use of property which is detrimental to the health, sanitation, cleanliness, welfare, and safety of the inhabitants of the city and to provide for the enforcement of such standards;

(13) Gifts. To accept or refuse gifts, donations, bequests, or grants from any source for any purpose related to the powers and duties of the city and the general welfare of its citizens, on such terms and conditions as the donor or grantor may impose;

(14) Health and sanitation. To prescribe standards of health and sanitation and to provide for the enforcement of such standards;

(15) Jail sentences. To provide that persons given jail sentences in the municipal court may work out such sentences in any public works or on the streets, roads, drains, and other public property in the city; to provide for the commitment of such persons to any jail; or to provide for the commitment of such persons to any county work camp or county jail by agreement with the appropriate county officials;

(16) Motor vehicles. To regulate the operation of motor vehicles and exercise control over all traffic, including parking, upon or across the streets, roads, alleys, and walkways of the city;
(17) Municipal agencies and delegation of power. To create, alter, or abolish departments, boards, offices, commissions, and agencies of the city and to confer upon such agencies the necessary and appropriate authority for carrying out all the powers conferred upon or delegated to the same;

(18) Municipal debts. To appropriate and borrow money for the payment of debts of the city and to issue bonds for the purpose of raising revenue to carry out any project, program, or venture authorized by this charter or the laws of the State of Georgia;

(19) Municipal property ownership. To acquire, dispose of, and hold in trust or otherwise any real, personal, or mixed property, in fee simple or lesser interest, inside or outside the property limits of the city;

(20) Municipal property protection. To provide for the preservation and protection of property and equipment of the city and the administration and use of [the] same by the public, and to prescribe penalties and punishment for violations thereof;

(21) Municipal utilities. To acquire, lease, construct, operate, maintain, sell, and dispose of public utilities, including, but not limited to, a system of waterworks, sewers, and drains, sewage disposal, stormwater management, gas works, electric plants, cable television and other telecommunications, transportation facilities, public airports, and any other public utility; and to fix the taxes, charges, rates, fares, fees, assessments, regulations, and penalties, and to provide for the withdrawal of service for refusal or failure to pay the same; and to install and operate any of its utilities inside and outside its corporate limits in Jackson County, Georgia; and to install and operate any of its utilities in adjoining counties pursuant to existing and future franchise agreements or utility supply contracts;

(22) Nuisances. To define a nuisance and provide for its abatement whether on public or private property;

(23) Penalties. To provide penalties for violation of any ordinances adopted pursuant to the authority of this charter and the laws of the State of Georgia;
(24) Planning and zoning. To provide comprehensive city planning for development by zoning and to provide subdivision regulation and the like as the city council deems necessary and reasonable to ensure a safe, healthy, and aesthetically pleasing community;

(25) Police and fire protection. To exercise the power of arrest through duly appointed police officers and to establish, operate, or contract for a police and firefighting agency;

(26) Public hazards; removal. To provide for the destruction and removal of any building or other structure which is or may become dangerous or detrimental to the public;

(27) Public improvements. To provide for the acquisition, construction, building, operation, and maintenance of public ways, parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities, cemeteries, markets and market houses, public buildings, libraries, public housing, airports, hospitals, terminals, docks, parking facilities, or charitable, cultural, educational, recreational, conservation, sport, curative, corrective, detentional, penal, and medical institutions, agencies, and facilities; to provide any other public improvements inside or outside the corporate limits of the city; to regulate the use of public improvements; and, for such purposes, property may be acquired by condemnation under Title 22 of the O.C.G.A. or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted;

(28) Public peace. To provide for the prevention and punishment of loitering, disorderly conduct, drunkenness, riots, and public disturbances;

(29) Public transportation. To organize and operate or contract for such public transportation systems as are deemed beneficial;

(30) Public utilities and services. To grant franchises or make contracts or impose taxes on public utilities and public services and to prescribe the rates, fares, regulations, and the standards and conditions of service applicable to the service to be provided by the franchise grantee or contractor, insofar as not in conflict with valid regulations of the public service commission, and to own and operate its own franchise for the delivery of such services including cable television and related services;
(31) Regulation of roadside areas. To prohibit or regulate and control the erection, removal, and maintenance of signs, billboards, trees, shrubs, fences, buildings, and any and all other structures or obstructions upon or adjacent to the rights-of-way of streets and roads within view thereof, inside or abutting the corporate limits of the city and to prescribe penalties and punishment for violation of such ordinances;

(32) Retirement. To provide and maintain a retirement plan for officers and employees of the city;

(33) Roadways. To lay out, open, extend, widen, narrow, establish, or change the grade of, abandon or close, construct, pave, curb, gutter, adorn with shade trees, or otherwise improve, maintain, repair, clean, prevent erosion of, and light the roads, alleys, and walkways within the corporate limits of the city; to grant franchises and rights-of-way throughout the streets and roads and over the bridges and viaducts for the use of public utilities; and to require real estate owners to repair and maintain in a safe condition the sidewalks adjoining their lots or lands and to impose penalties for failure to do so;

(34) Sewer fees. To levy a fee, charge, or sewer tax as necessary to assure the acquiring, constructing, equipping, operating, maintaining, and extending of a sewage disposal plant and sewerage system; to levy on those to whom sewers and sewerage systems are made available a sewer service fee, charge, or tax for the availability or use of the sewers; to provide for the manner and method of collecting such service charges and for enforcing payment of the same; and to charge, impose, and collect a sewer connection fee or fees to those connected with the system;

(35) Solid waste disposal. To provide for the collection and disposal of garbage, rubbish, and refuse and to regulate the collection and disposal of garbage, rubbish, and refuse by others; and to provide for the separate collection of glass, tin, aluminum, cardboard, paper, and other recyclable materials and provide for the sale of such items;

(36) Special areas of public regulation. To regulate or prohibit junk dealers, pawnshops, the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors, and the use and sale of...
firearms, to regulate the transportation, storage, and use of combustible, explosive, and inflammable materials, the use of lighting and heating equipment, and any other business or situation which may be dangerous to persons or property; to regulate and control the conduct of peddlers and itinerant traders, theatrical performances, exhibitions, and shows of any kind, by taxing or otherwise; and to license, tax, regulate, or prohibit professional fortune telling, palmistry, adult bookstores, and massage parlors;

(37) Special assessments. To levy and provide for the collection of special assessments to cover the costs of any public improvement;

(38) Taxes: ad valorem. To levy and provide for the assessment, valuation, revaluation, and collection of taxes on all property subject to taxation;

(39) Taxes: other. To levy and collect such other taxes as may be allowed now or in the future by law;

(40) Taxicabs. To regulate and license vehicles operated for hire in the city; to limit the number of such vehicles; to require the operators thereof to be licensed; to require public liability insurance on such vehicles in the amounts to be prescribed by ordinance; and to regulate the parking of such vehicles;

(41) Water fee. To levy a fee, charge, or water tax as necessary to assure the acquiring, constructing, equipping, operating, maintaining, and extending of a water plant; to levy on those to whom water systems are made available a water service fee, charge, or tax for the availability or use of the water; to provide for the manner and method of collecting such service charge and for enforcing payment of the same; and to charge, impose, and collect a water connection fee or fees to those connected with the system;

(42) Urban redevelopment. To organize and operate an urban redevelopment program; and

(43) Other powers. To exercise and enjoy all other powers, functions, rights, privileges, and immunities necessary or desirable to promote or protect the safety, health, peace, security, good order, comfort, convenience, or general welfare of the city and its
inhabitants; to exercise all implied powers necessary to carry into execution all powers
granted in this charter as fully and completely as if such powers were fully stated in this
charter, and to exercise all powers now or in the future authorized to be exercised by
other municipal governments under other laws of the State of Georgia; and no listing of
particular powers in this charter shall be held to be exclusive of others, nor restrictive of
general words and phrases granting powers, but shall be held to be in addition to such
powers unless expressly prohibited to municipalities under the Constitution or applicable
laws of the State of Georgia.

SECTION 1.13.
Exercise of powers.

All powers, functions, rights, privileges, and immunities of the city, its officers, agencies, or
employees shall be carried into execution as provided by this charter. If this charter makes
no provision, such shall be carried into execution as provided by ordinance or as provided
by pertinent laws of the State of Georgia.

ARTICLE II.
GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE, ELECTIONS, AND REMOVAL

SECTION 2.10.
City council creation; composition; number; election.

(a) The legislative authority of the government of this city, except as otherwise specifically
provided in this charter, shall be vested in a city council to be composed of a mayor and five
councilmembers. The city council established shall in all respects be a successor to and
continuation of the governing authority under prior law. The mayor and councilmembers
shall be elected in the manner provided by this charter. All elected officers shall commence service on January 1 following their respective elections.

(b) Those members of the city council who are serving as such on the effective date of this charter and any person selected to fill a vacancy in any such office shall continue to serve as such members until the regular expiration of their respective terms of office and upon the election and qualification of their respective successors. On and after the effective date of this charter, the city council of Jefferson shall consist of five members, all of whom shall be elected from council districts described in subsection (c) of this section except for the mayor who is elected at large.

c) For purposes of electing members of the city council other than the mayor, the City of Jefferson is divided into five council districts. One member of the city council shall be elected from each such district. The five council districts shall be and correspond to those five numbered districts described in Appendix A attached to and made a part of this charter and further identified as "User: City of Jefferson Plan Name: CityJeffersonCCSB-2022 Plan Type: Local".

d)(1) For the purposes of such plan:

(A) The term 'VTD' shall mean and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2020 for the State of Georgia. The separate numeric designations in a district description which are underneath a VTD heading shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a VTD as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2020 for the State of Georgia; and

(B) Except as otherwise provided in the description of any district, whenever the description of any district refers to a named city, it shall mean the geographical boundaries of that city as shown on the census maps for the United States decennial census of 2020 for the State of Georgia.
(2) Any part of the City of Jefferson which is not included in any district described in subsection (c) of this section shall be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2020 for the State of Georgia.

(3) Any part of City of Jefferson which is described in subsection (c) of this section as being included in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such district if such part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall instead be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2020 for the State of Georgia.

(e) Council Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, as they exist immediately prior to the effective date of this charter, shall continue to be designated as Council Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, respectively, but as newly described under this charter, and on and after the effective date of this charter, such members of the board serving from those former council districts shall be deemed to be serving from and representing their respective districts as newly described under this charter.

SECTION 2.11. City council terms and qualifications for office.

(a) The members of the city council shall serve for terms of four years and until their respective successors are elected and qualified. No person shall be eligible to serve as mayor or councilmember unless he or she shall have been a resident of the city for 12 months immediately prior to the date of the election of mayor or members of the city council; and each shall continue to reside therein during his or her period of service and be registered and qualified to vote in municipal elections of the city.
(b) Candidates for Council Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 must at the time of qualification and during their term of service reside within the respective council district which each seeks to represent.

(c) The mayor may reside anywhere within the City of Jefferson, but must continue to reside within the City of Jefferson during that person's term, or that office shall become vacant.

SECTION 2.12.

Vacancies in office.

(a) The office of mayor or councilmember shall become vacant upon the incumbent's death, resignation, or forfeiture of office, or the occurrence of any event specified by the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia, Title 45 of the O.C.G.A., or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted, or the failure of any councilmember to continue to reside within that member's respective council district or the mayor's failure to reside in the City of Jefferson.

(b) A vacancy in the office of mayor or councilmember shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term, if any, by appointment by the city council or those members remaining if less than 12 months remains in the unexpired term. If such vacancy occurs 12 months or more prior to the expiration of the term of that office, it shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by a special election as provided for in Section 5.14 of this charter and in accordance with Titles 21 and 45 of the O.C.G.A., or other such laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.

(c) This provision shall also apply to a temporary vacancy created by the suspension from office of the mayor or any councilmember.
SECTION 2.13.  
Compensation and expenses.

The mayor and councilmembers shall receive compensation and expenses for their services as provided by ordinance.

SECTION 2.14.  
Holding other office; voting when personally interested.

(a) Except as authorized by law, the mayor or any councilmember shall not hold any other city office or city employment during the term for which he or she was elected or during the period when he or she is seeking office following qualification.

(b) Elected and appointed officers of the city are trustees and servants of the residents of the city and shall act in a fiduciary capacity for the benefit of such residents.

(c) Any city officer or employee who knowingly conceals such financial interest or knowingly violates any of the requirements of this section shall be guilty of malfeasance in office or position and shall be deemed to have forfeited that person's office or position.

(d) Neither the mayor nor any member of the city council shall vote upon or sign any ordinance, resolution, contract, or other matter in which he or she is personally interested.

SECTION 2.15.  
Inquiries and investigations.

Following the adoption of an authorizing resolution, the city council may make inquiries and investigations into the affairs of the city and the conduct of any department, office, or agency thereof and, for this purpose, may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony, and require the production of evidence. Any person who fails or refuses to obey a lawful order...
issued in the exercise of these powers by the city council shall be punished as provided by ordinance.

SECTION 2.16.

General power and authority.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by this charter, the city council shall be vested with all the powers of government of this city.

(b) In addition to all other powers conferred upon it by law, the city council shall have the authority to adopt and provide for the execution of such ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations, not inconsistent with this charter and the Constitution and the laws of the State of Georgia, which it shall deem necessary, expedient, or helpful for the peace, good order, protection of life and property, health, welfare, sanitation, comfort, convenience, prosperity, or well-being of the inhabitants of the City of Jefferson and may enforce such ordinances by imposing penalties for violation thereof.

SECTION 2.17.

Eminent domain.

The city council is empowered to acquire, construct, operate, and maintain public ways, parks, public grounds, cemeteries, markets, market houses, public buildings, libraries, sewers, drains, sewage treatment, waterworks, electrical systems, gas systems, airports, hospitals, and charitable, educational, recreational, sport, curative, corrective, detential, penal, and medical institutions, agencies, and facilities, and any other public improvements inside or outside the city and to regulate the use thereof and, for such purposes, property may be condemned under procedures established under general law applicable now or as provided in the future.
SECTION 2.18. Organization.

The city council shall hold an organizational meeting during the last week of December following each municipal election. The meeting shall be called to order by the sitting mayor, or in the absence of a sitting mayor, the mayor pro tempore, or in the absence of both, the city clerk. The oath of office shall be administered to the newly elected members by a judicial officer authorized to administer oaths and shall, to the extent that it comports with federal and state law, be as follows:

"I do solemnly (swear) (affirm) that I will faithfully perform the duties of (mayor) (councilmember) of this city and that I will support and defend the charter thereof as well as the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia and of the United States of America."

SECTION 2.19. Meetings.

(a) The city council shall hold regular meetings at such times and places as prescribed by ordinance.

(b) Special meetings of the city council may be held on call of the mayor or three members of the city council. Notice of such special meeting shall be served on all other members personally, or by telephone personally, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Such notice to councilmembers shall not be required if the mayor and all councilmembers are present when the special meeting is called. Such notice of any special meeting may be waived by a councilmember in writing before or after such a meeting and attendance at the meeting shall also constitute a waiver of notice on any business transacted in such councilmember's presence. Only the business stated in the call may be transacted at the special meeting.
(c) All meetings of the city council shall be public to the extent required by law and notice
to the public of special meetings shall be made fully as is reasonably possible as provided by
Code Section 50-14-1 of the O.C.G.A. or other applicable laws as may hereafter be enacted.

SECTION 2.20.

Procedures.

(a) The city council shall adopt its rules of procedure and order of business consistent with
the provisions of this charter and shall provide for keeping a journal of its proceedings which
shall be a public record. The rules of procedure adopted shall not expand or restrict any
powers assigned to the mayor and councilmembers by this charter.

(b) All committees and committee chairpersons and officers of the city council shall be
appointed by the mayor and shall serve at the pleasure of the mayor. The mayor shall have
the power to appoint new members to any committee at any time.

SECTION 2.21.

Voting.

Four councilmembers, including the mayor, shall constitute a quorum and shall be authorized
to transact the business of the city council. Voting on the adoption of ordinances shall be by
voice vote and the vote shall be recorded in the journal, but any member of the city council
shall have the right to request a roll call vote and such vote shall be recorded in the journal.
Except as otherwise provided in this charter, the affirmative vote of a majority of
councilmembers, excluding the mayor unless otherwise provided for by this charter, present
at an official meeting shall be required for adoption of any ordinance, resolution, or motion.
An abstention shall be counted as an affirmative vote.
SECTION 2.22.  
Ordinances.

(a) Every proposed ordinance shall be introduced in writing and in the form required for final adoption. No ordinance shall contain a subject which is not expressed in its title. The enacting clause shall be "It is hereby ordained by the governing authority of the City of Jefferson" and every ordinance shall so begin.

(b) An ordinance may be introduced by any councilmember and be read at a regular or special meeting of the city council. Ordinances shall be considered and adopted or rejected by the city council in accordance with the rules which it shall establish. Upon introduction of any ordinance, the city clerk shall, as soon as possible, distribute a copy to the mayor and to each councilmember and shall file a reasonable number of copies in the office of the city clerk and at such other public places as the city council may designate.

SECTION 2.23.  
Effect of ordinances.

Acts of the city council which have the force and effect of law shall be enacted by ordinance. All other matters of business shall be considered in the form of a resolution.

SECTION 2.24.  
Emergency.

(a) To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property, or public peace, the city council may convene on call of the mayor or three councilmembers and promptly adopt an emergency ordinance, but such ordinance may not levy taxes; grant, renew, or extend a franchise; regulate the rate charged by any public utility for its services; or authorize the
borrowing of money except for loans to be repaid within 30 days. An emergency ordinance shall be introduced in the form prescribed for ordinances generally, except that it shall be plainly designated as an emergency ordinance and shall contain, after the enacting clause, a declaration stating that an emergency exists and a description of the emergency in clear and specific terms. An emergency ordinance may be adopted, with or without amendment, or rejected at the meeting at which it is introduced, but the affirmative vote of at least three councilmembers shall be required for adoption. It shall become effective upon adoption or at such later time as it may specify. Every emergency ordinance shall automatically stand repealed 30 days following the date upon which it was adopted, but this shall not prevent reenactment of the ordinance in the manner specified in this section if the emergency still exists. An emergency ordinance may also be repealed by adoption of a repealing ordinance in the same manner specified in this section for adoption of emergency ordinances.

(b) Such meetings shall be open to the public to the extent required by law and notice to the public of emergency meetings shall be made as fully as is reasonably possible in accordance with Code Section 50-14-1 of the O.C.G.A., or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.

SECTION 2.25.
Codes of technical regulations.

(a) The city council may adopt any standard code of technical regulations by reference thereto in an adopting ordinance. The procedure and requirements governing such adopting ordinance shall be as prescribed for ordinances generally except that:

(1) The requirements of subsection (b) of Section 2.22 of this charter for distribution and filing of copies of the ordinance shall be construed to include copies of any code of technical regulations, as well as the adopting ordinance; and
(2) A copy of each adopted code of technical regulations, as well as the adopting ordinance, shall be authenticated and recorded by the city clerk pursuant to Section 2.26 of this charter.

(b) Copies of any adopted code of technical regulations shall be made available by the city clerk for inspection by the public.

SECTION 2.26.
Signing; authenticating; recording; codification; printing.

(a) The city clerk shall authenticate by signature and record in full in a properly indexed book kept for that purpose all ordinances adopted by the city council.

(b) The city shall provide for the preparation of a general codification of all the ordinances of the city having the force and effect of law. The general codification shall be adopted by the city council by ordinance and shall be published promptly together with all amendments thereto and shall contain such codes of technical regulations and other rules and regulations as the city council may specify. This compilation shall be known and cited officially as "The Code of the City of Jefferson, Georgia." Copies of the code shall be furnished to all officers, departments, and agencies of the city and shall be made available for purchase by the public at a reasonable price as fixed by the city council.

(c) The city council shall cause each ordinance and each amendment to this charter to be printed promptly following its adoption, and the printed ordinances and charter amendments shall be made available for purchase by the public at reasonable prices to be fixed by the city council. Following publication of the first code under this charter and at all times thereafter, the ordinances and charter amendments shall be printed in substantially the same style as the code then in effect and shall be suitable in form for incorporation within the code. The city council shall make such further arrangements as deemed desirable with reproduction and
distribution of any changes in or additions to the code of technical regulations and other rules and regulations included in the code.

SECTION 2.27.

City manager; appointment; qualifications; compensation.

The city council shall appoint a city manager for an indefinite term and shall fix the manager's compensation. The city manager shall be appointed solely on the basis of his or her executive and administrative qualifications.

SECTION 2.28.

Suspension or removal of city manager.

(a) The city council may remove the city manager, also known as "the manager," from office in accordance with the following procedures:

(1) The city council shall adopt by affirmative vote of a majority of all its members a preliminary resolution which must state the reasons for removal and may suspend the manager from duty for a period not to exceed 45 days. A copy of the resolution shall be delivered promptly to the manager;

(2) Within five days after a copy of the resolution is delivered to the manager, he or she may file with the city council a written request for a public hearing. This hearing shall be held within 30 days after the request is filed. The manager may file with the city council a written reply not later than five days before the hearing;

(3) If the manager has not requested a public hearing within the time specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the city council may adopt a final resolution for removal, which may be made effective immediately, by an affirmative vote of a majority of all its members. If the city manager has requested a public hearing, the city council may adopt
a final resolution for removal, which may be made effective immediately, by an affirmative vote of a majority of all its members at any time after the public hearing.

(b) The manager shall continue to receive his or her salary until the effective date of a final resolution of removal.

(c) The mayor and council may for disciplinary purposes suspend the city manager with or without pay for a period of up to 30 days by affirmative vote of a majority of all its members.

(d) The mayor and council may designate a person or persons to perform the functions and duties of the city manager during his or her absence, disability, or suspension. Vacancies in the office of city manager shall be filled by the mayor and council as early as practicable, and, until such vacancy is filled, the mayor and council shall have full powers to make a temporary appointment of a qualified person to perform the functions and duties of this office.

SECTION 2.29.

Acting city manager.

By letter filed with the city clerk, the manager shall designate, subject to approval of the city council, a qualified city administrative officer to exercise the powers and perform the duties of manager during his or her temporary absence or disability. During such absence or disability, the city council may revoke such designation at any time and appoint another officer of the city to serve until the manager shall return or the manager's disability shall cease.
SECTION 2.30.

Powers and duties of the city manager.

The city manager shall be the chief executive and administrative officer of the city. The city manager shall be responsible to the city council for the administration of all city affairs placed in his or her charge by or under this charter. The city manager shall have the following powers and duties:

1. The city manager shall have the power to appoint, and when the city manager deems it necessary for the good of the city, suspend or remove all city employees and administrative officers the city manager appoints, and all other employees of the city, except the city attorney, city judge, and members of the boards and commissions, who shall be appointed by the mayor and council. In suspending and removing employees, the city manager shall have authority to do so without consent of the mayor and council but must keep the mayor and council advised of any actions deemed necessary. The city manager may authorize any administrative officer who is subject to his or her direction and supervision to exercise these powers with respect to subordinates in that officer's department, office, or agency;

2. The city manager shall direct and supervise the administration of all departments, offices, and agencies of the city, except as otherwise provided by this charter or by law;

3. The city manager shall attend all city council meetings except for closed meetings held for the purposes of deliberating on the appointment, discipline, or removal of the city manager and shall have the right to take part in discussion but may not vote;

4. The city manager shall see that all laws, provisions of this charter, and ordinances of the city council, subject to enforcement by the city manager or by officers subject to the city manager's direction and supervision, are faithfully executed;

5. The city manager shall prepare and submit the annual operating budget and capital budget to the city council;
(6) The city manager shall submit to the city council and make available to the public a complete report on the finances and administrative activities of the city as of the end of each fiscal year;

(7) The city manager shall make such other reports as the city council may require concerning the operation of city departments, offices, and agencies subject to the manager's direction and supervision;

(8) The city manager shall keep the city council fully advised as to the financial condition and future needs of the city and make such recommendations to the city council concerning the affairs of the city as he or she deems desirable;

(9) The city manager shall perform other such duties as are specified in this charter or as may be required by the city council; and

(10) The city manager shall supervise the performance of all contracts made by any person for work done for the City of Jefferson and be the purchasing agent of materials and supplies for the city under such rules and regulations as may be imposed by the mayor and council.

SECTION 2.31.

Council interference with administration.

Except for the purpose of inquiries and investigations under Section 2.15 of this charter, or other inquiries and investigations initiated by action of the mayor and council, the city council or its members shall deal with city officers and employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the manager solely through the manager, and neither the city council nor its members shall give orders to any such officer or employee, either publicly or privately.
SECTION 2.32.

Election of mayor; forfeiture; compensation.

The mayor shall be elected and serve for a term of four years, or until his or her successor is elected and qualified. The mayor shall be a qualified elector of this city and shall have been a resident of the city for at least 12 months immediately preceding his or her election. Her or she shall continue to reside in this city during the period of his or her service. The mayor shall forfeit his or her office on the same grounds and under the same procedure as for councilmembers. The compensation of the mayor shall be established in the same manner as for councilmembers. The mayor shall be elected by the vote of the electors within all five districts.

SECTION 2.33.

Mayor pro tempore.

During the absence or physical or mental disability of the mayor for any cause, the mayor pro tempore, or in the mayor pro tempore's absence or disability for any reason, any one of the councilmembers chosen by a majority vote of the city council shall be clothed with all the rights and privileges of the mayor and shall perform the duties of the office of the mayor so long as such absence or disability shall continue. Any such absence or disability shall be declared by majority vote of all councilmembers. When acting as mayor, the mayor pro tempore shall continue to have only one vote as a member of the council.
SECTIONS 2.34.

Powers and duties of mayor.

The mayor shall:

1. Preside at all meetings of the city council;
2. Be the head of the city for the purpose of service of process and for ceremonial purposes and be the official spokesperson for the city and the chief advocate of policy;
3. Have the power to administer oaths and to make affidavits;
4. Sign as a matter of course on behalf of the city all written and approved contracts, ordinances, and other instruments executed by the city which by law are required to be in writing;
5. Vote on matters before the city council only in event of a tie and be counted toward a quorum as any other councilmember;
6. Fulfill such other duties as the city council shall by ordinance establish; and
7. Represent the city in ceremonial intergovernmental relations.

ARTICLE III.

ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT, GENERAL AUTHORITY, AND ORDINANCES

SECTION 3.10.

Department heads.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this charter, the city council, by ordinance, shall prescribe the functions or duties and establish, abolish, alter, consolidate, or leave vacant all nonelective offices, positions of employment, departments, and agencies of the city as necessary for the proper administration of the affairs and government of this city.
(b) Except as otherwise provided by this charter or by law, the directors or departments and other appointed officers of the city shall be appointed solely on the basis of their respective administrative and professional qualifications.

(c) All appointed officers and directors of departments shall receive such compensation as prescribed by ordinance.

(d) There shall be a director of each department or agency who shall be its principal officer. Each director shall, subject to the direction and supervision of the city manager, be responsible for the administration and direction of the affairs and operations of the department or agency.

(e) All appointed officers and directors under the supervision of the city manager shall be nominated by the city manager with confirmation of appointment by the city council. All appointed officers and directors shall be employees at will and subject to removal or suspension at any time by the city manager unless otherwise provided by law or ordinance.

SECTION 3.11.

Boards, commissions, and authorities.

(a) The city council shall create, by ordinance, such boards, commissions, and authorities to fulfill any investigative, quasi-judicial, or quasi-legislative function the city council deems necessary, and shall by ordinance establish the composition, period of existence, duties, and powers thereof.

(b) All members of boards, commissions, and authorities of the city shall be appointed by the city council for such terms of office and in such manner as shall be provided by ordinance, except where other appointing authority, terms of office, or manner of appointment is prescribed by this charter or by law.

(c) The city council, by ordinance, may provide for the compensation and reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses of the members of any board, commission, or authority.
(d) Except as otherwise provided by charter or by law, no member of any board, commission or authority shall qualify for or hold any elective office in the city.

(e) Any vacancy on a board, commission, or authority of the city shall be filled for the unexpired term in the manner prescribed for the original appointment, except as otherwise provided by this charter or by law.

(f) No member of a board, commission, or authority shall assume office until that person has executed and filed with the city clerk an oath obligating himself or herself to faithfully and impartially perform the duties of that member's office, such oath to be prescribed by ordinance and administered by the mayor.

(g) All board members serve at will and may be removed at any time by a vote of three members of the city council unless otherwise provided by law.

(h) Except as otherwise provided by this charter or by law, each board, commission, or authority of the city shall elect one of its members as chair and one member as vice-chair, and may elect as its secretary one of its own members or may appoint as secretary an employee of the city. Each board, commission, or authority of the city government may establish such bylaws, rules, and regulations, not inconsistent with this charter, ordinances of the city, or law, as it deems appropriate and necessary for the fulfillment of his or her duties or the conduct of its affairs. Copies of such bylaws, rules, and regulations shall be filed with the city clerk.

SECTION 3.12.

City attorney.

The city council shall appoint a city attorney, together with such assistant city attorneys as may be authorized, and shall provide for the payment of such attorney or attorneys for services rendered to the city. The city attorney shall be responsible for representing and defense of the city in all litigation in which the city is a party, may be the prosecuting officer

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in the municipal court; shall attend the meetings of the council as directed, shall advise the
city council, mayor, and other officers and employees of the city concerning legal aspects of
the city's affairs, and shall perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by
virtue of his or her position as city attorney.

The city attorney is not a public official of the city and does not take an oath of office. The
city attorney shall at all times be an independent contractor. A law firm, rather than an
individual, may be designated as the city attorney.

SECTION 3.13.
City clerk.

The city manager shall appoint a city clerk who shall not be a councilmember. The city clerk
shall be custodian of the official city seal and city records, maintain city council records
required by this charter, and perform such other duties as may be required by the city
manager. The office of city clerk may be a part-time or full-time position.

SECTION 3.14.
City accountant.

The city council shall appoint a certified public accountant to perform the duties of an
independent auditor and to make an annual audit of all financial books and records of the city
which shall be filed with the city.
SECTION 3.15.

Position classification and pay plan.

The city manager shall be responsible for the preparation of a position classification and pay plan which shall be submitted to the city council for approval. Such plan may apply to all employees of the city and any of its agencies, departments, boards, commissions, or authorities. When a pay plan has been adopted, the city council shall not increase or decrease the salary range applicable to any position except by amendment of such pay plan. For purposes of this section, all elected and appointed city officials are not city employees.

SECTION 3.16.

Personnel policies.

All employees serve at will and may be removed from office at any time unless otherwise provided by ordinance. The city council shall adopt rules and regulations consistent with this charter concerning:

1. The method of employee selection and probationary periods of employment;
2. The administration of the position classification and pay plan, methods of promotion and applicable of service ratings thereto, and transfer of employees within the classification plan;
3. Hours of work, vacation, sick leave, and other leaves of absence, overtime pay, and the order and manner in which layoffs shall be effected;
4. Such dismissal hearings as due process may require; and
5. Such other personnel notices as may be necessary to provide for adequate and systematic handling of personnel affairs.

Such personnel policies shall be recommended, directed, and administered by the city manager as personnel director of all employees of the city.
ARTICLE IV.

JUDICIAL BRANCH

SECTION 4.10.

Municipal court.

There shall be a court to be known as the Municipal Court of the City of Jefferson.

SECTION 4.11.

Judges.

(a) The municipal court shall be presided over by a chief judge and such part-time, full-time, or stand-by judges as shall be provided by ordinance.

(b) No person shall be qualified or eligible to serve as a judge on the municipal court unless that person shall have attained the age of 25 years, shall be a member of the State Bar of Georgia, and shall possess all qualifications required by law. All judges shall be appointed by the city council and shall serve until a successor is appointed and qualified.

(c) Compensation of the judge or judges shall be fixed by ordinance.

(d) Judges serve as provided in Code Section 36-32-2 of the O.C.G.A. and may be removed from office in accordance with Code Section 36-32-2.1 of the O.C.G.A., or other such applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted. Subject to Code Section 36-32-2 of the O.C.G.A., et seq., or other such applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted, judges serve at will and may be removed from office at any time by the city council unless otherwise provided by ordinance.

(e) Before assuming office, each judge shall take an oath, given by the mayor or other officer authorized to administer oaths, that the judge will honestly and faithfully discharge the duties of the office to the best of that person's ability and without fear, favor, or partiality.
The oath shall be entered upon the minutes of the city council journal required in Section 2.20 of this charter.

SECTION 4.12.

Convening of court.

The municipal court shall be convened at regular intervals as provided by ordinance.

SECTION 4.13.

Jurisdiction; powers.

(a) The municipal court shall have jurisdiction and authority to try and punish violations of this charter, all city ordinances, and such other violations as provided by law.

(b) The municipal court shall have authority to punish those in its presence for contempt; provided that such punishment shall not exceed a fine of $200.00 or ten days in jail.

(c) The maximum punishment for offenses committed under state law shall be those limits as established by general law.

(d) The municipal court shall have the authority to establish a schedule of fees to defray the cost of operation and shall be entitled to reimbursement of the cost of meals, transportation, and caretaking of prisoners bound over to superior courts for violation of state law.

(e) The municipal court shall have authority to establish bail and recognizances to ensure the presence of those charged with violations before said court and shall have discretionary authority to accept cash or personal or real property as surety bond for the appearance of persons charged with violations. Whenever any person shall give bail for that person's appearance and shall fail to appear at the time fixed for trial, that person's bond shall be forfeited through procedures established by general law by the presiding judge. In the event that cash or property is accepted in lieu of bond for security for the appearance of a defendant
at trial, and if such defendant fails to appear at the time and place fixed for trial, the cash so
deposited shall be on order of the judge declared forfeited to the city, or the property so
deposited shall have a lien against it for the value forfeited which lien shall be enforceable
in the same manner and to the same extent as a lien for city property taxes.

(f) The municipal court shall have the same authority as superior courts to compel the
production of evidence in the possession of any party; to enforce obedience to its orders,
judgments, and sentences; and to administer such oaths as are necessary.

(g) The municipal court may compel the presence of all parties necessary to a proper
disposal of each case by the issuance of summonses, subpoenas, and warrants which may be
served as executed by any officer as authorized by this charter or by law.

(h) Each judge of the municipal court shall be authorized to issue warrants for the arrest of
persons charged with offenses against any ordinance of the city, and each judge of the
municipal court shall have the same authority as a magistrate of the state to issue warrants
for offenses against state laws committed within the city.

(i) The municipal court is specifically vested with all the jurisdiction and powers throughout
the geographic area of this city granted by law to municipal courts and particularly by such
laws as authorize the abatement of nuisance and prosecution of traffic violations as set out
in Title 40 of the O.C.G.A., including Uniform Rules of the Road.

(j) The judge of the municipal court shall be authorized, to the extent the city attorney
declines to act as prosecuting attorney, to appoint on behalf of the city a prosecuting attorney
for the municipal court. Said attorney shall be compensated by the city. Said judge shall
also be authorized to employ a court reporter for each of the court proceedings over which
he or she presides with said court reporter being compensated by the city.
SECTION 4.14.
Certiorari.

The right of certiorari from the decision and judgment of the municipal court shall exist in all criminal cases and ordinance violation cases, and such certiorari shall be obtained under the sanction of a judge of the Superior Court of Jackson County under the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia regulating the granting and issuance of writs of certiorari.

SECTION 4.15.
Rules for court.

With the approval of the city council, the judge shall have full power and authority to make reasonable rules and regulations necessary and proper to secure the efficient and successful administration of the municipal court; provided, however, that the city council may adopt in part or in toto the rules and regulations applicable to superior courts. The rules and regulations made or adopted shall be filed with the city clerk, shall be available for public inspection, and, upon request, a copy shall be furnished to all defendants in municipal court proceedings at least 48 hours prior to said proceedings.

ARTICLE V.
ELECTIONS

SECTION 5.10.
Applicability of general law.

All elections shall be held and conducted in accordance with Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code," as now or hereafter amended.
SECTION 5.11.  
Election of the city council and mayor.

(a) There shall be a municipal general election biennially in the odd-numbered years on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November.
(b) There shall be elected the mayor and councilmembers from Council Districts 2 and 4 at one election and at every other election thereafter. The remaining city council seats for Council Districts 1, 3, and 5 shall be filled at the election alternating with the first election so that a continuing body is created.

SECTION 5.12.  
Nonpartisan elections.

Political parties shall not conduct primaries for city offices and all names of candidates for city offices shall be listed without party labels.

SECTION 5.13.  
Election by majority.

The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast for any city office shall be elected. If no one receives a majority of votes cast, a run off election must be held between the two candidates that received the highest vote count as provided in Georgia law.
SECTION 5.14.

Special elections; vacancies.

In the event that the office of mayor or councilmember shall become vacant for any cause whatsoever, the city council or those remaining shall order a special election to fill the balance of the unexpired term of such official; provided, however, if such vacancy occurs within 12 months of the expiration of the term of that office, the city council or those members remaining shall appoint a successor for the remainder of the term. In all other respects, the special election shall be held and conducted in accordance with Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code," as now or hereafter amended.

SECTION 5.15.

Other provisions.

Except as otherwise provided by this charter, the city council shall by ordinance prescribe such rules and regulations it deems appropriate to fulfill any options and duties under Georgia Election Code, Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code," as now or hereafter amended.

SECTION 5.16.

Removal of officers.

(a) The mayor, councilmembers, or other appointed officers provided for in this charter shall be removed from office for any one or more of the causes provided in Title 45 of the O.C.G.A., or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.

(b) Removal of an officer pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be accomplished by one of the following methods:
(1) Following a hearing at which an impartial panel shall render a decision. In the event an elected officer is sought to be removed by the action of the city council, such officer shall be entitled to a written notice specifying the ground or grounds for removal and to a public hearing which shall be held not less than ten days after the service of such written notice. The city council shall provide by ordinance for the manner in which such hearings shall be held. Any elected officer sought to be removed from office as provided in this charter shall have the right of appeal from the decision of the city council to the Superior Court of Jackson County. Such appeal shall be governed by the same rules as govern appeals to the superior court from the probate court;

(2) By an order of the Superior Court of Jackson County following a hearing on a complaint seeking such removal brought by any resident of the City of Jefferson;

(3) By recall, only of elected officials, pursuant to Georgia law; and

(4) Pursuant to the terms of general law.

ARTICLE VI.

FINANCE

SECTION 6.10.

Property tax.

The city council may assess, levy, and collect an ad valorem tax on all real and personal property within the corporate limits of the city that is subject to such taxation by the state and county. This tax is for the purpose of raising revenues to defray the costs of operating the city government, of providing governmental services, for the repayment of principal and interest on general obligations, and for any other public purpose as determined by the city council in its discretion.
SECTION 6.11. Millage rate.

The city council by ordinance shall establish a millage rate for the city property tax, a due date, and the time period within which these taxes must be paid. The city council may by ordinance provide for the payment of these taxes by installments or in one lump sum, as well as authorize the voluntary payment of taxes prior to the time when due.


The city council by ordinance shall have the power to levy such occupation or business taxes as are not denied by law. The city council may classify businesses, occupations, or professions for the purpose of such taxation in any way which may be lawful and may compel the payment of such taxes as provided in Section 6.18 of this charter.

SECTION 6.13. Regulatory fees; permits.

The city council by ordinance shall have the power to require businesses or practitioners doing business within this city to obtain a permit for such activity from the city and pay a reasonable regulatory fee for such permit as provided by general law. Such fees shall reflect the total cost to the city of regulating the activity and, if unpaid, shall be collected as provided in Section 6.18 of this charter.

Franchises.

(a) The city council shall have the power to grant franchises for the use of this city's streets and alleys for the purposes of railroads, street railways, telephone companies, electric companies, electric membership corporations, cable television and other telecommunications companies, gas companies, transportation companies, and other similar organizations. The city council shall determine the duration, terms, whether the same shall be exclusive or nonexclusive, and the consideration for such franchises; provided, however, no franchise shall be granted for a period in excess of 35 years and no franchise shall be granted unless the city receives just and adequate compensation therefor. The city council shall provide for the registration of all franchises with the city clerk in a registration book kept by the clerk. The city council may provide by ordinance for the registration within a reasonable time of all franchises previously granted.

(b) If no franchise agreement is in effect, the city council has the authority to impose a tax on gross receipts for the use of this city's streets and alleys for the purposes of railroads, street railways, telephone companies, electric companies, electric membership corporation, cable television and other telecommunications companies, gas companies, transportation companies, and other similar organizations.

SECTION 6.15.

Service charges.

The city council by ordinance shall have the power to assess and collect fees, charges, assessments, and tolls for sewers, sanitary and health services, water or water services, or any other services provided or made available inside or outside the corporate limits of the city. If unpaid, such charges shall be collected as provided in Section 6.18 of this charter.
SECTION 6.16.
Special assessments.

The city council by ordinance shall have the power to assess and collect the costs of constructing, reconstructing, widening, or improving any public way, street, sidewalk, curbing, gutters, sewers, or other utility mains and appurtenances from the abutting property owners under such terms and conditions as are reasonable. If unpaid, such charges shall be collected as provided in Section 6.18 of this charter.

SECTION 6.17.
Other taxes.

This city shall be empowered to levy any other tax allowed now or hereafter by law, and the specific mention of any right, power, or authority in this article shall not be construed as limiting in any way the general powers of this city to govern its local affairs.

SECTION 6.18.
Collection of delinquent taxes.

The city council by ordinance may provide generally for the collection of delinquent taxes, fees, or other revenue due the city under Sections 6.10 through 6.17 of this charter by whatever reasonable means as are not precluded by law. This shall include providing for the dates when the taxes or fees are due, late penalties or interest, issuance and execution of fi.fas., creation and priority of liens, making delinquent taxes and fees personal debts of the persons required to pay the taxes or fees imposed, revoking city permits for failure to pay any city taxes or fees, and providing for the assignment or transfer of tax executions. The City of Jefferson shall have the power to file its tax fi.fas. in the Superior Court, State Court, or
Magistrate Court of Jackson County and to utilize processes of garnishment to collect these
taxes.

SECTION 6.19.
Borrowing.

The city council shall have the power to issue bonds for the purpose of raising revenue to
carry out any project, program, or venture authorized under this charter or the laws of the
state. Such bonding authority shall be exercised in accordance with the laws governing bond
issuance by municipalities in effect at the time said issue is undertaken.

SECTION 6.20.
Revenue bonds.

Revenue bonds may be issued by the city council as provided by state law. Such bonds are
to be paid out of any revenue produced by the project, program, or venture for which they
were issued.

SECTION 6.21.
Short-term loans.

The city may obtain short-term loans and must repay such loans not later than December 31
of each year, unless otherwise provided by law.
SECTION 6.22. Lease-purchase contracts.

The city may enter into multiyear lease, purchase, or lease-purchase contracts for the acquisition of goods, materials, real and personal property, services, and supplies, provided that the contract terminates without further obligation on the part of the municipality at the close of the calendar year in which it was executed and at the close of each succeeding calendar year for which it may be renewed. Contracts must be executed in accordance with the requirements of Code Section 36-60-13 of the O.C.G.A., or other such applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.

SECTION 6.23. Fiscal year.

The city council shall set the fiscal year by ordinance. This fiscal year shall constitute the budget year and the year for financial accounting and reporting of each and every office, department, agency, and activity of the city government unless otherwise provided by state or federal law.


The city council shall provide an ordinance on the procedures and requirements for the preparation and execution of an annual operating budget, a capital improvement program, and a capital budget, including requirements as to the scope, content, and form of such budgets and programs.
SECTION 6.25.
Submission of operating budget to city council.

On or before a date fixed by the city council but not later than October 1 of each year, the city manager shall submit to the city council a proposed operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The budget shall be accompanied by a message from the city manager containing a statement of the general fiscal policies of the city, the important features of the budget, explanations of major changes recommended for the next fiscal year, a general summary of the budget, and such other comments and information as may be deemed pertinent. The operating budget, the capital budget hereinafter provided for, the budget message, and all supporting documents shall be filed in the office of the city clerk and shall be open to public inspection.

SECTION 6.26.
Action by city council on budget.

(a) The city council may amend the operating budget proposed by the city manager, except that the budget as finally amended and adopted must provide for all expenditures required by state law or by other provisions of this charter and for all debt service requirements for the ensuing fiscal year, and the total appropriations from any fund shall not exceed the estimated fund balance, reserves, and revenues.

(b) The city council shall adopt the final operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year not later than November 1 of each year. If the city council fails to adopt the budget by said date, the amounts appropriated for operation for the then current fiscal year shall be deemed adopted for the ensuing fiscal year on a month-to-month basis, with all items prorated accordingly, until such time as the city council adopts a budget for the ensuing fiscal year.

Adoption of the budget shall take the form of an appropriations ordinance setting out the...
estimated revenues in detail by sources and by organizational unit, purpose, or activity as set
out in the budget preparation ordinance adopted pursuant to Section 6.24 of this charter.
(c) The amount set out in the adopted operating budget for each organizational unit shall
constitute the annual appropriation for such, and no expenditure shall be made or
encumbrance created in excess of the otherwise unencumbered balance of the appropriations
or allotment thereof to which it is chargeable.

SECTION 6.27.
Tax levies.

Following adoption of the operating budget, the city council shall levy by ordinance such
taxes as are necessary. The taxes and tax rates set by such ordinance shall be such that
reasonable estimates of revenues from such levy shall at least be sufficient, together with
other anticipated revenues, fund balances, and applicable reserves, to equal the total amount
appropriated for each of the several funds set forth in the annual operating budget for
defraying the expense of the general government of this city.

SECTION 6.28.
Changes in appropriations.

The city council by ordinance may make changes in the appropriations contained in the
current operating budget at any regular meeting or special or emergency meeting called for
such purposes, but any additional appropriations may be made only from an existing
unexpended surplus.
SECTION 6.29. 
Capital budget.

(a) On or before the date fixed by the city council, but not later than October 1, the city manager shall submit to the city council a proposed capital improvements budget with his or her recommendations as to the means of financing the improvements proposed for the ensuing year. The city council shall have the power to accept, with or without amendments, or reject the proposed program and proposed budget. The city council shall not authorize an expenditure for the construction of any building, structure, work, or improvement, unless the appropriations for such project are included in the capital budget except to meet a public emergency as provided in Section 2.24.

(b) The city council shall adopt by ordinance the final capital improvements budget for the ensuing fiscal year not later than January 1 of each year. No appropriations provided for in a prior capital improvements budget shall lapse until the purpose for which the appropriations were made have been accomplished or abandoned; provided, however, the city manager may submit amendments to the capital improvements budget at any time during the fiscal year accompanied by his or her recommendations. Any such amendments to the capital improvements budget shall become effective only upon adoption by ordinance.

SECTION 6.30. 
Independent audit.

There shall be an annual independent audit of all city accounts, funds, and financial transactions by a certified public accountant selected by the city council. The audit shall be conducted according to generally accepted accounting principles. Any audit of any funds by the state or federal government may be accepted as satisfying the requirements of this charter. Copies of all audit reports shall be available at printing costs to the public.
SECTION 6.31.
Contracting procedures.

No contract with the city shall be binding on the city unless:

1. It is in writing;
2. It is drawn by or submitted and reviewed by the city attorney and, as a matter of course, is signed by the city attorney to indicate such drafting or review; and
3. It is made or authorized by the city council and such approval is entered in the city council journal of proceedings pursuant to Section 2.20.

SECTION 6.32.
Centralized purchasing.

The city council shall by ordinance prescribe procedures for a system of centralized purchasing for the city.

SECTION 6.33.
Sale and lease of city property.

(a) The city council may sell and convey, or lease any real or personal property owned or held by the city for governmental or other purposes as now or hereafter provided by law.

(b) The city council may quitclaim any rights it may have in property not needed for public purposes upon request by the mayor and adoption of a resolution, both finding that the property is not needed for public or other purposes and that the interest of the city has no readily ascertainable monetary value.

(c) Whenever in opening, extending, or widening any street, avenue, alley, or public place of the city a small parcel or tract of land is cut off or separated by such work from a larger
tract or boundary of land owned by the city, the city council may authorize the mayor sell
and convey said cut-off or separated parcel or tract of land to an abutting or adjoining
property owner or owners. All deeds and conveyances heretofore and hereafter so executed
and delivered shall convey all title and interest the city has in such property, notwithstanding
the fact that no public sale after advertisement was or is hereafter made.

ARTICLE VII.
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 7.10.
Bonds for officials.

The officers and employees of the city, both elected and appointed, shall execute such surety
or fidelity bonds in such amounts and upon such terms and conditions as the city council
shall from time to time require by ordinance or as may be provided by law.

SECTION 7.11.
Prior ordinances.

All ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations now in force in the city not inconsistent
with this charter are hereby declared valid and of full effect and force until amended or
repealed by the city council.
SECTION 7.12.

Existing personnel and officers.

Except as specifically provided otherwise by this charter, all personnel and officers of the city and their rights, privileges, and powers shall continue beyond the time this charter takes effect for a period of 365 days, before or during which the existing city council shall pass a transition ordinance detailing the changes in personnel and appointive officers required or desired and arranging such titles, rights, privileges, and powers as may be required or desired to allow a reasonable transition.

SECTION 7.13.

Pending matters.

Except as specifically provided otherwise by this charter, all rights, claims, actions, orders, contracts, and legal or administrative proceedings shall continue and any such ongoing work or cases shall be completed by such city agencies, personnel, or offices as may be provided by the city council.

SECTION 7.14.

Construction.

(a) Section captions in this charter are informative only and are not to be considered as a part thereof.

(b) The word "shall" is mandatory and the word "may" is permissive.

(c) The singular shall include the plural, the masculine shall include the feminine, and vice versa.
SECTION 7.15.

Severability.

In the event any action, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this charter shall be declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall in no manner affect the other sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases of this charter, which shall remain of full force and effect as if the section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part hereof. The General Assembly declares that it would have passed the remaining parts of this charter if it had known that such part or parts hereof would be declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional. If any article, section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, or part thereof of this charter shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect or impair other parts of this charter unless it clearly appears that such other parts are wholly and necessarily dependent upon the part held to be invalid or unconstitutional, it being the legislative intent in enacting this charter that each article, section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, or part thereof be enacted separately and independent of each other."

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.
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<th>County</th>
<th>VTD</th>
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<td>Central Jackson</td>
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VTD Central Jackson
Block 010601:

1000  1002  1003  1005  1007  1008  1011  1012  1013  1015  1016  1018
1019  2021  2035  2037  3012

Block 010704:

1019  1023  1024  1026  1027  1028  1029  1031  1032  1033  1034

Block 010706:

2012  2036  2038  2039  2040  2041

VTD North Jackson

Block 010701:

1025  1026  1028  1029  1030  2038  2039  2049  2050

District  003
County Jackson GA
VTD Central Jackson

Block 010705:

2000  2001  2002  2003  2004  2005  2011

Block 010706:

1017  1018  2000  2001  2002  2003  2004  2005  2006  2007  2008  2009
2026  2027  2032  2034  2037  2045  2046  2050  3002  3003  3004  3005
3009  3010  3011  3012  3014  3021  3023  3024  3025  3039  3040  3041

District  004
County Jackson GA
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1157 Block 010703:
1158 1002 1003 1004 1012
1159 Block 010705:
1160 1008 1012 1013 2006 2012
1161 Block 010706:
1162 1000 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011 1012
1163 1015 1029 1030 2029 2030 3018 3022 3042

1164 District 005
1165 County Jackson GA
1166 VTD Central Jackson
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1168 3035 3059
1169 Block 010701:
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1171 Block 010704:
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