A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To provide a new charter for the City of Zebulon, Georgia; to provide for incorporation, boundaries, and powers of the city; to provide for general powers and limitations on powers; to provide for organization, regular, and special meetings of the city council; to provide for rules of procedure, quorums and voting regarding city council meetings; to provide for branches of government; to provide for a governing authority of such city and the powers, duties, authority, election, terms, removal from office, method of filling vacancies, compensation, expenses, qualifications, and conflicts of interest; to provide for inquiries and investigations; to provide for ordinances and resolutions; to provide for eminent domain; to provide for codes; to provide for the office of mayor and certain duties and powers relative to the office of mayor; to provide for a veto and powers and procedures thereto; to provide for a mayor pro tem and a city administrator, appointments, qualifications, compensation, and powers thereof; to provide for administrative responsibilities; to provide for boards, commissions, and authorities; to provide for a city attorney, city clerk, and other personnel; to provide for a municipal court and the judge or judges thereof; to provide for rules of court; to provide for practices and procedures; to provide for taxation, permits, 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 contracting and purchasing; to provide for bonds for officials; to provide for prior ordinances, resolutions, policies, and regulations; to provide for existing personnel and officers; to provide for definitions and construction; to provide for other matters relative to the foregoing; to provide for severability; to provide for related matters; to repeal a specific Act; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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ARTICLE I
INCORPORATION AND POWERS

Section 1.10.
Incorporation and name.

This city, and the inhabitants thereof, are reincorporated by the enactment of this charter and are hereby constituted and declared a body politic and corporate under the name and style the City of Zebulon, Georgia, and by that name shall have perpetual succession.

Section 1.20.
Corporate boundaries and districts.

(a) The boundaries of this 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.

(b) 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 administrator and to be designated, as the case may be: "Official Map (or Description) of the corporate limits of the City of Zebulon, Georgia." 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.

(c) The City of Zebulon shall have election districts that shall be more specifically designated by ordinance adopted by the city council. A councilmember shall be elected to represent each district.

Section 1.30.
Powers and construction.

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

(b) The powers of this 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.
Section 1.40.
Examples of powers.

(a) 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 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;

(b) 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 purpose for which a municipality is authorized by the laws of the State of Georgia; and to provide for the payment of expenses of the city;

(c) Building Regulation. 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;

(d) 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 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, or other such applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted; to permit and regulate the same; to provide for the manner and method of payment of such regulatory fees and taxes; and to revoke such permits after due process for failure to pay any city taxes or fees;

(e) 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 or Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted;

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

(g) Emergencies. To establish procedures 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;

(h) Environmental Protection. To protect and preserve the natural resources, environment, and vital areas of the city, the region, and 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;

(i) Fire Regulations. To fix and establish fire limits and from time to time to 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 fire-fighting; and to prescribe penalties and punishment for violations thereof;

(j) 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;

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

(l) Gifts. To accept or refuse gifts, donations, bequests, or grants from any source for any purpose related to 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;

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

(n) Jail Sentences. To provide that persons given jail sentences in the city's 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 commitment of such persons to any jail, to provide for the use of pretrial diversion and any alternative sentencing allowed by law, or to provide for commitment of such persons to any county work camp or county jail by agreement with the appropriate county officials;

(o) 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;

(p) 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;

(q) 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;
(r) Municipal Property Ownership. To acquire, dispose of, lease, 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;

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

(t) 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 light 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;

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

(v) 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;

(w) 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 insure a safe, healthy, and aesthetically pleasing community;

(x) 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 a firefighting agency;

(y) 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;

(z) Public Improvements. To provide for the acquisition, construction, building, operation, and maintenance of public ways, parks and 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; and 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 Titles 22 and 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted;

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

(bb) Public Transportation. To organize and operate such public transportation systems as are deemed beneficial;
Public Utilities and Services. To grant franchises or make contracts for, or impose taxes on public utilities and public service companies; and to prescribe the rates, fares, regulations, and 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;

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 or within view thereof, within or abutting the corporate limits of the city; and to prescribe penalties and punishment for violation of such ordinances;

Retirement. To provide and maintain a retirement plan and other employee benefit plans and programs for officers and employees of the city;

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; and 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;

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, and to levy on those to whom sewers and sewerage systems are made available a sewer service fee, charge, or sewer 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;

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 to provide for the sale of such items;

Special Areas of Public Regulation. To regulate or prohibit junk dealers, the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors; 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 taxation or otherwise; to license and
tax professional fortunetelling, palmistry, and massage parlors; and to restrict adult
bookstores to certain areas;

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

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

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

(mm) 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;

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

(oo) 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; and to exercise all implied powers necessary or desirable to carry into
execution all powers granted in this charter as fully and completely as if such powers were
fully stated herein; 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 1.50.

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
MEETINGS

Section 2.10.
Organizational meetings.

The city council shall hold an organizational meeting in January following each municipal election, on a date specified by ordinance. The meeting shall be called to order by the city clerk and 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 (state name) do solemnly swear or affirm that I will faithfully and to the best of my ability perform the duties of the office of (include name of office, i.e., mayor or councilmember) of the City of Zebulon, that I will uphold the Constitution and the Laws of the United States and of the State of Georgia, and that I will enforce the provisions of the City's Charter and all duly enacted ordinances, resolutions and policies of the City of Zebulon."

Section 2.20.
Regular and special meetings.

(a) The city council shall hold regular meetings at such times and places as shall be prescribed by the council and in accordance with state and local law.

(b) Special meetings of the city council may be held on call of the mayor or any two members of the city council. Notice of such special meetings shall be served on all other members personally, or by telephone personally, at least 24 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) Emergency meetings may be called pursuant to this section and in accordance with state law. Any such emergency meetings shall be open to the public to the extent required by law; and notice to the public of emergency meetings shall be made pursuant to subsection (d) of this section and in accordance with the requirements of Code Section...
(d) 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 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, or other such
applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.

Section 2.30.
Rules of procedure.

(a) The city council shall adopt by ordinance such rules of procedure related to its
meetings and the conducting of official business that are consistent with this charter and
shall comply with all state laws related to open meetings and open records, which require
such documentation as agendas, post-meeting summaries, and official minutes to be kept
as part of the official records of the city, most of which are considered public records.
(b) All appointments to be made consistent with this charter and the ordinances,
resolutions, and policies of the City of Zebulon shall be made by the mayor with the
approval of the council. The appointments shall serve at the pleasure of the mayor and
council.

Section 2.40.
Quorums and voting.

(a) The mayor, or mayor pro tempore in the absence of the mayor, plus two
councilmembers shall constitute a quorum and shall be authorized to transact business of
the city council. Voting on the adoption of ordinances, resolutions, or other action required
of the city shall be by voice vote and the vote shall be recorded in the minutes; 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 the councilmembers shall be required for the adoption of any
ordinance, resolution, or motion. The mayor shall not vote on any business of the city,
except when needed to break a tie vote of the council.
(b) No member of the city council shall abstain from voting on any matter properly
brought before the council for official action, except when such councilmember has a valid
conflict of interest. An unexcused abstention noted on the record shall be counted as an
affirmative vote.
ARTICLE III
GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

Section 3.10.
Branches of government.

The City of Zebulon shall be composed of three branches of government, the Legislative Branch, the Executive Branch, and the Judicial Branch.

ARTICLE IV
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 4.10.
City council creation, number, election.

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 four 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 general law and this charter. The council shall be composed of an even number of members each of whom shall be elected by district by the voters in that district.

Section 4.20.
City council terms and qualifications for office.

(a) Councilmembers shall serve for terms of four years and until their respective successors are elected and qualified. No person shall be eligible to serve as councilmember unless that person shall have been a resident of the city for 12 months prior to the date of election of mayor or members of the council; each councilmember shall continue to reside therein during that member's period of service and to be registered and qualified to vote in municipal elections of this city.

(b) In addition to the above requirement, each person representing a council district shall have been a resident of the district that such person seeks to represent for a continuous period of at least six months immediately prior to the date of the election for councilmember; and said person shall continue to reside in such district during his or her term of office.
(c) No person shall be eligible to serve as a councilmember unless he or she is at least 18 years old and owes no outstanding debt obligation to the city, including but not limited to past due taxes or water bills.

(d) Each person seeking to hold office in the City of Zebulon must meet the general requirements of eligibility and qualifications enumerated in what is presently known as Code Section 45-2-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, except as otherwise provided in this section.

Section 4.30.

Vacancy; filling of vacancies.

(a) Vacancies – The office of mayor or councilmember shall become vacant upon the incumbent's death, resignation, forfeiture of office, or occurrence of any event specified by the Constitution of the State of Georgia, Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.

(b) Filling of Vacancies – 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 this charter and in accordance with Titles 21 and 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, 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 4.40.

Compensation and expenses.

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

Section 4.50.

Holding other office; voting when financially interested.

(a) 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.
(b) 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 that person was elected.
(c) Neither the mayor nor any member of the city council shall vote upon, sign, or veto any
ordinance, resolution, contract, or other matter in which that person is financially
interested.

Section 4.60.

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 4.70.

General power and authority of the city council.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law or 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 Zebulon and may enforce such
ordinances by imposing penalties for violation thereof.

Section 4.80.

Eminent domain.

The city council is hereby 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, detentional,
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 4.90.
Ordinances, resolutions, and regulations.

(a) Ordinances.

1. Every proposed ordinance should be introduced in writing. The enacting clause for
each ordinance shall be in a form such as "It is hereby ordained by the governing
authority of the City of Zebulon." No ordinance shall contain a subject which is not
expressed in its title.

2. An ordinance may be introduced by the mayor, any councilmember, the city
administrator, or the city attorney and shall be read at a regular or special meeting of the
city council. Ordinances shall be considered and either adopted or rejected by the city
council; provided, however, an ordinance shall not be adopted the same day it is first
introduced, except in the case of emergencies as provided for in this charter. The city
clerk shall distribute a copy of any ordinance to be introduced to the city council prior to
the introduction and/or finalization of the ordinance; and said clerk shall make a copy of
any ordinance to be introduced to the city council available to the public for inspection.

3. Acts of the city council which have the force and effect of law must be enacted by
ordinance, which shall require two readings with the final approval and enactment being
made in conjunction with the second reading of the proposed ordinance.

(b) Resolutions are actions taken by the city council that do not have the force and effect
of law. Resolutions shall be enacted upon the majority vote of the city council, and do not
require two readings and may be adopted at the meeting any such resolution is first
introduced.

(c) Codes of technical regulations.

1. 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 described above, except that the
requirements for the distribution and filing of copies of the ordinance shall be construed
to require copies of any code of technical regulations to be included with the ordinance
being considered for adoption. Moreover, a copy of each adopted code of technical
regulations along with the adopted ordinance shall be authenticated and recorded by the
clerk pursuant to this charter.

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

d) Signing; authenticating; recording; codification; printing.

(1) The clerk shall authenticate by the clerk's signature and record in full in a properly indexed book kept for that purpose, all ordinances, resolutions, and regulations adopted by the council.

(2) The city council 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 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 Zebulon, Georgia." Copies of the code shall be furnished to all officers, departments, and agencies of the city, and made available for purchase by the public at a reasonable price as fixed by the city council.

(3) The city council shall cause each ordinance, resolution, and regulation, 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 currently in effect and shall be suitable in form for incorporation therein. The city council shall make such further arrangements as deemed desirable with reproduction and distribution of any current changes in or additions to codes of technical regulations and other rules and regulations included in the code.

ARTICLE V
EXECUTIVE BRANCH
MAYOR, MAYOR PRO TEM, CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Section 5.10.
Election of mayor; forfeiture; compensation.

The mayor shall be elected and serve for a term of four years and until a 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 12 months prior to the election. The mayor shall continue to reside in this city during the period of service. The mayor shall forfeit the 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.

Section 5.20.
Mayor pro tem.

By a majority vote, the city council shall elect a councilmember to serve as mayor pro tem.
The mayor pro tem shall assume the duties and powers of the mayor during the mayor's
physical or mental disability, suspension from office, or absence. Any such disability or
absence shall be declared by a majority vote of the city council. The mayor pro tem shall
sign all contracts and ordinances in which the mayor has a disqualifying financial interest as
provided herein.

Section 5.30.
Powers and duties of mayor.

The mayor shall:
(a) Preside at all meetings of the city council;
(b) 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;
(c) Have the power to administer oaths and to take affidavits;
(d) 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;
(e) As referenced herein, the mayor, or mayor pro tem in the absence of the mayor, shall
not vote on matters before the city council except when needed to break a tie vote of the
council; and, if necessary in the case of absences, shall vote in order to have an affirmative
vote of three to pass on a matter;
(f) Advise the city administrator regarding the preparation of the annual operating budget
and recommended capital budget; and
(g) Fulfill such other executive and administrative duties as the city council shall by
ordinance establish, which shall not conflict with duties of the city administrator.
Section 5.40.
Submission of ordinances to the mayor; veto power.

(a) Every ordinance adopted by the city council shall be presented promptly by the clerk to the mayor.
(b) The mayor, within ten calendar days of receipt of an ordinance, shall return it to the clerk with or without the mayor's approval, or with the mayor's disapproval. If the ordinance has been approved by the mayor, it shall become law upon its execution by the mayor or upon the return of the approved ordinance to the clerk; if the ordinance is neither approved nor disapproved, it shall become law at twelve o'clock noon on the tenth calendar day after its adoption; if the ordinance is disapproved by the mayor, the mayor shall submit to the city council through the clerk a written veto stating the reasons for the veto. The clerk shall record upon the ordinance the date of its delivery to and receipt from the mayor.
(c) Ordinances vetoed by the mayor shall be presented by the clerk to the city council at the next meeting of the council. If the city council then or at its next meeting adopts the ordinance by an affirmative vote of four members, it shall become law and overrides the mayor's veto.

Section 5.50.
Mayor pro tem; selection; duties.

By a majority vote, the city council shall elect a councilmember to serve as mayor pro tem. The mayor pro tem shall preside at all meetings of the city council and shall assume the duties and powers of the mayor upon the mayor's physical or mental disability, suspension from office, or absence. The city council by a majority vote shall elect a new presiding officer from among its members for any period in which the mayor pro tem is disabled, absent, or acting as mayor. Any such absence or disability shall be declared by majority vote of all councilmembers. When serving as mayor, the mayor pro tem shall have the same voting privileges as provided for the mayor herein.

Section 5.60.
City administrator.

The city administrator is considered the chief administrative officer of the City of Zebulon. The city administrator shall be responsible for administering the day to day operations of the city, subject to the direction of the mayor and council, and consistent with the ordinances, resolutions, policies, and regulations of the city.
ARTICLE VI
JUDICIAL BRANCH
MUNICIPAL COURT

Section 6.10.
Creation; name.

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

Section 6.20.
Chief judge; associate 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 21 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 judges shall be fixed by ordinance.

(d) Judges may be removed from office as provided by state law.

(e) Before assuming office, each judge shall take an oath, given by the mayor, 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.

(f) 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.

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

(h) The municipal court may fix punishment for offenses within its jurisdiction not exceeding a fine of $1,000.00, probation and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months, or any combination of fine, probation, and imprisonment as authorized by state law, this charter, or ordinance. The municipal court may also implement alternative sentencing, including but not limited to pretrial diversion, as may be now or hereafter provided by law.

(i) The municipal court shall have authority to establish a schedule of fees to defray the cost of operation, and shall be entitled to the reimbursement of the cost of meals, transportation, and care taking of prisoners bound over to superior courts for violations of state law.
(j) 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 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, the bond shall be forfeited by the judge presiding at such time, and an execution issued thereon by serving the defendant and the defendant's sureties with notice and rule nisi in accordance with the requirements set forth in state law. In addition, in the event that cash or property is accepted as or in lieu of bond as 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 be subject to having 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.

(k) 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.

(l) 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.

(m) 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 or for any state offense for which the municipal court has jurisdiction. Specifically, 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.

Section 6.30.
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 Pike County under the laws of the State of Georgia regulating the granting and issuance of writs of certiorari.
Section 6.40.

Rules of 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 municipal 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 VII

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS

Section 7.10.

Administrative and service departments.

(a) All administrative affairs of the city shall be at the direction of the city administrator, who shall conduct such administration in accordance with the direction of the mayor and city council, as well as in accordance with applicable federal and state law, and the adopted ordinances, resolutions, policies, and regulations of the City of Zebulon.

(b) 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.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by this charter or by law, the heads of departments and other appointed officers of the city shall be appointed solely on the basis of their respective administrative and professional qualifications.

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

(e) There shall be a director for each city department. Each department director, subject to the direction and supervision of the city administrator, shall be responsible for the administration and direction of the affairs and operations of that department for which the director is responsible. The city administrator shall be the appointing authority related to all city employees. Specifically, the city administrator shall have the authority to appoint, discipline, and discharge city employees, subject to the approval of the city council. The city administrator shall have the authority to assign appointed employees to open city
positions. The city administrator shall confer with the respective directors of city
departments related to the assignments of positions and work duties of employees under
the direction of the department director.

ARTICLE VIII
BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND AUTHORITIES

Section 8.10.
Creation, members, duties of boards.

(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 this charter or by law, no member of any board,
commission, or authority shall 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 herein for 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 as follows:
"I (state name) do solemnly swear or affirm that I will faithfully and to the best of my
ability perform the duties of my appointment as a member of the (state the name of
board, commission, or authority) for the City of Zebulon, that I will uphold the
Constitution and the Laws of the United States and of the State of Georgia, and that I will
enforce the provisions of the City's Charter and all duly enacted ordinances, resolutions,
and policies of the City of Zebulon, as well as all the by-laws or policies related to my
appointment."

(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 its duties or the conduct of its affairs. Copies of such bylaws, rules, and regulations shall be filed with the clerk.

ARTICLE IX
CITY ATTORNEY

Section 9.10. City attorney; appointment and duties.

(a) 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 providing for the representation and defense of the city in all litigation in which the city is a party, unless otherwise agreed upon or as may be required and provided by insurance coverage; may be the prosecuting officer 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 by virtue of the person's position as city attorney.

(b) 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.

ARTICLE X
CITY CLERK

Section 10.10. City clerk; appointment and duties.

The city council shall appoint a city clerk, who may be also known as the 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 council.

ARTICLE XI
ELECTIONS AND REMOVAL

Section 11.10.
Applicability of general law.

All primaries and elections shall be held and conducted in accordance with the "Georgia Election Code," Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, as now codified or as may hereafter be amended.

Section 11.20.
Election of the city council and mayor.

(a) There shall be a municipal general election biennially in the odd years on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November.
(b) The mayor and councilmembers in office upon the adoption of this charter shall remain in office, and their terms of office shall terminate as originally provided by an Act entitled an Act to provide a new charter for the City of Zebulon in Pike County, Georgia, approved March 28, 1961 (Ga. L. 1961, p. 2704), as amended. The terms of councilmembers have been purposely staggered so that two councilmembers will have four-year terms that differ from the other two councilmembers in order to maintain a continuing council body. Regular elections will take place every four years for the mayor and for the respective staggered terms of the councilmembers.

Section 11.30.
Nonpartisan elections.

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

Section 11.40.
Election by plurality.

The person receiving a plurality of the votes cast for any city office shall be elected.
Section 11.50.
Special elections; vacancies.

In the event that the office of mayor or any councilmember shall become vacant, the city council, or those remaining in office, shall order a special election in order to fill the balance of the unexpired term for the vacating official; provided, however, if such vacancy occurs within 12 months of the expiration of the term of that office, the city council or those 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 the "Georgia Election Code," Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, as now codified or as may hereafter be amended.

Section 11.60.
Other elections 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 the "Georgia Election Code," Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, as now codified or as may hereafter be amended.

Section 11.70.
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 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, 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) By decision of the city council. Specifically, 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 shall be entitled to a public hearing, which shall be held not less than ten days after the service of such written notice. The city council may provide by ordinance or resolution the manner in which such hearings shall be held. Any elected officer sought to be removed from office by the decision of the city council shall have the right to appeal the decision of the city council.
to the Superior Court of Pike 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 Pike County following a hearing on a complaint
seeking such removal brought by any resident of the City of Zebulon.

ARTICLE XII
FINANCE, TAXATION, AND VARIOUS FEES

Section 12.10.
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 12.20.
Millage rate; due dates; payment methods.

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, by
ordinance, may provide for the payment of these taxes by two installments or in one lump
sum, as well as authorize the voluntary payment of taxes prior to the time when due.

Section 12.30.
Occupation and business taxes.

The city council by ordinance shall have the power to levy such occupation or business taxes
authorized by general 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 herein.
Section 12.40.

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 herein or by state or local law.

Section 12.50.

Franchises and taxes for use of city streets and alleys.

(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 in accordance with the applicable provisions of state law. When authorized by state law, 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 corporations, cable television and other telecommunications companies, gas companies, transportation companies, and other similar organizations.

Section 12.60.

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, or any other services provided or made available within and without the corporate limits of the city. If unpaid, such charges shall be collected as provided herein.
Section 12.70.

Special assessments.

The city council by ordinance shall have the power to assess and collect the cost 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. If unpaid, such charges shall be collected as provided herein or as authorized by state or local law.

Section 12.80.

Construction; other taxes and fees.

(a) This city shall be empowered to levy any other tax or fee 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.

(b) The city council, by ordinance, may provide generally for the collection of delinquent taxes, fees, or other revenue due the city 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.fa.'s; 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.

Section 12.90.

General obligation bonds.

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 12.100.

Revenue bonds.

Revenue bonds may be issued by the city council as state law now or hereafter provides. Such bonds are to be paid out of any revenue produced by the project, program, or venture for which they were issued.
Section 12.110.

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 12.120.

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 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 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, or other such applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.

Section 12.130.

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.

Section 12.140.

Preparation of budgets.

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 plan, and a capital budget, including requirements as to the scope, content, and form of such budgets and plans.
Section 12.150.
Submission of operating budget to city council.

On or before a date fixed by the city council but not later than 30 days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the city administrator 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 administrator 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 pertinent comments and information. The operating budget and 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 12.160.
Action by city council on budget.

(a) The city council may amend the operating budget proposed by the city administrator; 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 by ordinance shall adopt the final operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year not later than December 31 of each year. If the city council fails to adopt the budget by this date, the amounts appropriated for operation for the 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 resolution setting out the estimated revenues in detail by sources and making appropriations according to fund and by organizational unit, purpose, or activity as set out in the budget preparation ordinance adopted pursuant to 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 without first amending the adopted operating budget accordingly.
Section 12.170.

Tax levies.

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 expenses of the general government of this city.

Section 12.180.

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 purpose, but any additional appropriations may be made only from an existing unexpended surplus.

Section 12.190.

Capital budget.

(a) On or before the date fixed by the city council but no later than 30 days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the city administrator shall submit to the city council a proposed capital improvements plan with a recommended capital budget containing the means of financing the improvements proposed for the ensuing fiscal year. The city council shall have power to accept, with or without amendments, or reject the proposed plan 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.

(b) The city council shall adopt by ordinance the final capital budget for the ensuing fiscal year not later than December 31 of each year. No appropriation provided for in a prior capital budget shall lapse until the purpose for which the appropriation was made shall have been accomplished or abandoned; provided, however, the city administrator may submit proposed amendments to the capital budget at any time during the fiscal year, accompanied by recommendations. Any such amendments to the capital budget shall become effective only upon adoption by ordinance.
Section 12.200. 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 auditing principles. Any audit of any funds by the state or federal governments may be accepted as satisfying the requirements of this charter. Copies of annual audit reports shall be available at printing costs to the public.


No contract with the city shall be binding on the city unless:
(a) It is in writing;
(b) It is drawn by or submitted to and reviewed by the city attorney, and as a matter of course, is approved by the city attorney; and
(c) It is made or authorized by the city council and such approval is entered in the official minutes of the city.

Section 12.220. Purchasing.

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

Section 12.230. Sale and lease of city property.

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.
ARTICLE XIII
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 13.10.
Bonds for officials.

The officers and employees of this city, both elective and appointive, 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 13.20.
Prior ordinances, resolutions, policies, and regulations.

All ordinances, resolutions, policies, 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.

ARTICLE XIV
CHARTER LANGUAGE ON OTHER GENERAL MATTERS

Section 14.10.
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 until such time the city council shall pass an ordinance detailing the changes in personnel and appointive officers required or desired pursuant to this charter; which may also arrange such titles, rights, privileges, and powers as may be required or desired pursuant to this charter.

Section 14.20.
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 14.30. 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 14.40. Severability.

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 14.50. Specific repealer.

The Act entitled an Act to provide a new charter for the City of Zebulon in Pike County, Georgia, approved March 28, 1961 (Ga. L. 1961, p. 2704), as amended, is hereby repealed in its entirety and all amendatory acts thereto are likewise repealed in their entirety.

Section 14.60. General repealer.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.