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MINNEAPOLIS CHARTER COMMISSION
PLAIN-LANGUAGE CHARTER REVISION

REVISED CHARTER

Draft 12
March 2009

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Article I
General Provisions

§ 1.1. **Name**

This charter governs the City of Minneapolis in the County of Hennepin in the State of Minnesota under the name of the “City of Minneapolis.” For this charter’s purposes, the “City” means the City of Minneapolis, and its provisions refer to the City unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

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§ 1.2. **Status**

The City continues as a municipal corporation, having adopted this home-rule charter under the Minnesota Constitution, article XII, section 4, and with the same boundaries as now are or may be established.

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§ 1.3. **Authority**

- (a) **Basic authority.** Subject to applicable law, this charter and action taken under its authority are the basis for the conduct of all the City’s business.
- (b) **Restatement and supersession.** This charter fully restates and supersedes every prior version of, and any ordinance or other municipal act inconsistent with, this charter. But except as this charter or an amendment explicitly provides otherwise, the charter does not affect—
 - (1) any ordinance or other municipal act adopted before its adoption or its latest revision or amendment;
 - (2) the existence, status, function, composition, powers, or duties of any board, department, or other political body; or
 - (3) the office, tenure, powers, or duties of any officer.
- (c) **Laws.**
 - (1) **Inconsistent laws superseded.** This charter supersedes any special law in effect at the time of the charter’s latest revision on _____ to the extent of any inconsistency between them.

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- (2) **Certain laws preserved.** The charter does not affect any special or other law to the extent that the law—
 - (A) confers upon the City, or upon any board, department, or officer for which this charter or an ordinance provides, a power, right, duty, or role in addition to those for which the charter or ordinance provides; or
 - (B) covers a matter that this charter does not cover.

- (d) **Construction.** For this charter’s purposes, except as this charter otherwise provides—
 - (1) each term used in this charter has the same meaning as in the Minnesota constitution and statutes, and other law relating to the same subject;
 - (2) the canons of construction and other principles of interpretation in the Minnesota statutes apply to this charter;
 - (3) each heading is a part of the charter, and may be used in interpreting its provisions, although the heading is subject to the text;
 - (4) the settled interpretation of any term or provision from a version of the charter before its latest revision on _____, 20__, is valid in interpreting the revised charter to the extent that the charter carries forward the interpreted provision or term;
 - (5) any reference to population or other enumeration refers to the latest decennial federal census; and
 - (6) a “citizen” means an inhabitant who resides within the City, regardless of whether he or she is a citizen within the meaning of the federal or state constitution or any other law.

§ 1.4. **Powers**

- (a) **Powers plenary.** The City, acting through the boards, departments, and officers for which this charter or an ordinance provides, may exercise any power that a municipal corporation can lawfully exercise at common law.
 - (1) **Eminent domain.** The City Council may, and any other authorized board may, establish the procedure by which the City exercises through that board its power of eminent domain,

including the procedure for any appeal from an award in condemnation.

- (2) **Infrastructure.** The City may establish, plan, build, maintain, regulate, and otherwise provide for public ways and works and any other infrastructure necessary or convenient for its residential and economic development; for the comfort, convenience, health, safety, or welfare of its citizens; or for the efficient delivery of municipal services.

(b) Laws excepting home-rule cities. Whenever a law grants a power or an option to cities generally or to cities of a certain class, but excepts cities having adopted a home-rule charter, the City may nevertheless exercise the power or option if that exercise is not inconsistent with this charter, notwithstanding its having adopted this charter.

Deleted: (b) . Optional powers claimed. If a municipal corporation may enjoy or exercise a certain power by charter, without forgoing any other power, then the City hereby claims and may exercise that power.¶

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(c) Immunity. The City enjoys immunity from suit and liability from suit and liability for any injury resulting from—

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- (1) the defective condition of an ungraded street;
- (2) the ground's insufficiency where a sidewalk can go but no sidewalk has been built; and
- (3) any other act, or condition for which a municipal corporation enjoys immunity at common law or by general or special law.

(d) Citizens not disqualified. A citizen is not disqualified by virtue of citizenship from service as a judge, juror, or witness in any action or other proceeding in which the City is a party in interest.

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(e) Unmentioned powers. This charter's mention of certain powers does not limit the City's powers to those mentioned.

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§ 1.5. Enforcement

(a) **Liability.** An ordinance may impose a duty, and may provide that a violation will result in—

- (1) a fine;
- (2) imprisonment in a workhouse;
- (3) another penalty;

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- (4) any combination of such penalties;
- (5) civil liability, including—
 - (A) multiple damages, or
 - (B) a lien against property; or
- (6) forfeiture of office, in the case of an officer who violates an ordinance relating to the office.

(b) **Jurisdiction.** Except as provided by this charter or in ordinance, the
 district court has jurisdiction—

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- (1) over an case arising under this charter or an ordinance, including the prosecution for any violation; and
- (2) for enforcing any subpoena issued by an officer or board under this charter who can lawfully compel the attendance or testimony of any witness or the production of any book, document, or thing.

Article II Boundaries

§ 2.1. **City**

The City has the boundaries established under the law.

§ 2.2. **Wards**

- (a) **Numbers.** The City comprises 13 wards, designated by number. If possible, a redistricted ward keeps the number of the former ward from which its population mostly came.
- (b) **Characteristics.** The wards must be as equal in population as practicable. Each ward must—
 - (1) not deviate from the mean ward population by more than five percent of that average, according to—
 - (A) the latest decennial federal census; or

(B) a special computation or enumeration ordered by the Redistricting Commission with respect to any particular block or tract, computed or enumerated as of the same time and in the same manner as the latest decennial federal census;

(2) consist of a compact, contiguous area, not longer than twice its width, whose boundaries, wherever possible, lie along the centerline of public ways and, as far as practicable, run due north-south or east-west. A waterway or other body of water within a ward does not affect these characteristics; and

(3) minimize change in existing boundaries, except as necessary in order to effect the foregoing criteria.

(c) **Redistricting.**

(1) **Policy.** The City must redistrict the wards, as this section 2.2(c) provides,--

- (A) after each decennial federal census;
 - (B) as required by general or special law or by judicial decree; or
 - (C) when the number of wards changes,
- and may not otherwise redistrict them.

(2) **Redistricting Commission.** For this section 2.2(c)'s purposes, the "Commission" means the Redistricting Commission for which this section 2.2(c)(2) provides.

(A) **Composition.** The Charter Commission comprises the Redistricting Commission,--

(B) **Qualifications.** Each Commissioner must be a qualified voter in the City.

(C) Redistricting Advisory Group. The Commission will appoint an Advisory Group of citizens, that --

(i) is comprised of eligible voters in the City;

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Deleted: One commissioner elected by but not from the remaining Council members:¶

¶ (iii) two commissioners elected by the Charter Commission from each major political party, at least one of whom was nominated by the party;¶

¶ (iv) up to two commissioners elected by the Charter Commission who are either--¶

¶ (I) members of a political party or parties that are not a major political party, or¶

¶ (II) unaffiliated with any political party; and¶

¶ (v) a chair elected by but not from the other commissioners.¶

No political party's members may constitute a majority of the commissioners. ¶

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(ii) will advise the Commission during the redistricting process in an advisory capacity only;

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(iii) will operate in accordance with rules and procedures established by the Commission;

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(iv) will be comprised of not more than nine members; and

Deleted: (i) . **Political parties.** For this section 2.2(c)'s purposes—¶

¶
<#>a “political party” has the same meaning as in the Minnesota election law; and¶

¶
<#>a “major political party” means one within the Minnesota election law’s meaning, whose nominee for governor or for United States senator received more than five percent of the votes in the City at the last gubernatorial or senatorial election.¶

(v) is appointed by the Commission which has considered the diversity of its membership

¶
(ii) **Nomination by party.** Each major political party may nominate six to ten members for commissioner. The party’s list must broadly reflect the City’s population and must include racial minorities and other groups historically underrepresented in City government. A party may not nominate anyone who, since two years before the process began, is or has—

(vi) Qualifications. Advisory Group members may not include anyone who, within two years before appointment to the Advisory Group, is or has --

(I) held any elected public office;

(II) appeared on a ballot listing his or her partisan affiliation in any election;

(III) worked as an employee of any political party (as defined in the Minnesota election law); or

(IV) worked as an employee for the City.

Deleted: If any major political party does not communicate its list to the Charter Commission by the applicable deadline, or if the list does not comply with this section 2.2(c)(2)(C)(ii), then the Charter Commission may elect a commissioner from the party without regard to the party’s list.¶

¶
(iii) **Nomination by voter.** Any eligible voter may nominate himself or herself or any other eligible voter for commissioner. The nomination must identify the political party of which the nominee is a member or state that the nominee is unaffiliated with any political party.

(3) **Schedule.** Subject to any applicable ordinance, general or special law, or judicial decree:

Deleted: **Nominations**

(A) Applications. At least 45 days before appointment by the Charter Commission, Advisory Group applicants must submit an application to the City Clerk, using a form and including information specified by the Charter Commission.

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Deleted: must request nominations by letter to each major political party’s city chair (or, if there is no city chair, its state chair); and by public notice inviting nominations by voters. The deadline for nominations is 15 days before the process begins.

(B) Redistricting begins. Redistricting begins—

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(i) after a decennial census;

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(ii) after the legislature has been redistricted in a year ending in 1 or 2;

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(iii) when required by general or special law or judicial decree, as the law or decree provides; or

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(iv) when the number of wards changes, 60 days after the amendment takes effect (even if the change takes effect later).

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(C) **Tentative plan.** Within the time prescribed by general law, special law, Charter or ordinance, the Commission must—

Deleted: C) **Election by Council members.** The Council members must elect their commissioners within 45 days before the process begins.¶

¶ (D) **Election by Charter Commission.** The Charter Commission must elect its commissioners within 15 days before or after the process begins.¶

(i) give public notice of a tentative plan or plans; and

¶ (E) **Organizational meeting.** Within 30 days after the process begins, the Commission must convene at the Charter Commission's call, and must elect its chair by simple majority. If the Commission has not elected a chair within 15 days after convening, then each commissioner may cast a written ballot for chair and, if no chair is thereby elected, the city clerk will draw one ballot by lot and the person named on that ballot is the chair.

(ii) invite comments from each neighborhood organization recognized in a manner for which the City Council provides.

(D) **Public hearings.** Between seven and 30 days after giving public notice, the Commission must hold at least four public hearings on its tentative plan or plans. At least two of the public hearings must be for the purpose of reviewing the proposed plan. The proposed plan must be published at least seven days prior to the hearings on the proposed plan, in accordance with the requirements for publishing all legal notice.

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Deleted: At least seven days after the first public hearing, and before adopting a final plan, the Commission must hold a second public hearing, either on a tentative plan or on its proposed final plan.

(E) **Final plan.** Within the time specified by general law, special law, Charter or ordinance, the Commission must—

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(i) adopt a final plan redistricting the wards and delineating each redistricted ward's boundaries and stating its population, and

(ii) file the plan with the city clerk.

(F) **Effective date.** The final plan takes effect upon, and applies to the first general election for which filing opens after, its adoption (or its being drawn by lot). A redistricting does not affect the eligibility or term of any incumbent holding office when the plan takes effect, and does not apply to any special election held before the next regular election.

Deleted: If the Commission has not adopted a final plan by the deadline, then each commissioner may cast a written ballot identifying a proposed final plan, and the city clerk will draw one ballot by lot and the plan identified on that ballot is the final plan.¶

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(G) **Expiration.** The Commission expires when the final plan takes effect, but must reconvene for the purpose of conforming the plan to the law if the district court finds that the plan is unlawful.

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- (4) **Funding.** The City Council must provide for the staff and other resources that the Commission needs.
- (5) **Ordinances.** The City Council may enact any necessary or prudent ordinance implementing this section 2.2(c). No such ordinance applies to any redistricting process that begins within 30 days.
- (6) **Jurisdiction.** The district court enjoys original jurisdiction over any case arising out of redistricting under this section 2.2(c).

§ 2.3. Park districts

The provisions of the preceding section 2.2 regarding redistricting wards likewise apply as far as possible to redistricting park districts, except as this section 2.3 otherwise provides.

- (a) **Number.** The City comprises six park districts, designated by number. If possible, a redistricted part district keeps the number of the former district from which its population mostly came.
- (b) **Commission.** The Redistricting Commission must redistrict the park districts whenever the ward districts are redistricted. For this section 2.3's purposes, the "Commission" means the Redistricting Commission for which this section 2.3(b) provides.
- (c) **Park & Recreation Board.** Before holding a public hearing on any tentative plan, the Commission must—
 - (1) notify the Park & Recreation Board of its tentative plan; and
 - (2) consider any recommendation by the Board.
- (d) **Schedule.** Before filing opens for the first general election after the process begins, the Commission may extend its schedule for redistricting park districts if—
 - (1) at least 14 days before, it notifies the Park & Recreation Board of its tentative plan, and

Deleted: in the same manner as it redistricts the wards

Deleted: , for which purpose the Commission includes two commissioners elected by but not from the Park & Recreation Board's commissioners, in the same manner as and in place of the commissioners elected by the Council members under section 2.2(c)(2)(A)(i)-(ii), but without regard to political affiliation. If the park districts are redistricted when the wards are not being redistricted, then the Charter Commission must convene a new Commission, with the Park & Recreation Board serving in the City Council's place.

(2) at least seven days before, it files a final plan with the city clerk.

§ 2.4. **Precincts**

- (a) **Precincts, polling places.** For the convenient administration of elections, the City Council must divide each ward into precincts and designate a polling place in each precinct. Each precinct must lie wholly within a single ward and park district.
- (b) **Effective date.** An act dividing a ward into precincts, or designating a polling place, takes effect after 90 days or at such later time as the act provides. An act designating a new polling place may take effect sooner if the old polling place is unavailable.

§ 2.5. **Annexed territory**

Any annexed territory joins the ward and park district to which it is adjacent or, if adjacent to more than one ward or district, the least populous such ward or district.

§ 2.6 **Special districts**

For the more efficient delivery of municipal services in the City and its surroundings, and with a view toward their orderly growth—

- (a) the City Council may designate any area within three miles of the City's boundaries as a special district, in which it may—
 - (1) lay out the streets and other infrastructure so that they consistently continue the City's system,
 - (2) accept or dedicate property for the streets or any other public purpose, and
 - (3) plat the district accordingly; and
- (b) except as prohibited by law, the City may acquire realty and extend infrastructure beyond the City's boundaries without designating a special district.

**Article III
Elections**

§ 3.1. **General provisions**

- (a) **General law applies.** Unless it is inconsistent with this charter, the Minnesota election law applies to each municipal election.
- (b) **Voting method.** The voters elect the City’s elected officers by single transferable voting, also known as “ranked choice voting” or “instant runoff voting”. The City Council must provide by ordinance the method of counting the votes and of breaking a tie.

(c) **Administration.** The city clerk administers each election under the City Council’s direction. The clerk must give public notice of the time and place of holding each election at least 15 days before the election.

(d) **Ballots.** The City Council must provide by ordinance for the ballot’s format.

(1) **Nonpartisan ballot.** The ballot for each elected office is a nonpartisan ballot. Each candidate for Mayor or for Council member may state, in up to three words, his or her political party or principle, which will appear on the ballot.

(2) **Order.** The candidates’ names must appear on a single ballot, which lists the offices elected in this order:

- (A) Mayor;
- (B) Council member;
- (C) Board of Estimate & Taxation member;
- (D) Park & Recreation commissioner at large; and
- (E) Park & Recreation commissioner by district.

Deleted: Note. The amendment that added this voting method to the charter provided, “The method shall be used for the first municipal election after adoption and all subsequent elections unless the City Council certifies, by ordinance, no later than four months prior to the election that the City, will not be ready to implement the method in that election. Such certification must include the reasons why the City is not ready to implement the method.”¶

§ 3.2. **Regular elections.**

- (a) **Election years.** A regular election of city officers occurs every four years in the last calendar year before any elected officer’s term expires.
- (b) **Regular election.** The City holds its regular election on the uniform municipal election day for which the Minnesota election law provides.

- (c) **Schedule.** For each regular election, the City Council must provide by ordinance for a filing period of at least 15 days, or as otherwise provided by Minnesota law. No act scheduling a filing period applies to any election held in the same calendar year.

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§ 3.3. Special elections

- (a) **Elected office.** A special election occurs whenever a vacancy occurs in an elected office before the term expires, and this charter does not provide another method of filling the vacancy. For each special election, the City Council must provide by ordinance for a filing period of at least eight days, and the opening and closing dates for such filing period must be consistent with state law governing special elections.
- (b) **Other special elections.** The City Council must schedule a special election as required by law on any question that the voters may lawfully decide, and may schedule any other lawful special election. Unless the law provides otherwise, the Council may schedule such an election in connection with the next regular election. This section 3.3(b) is subject to section 10.4(e).

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Article IV City Council

For this charter’s purposes, the “Council” means the City Council for which this article IV provides.

§ 4.1. Function.

- (a) **Governing body.** The governing body is the City Council, in which the City’s general legislative and policymaking authority resides.
- (b) **Scope.** The Council may act on the City’s behalf in any matter, except where—
- (1) this charter reserves the action for a different board; or
 - (2) the action is inconsistent with this charter or otherwise unlawful.
- (c) **Council as statutory board.**
- (1) **Generally.** Where the law provides for municipal action through a board, and this charter does not reserve that authority to a board other than the Council, the Council must either—

- (A) itself serve as the board for which the law provides, even if the board is a statutory rather than a municipal agency; or
- (B) provide by ordinance for the board, in which case—
 - (i) the board’s membership may (but need not) consist partly or wholly of Council members, and
 - (ii) the Council may (but need not) organize the board as a municipal department.

(2) **Board of Appeal and Equalization.** The Council may provide under this section 4.1(c) for a board of appeal and equalization, in which case it may also provide that any such board must return to the City Council the assessment rolls that the board has revised, in which case the Council may confirm the board’s revisions or return the rolls to the board for further revision.

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- (d) **Franchises.** The Council may grant and regulate any lawful franchise.
- (e) **Licenses.** The Council may grant a license only if the license expires within one year.

(f) **Liquor licenses.** Provided further that (except as to regularly licensed druggists, to sell for medicinal, chemical or mechanical purposes, not to be used or drunk upon the premises), no license shall be granted to any person or persons to vend, deal in, or dispose of any intoxicating spirituous, vinous, fermented or malt liquors except at a location within an area or district zoned by ordinance to permit the sale of liquor therein, and further subject to the following:

(1) If such liquor is not to be used or consumed on the premises, then only if said area or district, together with such other areas or districts contiguous thereto wherein such sale would be permitted by ordinance and by law, contains five (5) or more acres.

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(2) If such liquor is to be consumed on the premises, then only if said area or district, together with such other areas or districts contiguous thereto wherein such consumption would be permitted by ordinance and by law, contains seven (7) or more acres, and then only if a substantial portion of the income derived from business conducted at such location is derived from the sale of food to be consumed on the premises and adequate facilities are provided therefore. The City Council shall, by ordinance, establish

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suitable and appropriate standards to determine whether a substantial amount of income is derived for the sale of food and to define adequate facilities for the consumption thereof on the premises.

(3) A license described in (1) or in (2) above may be issued notwithstanding the requirement of area or sale of food for a location within the territory where issuance of such a license was permitted by law or by the provisions of the Charter on November 1, 1974, or for a location which at the time of issuance is being used for, or the latest use of which was for the sale of liquor under a similar type license.

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(4) Nothing herein shall authorize the City Council to issue liquor licenses in residence or office residence districts.

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(5) Nothing herein shall limit the authority of the City Council to impose by ordinance further restrictions or limitations on the granting of any liquor license.

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(6) No liquor license as provided herein shall be issued except in such areas of the City as are zoned for commercial or industrial uses.

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(7) Except as herein provided, all such on-sale and off-sale liquor establishments shall continue to be subject to the pertinent statutes of the State of Minnesota and the City ordinances of the City of Minneapolis.

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(8) Except nothing in the Charter shall prohibit the issuance of an on-sale wine license as defined by the pertinent statutes of the state of Minnesota and the City Ordinances of the City of Minneapolis to a restaurant which gross receipts are at least seventy (70) percent attributable to the sale of food and otherwise meets the requirements of state law and city ordinance for said license. The City Council shall, by ordinance, establish suitable and appropriate standards to assure that a premises exempted from the seven (7) or more acre standard shall neither sell, serve or permit to be consumed any wine, or intoxicating malt beverage, unless the patron orders a meal, nor have a bar or bar area.

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§ 4.2. **Organization.**

(a) **Composition.** The City Council comprises one Council member elected by and from each ward.

- (b) **Term; election.** Each Council member's term is four years. Each ward's voters elect their Council member in each year following a year whose number is evenly divisible by four. Council members continue in office until their successors are elected and have been qualified.
- (c) **Council judges elections.** The Council judges its members' elections, for which purpose it may compel the testimony of any witness who may have relevant information, and may compel the production of any relevant book, document, or thing.
- (d) **Vacancy.**
 - (1) **Early vacancy.** When a Council member vacates his or her office before March 1 in the year of the next regular election, the Council must schedule a special election filling the vacancy, held within 75 days after the vacancy occurs.
 - (2) **Late vacancy.** When a Council member vacates his or her office—
 - (A) after March 1 in the year of the next regular election, and
 - (B) before filing opens for the election,

--the Council appoints a successor who serves out the unexpired term.
 - (3) **Election after vacancy.** When a Council member is elected while the office is vacant, the elected member takes office upon election and qualification, and serves out the unexpired term as well as the term for which he or she was elected.

§ 4.3. Meetings

- (a) **Organizational meeting.** The Council must elect its officers and organize its committees at the first meeting in January following each general election.
- (b) **Regular Meetings.** The Council's rules must provide for regular and other necessary meetings.
- (c) **Special meetings.** The Council's rules may provide for special meetings. The Mayor may call a special meeting by notice to each Council member. A special meeting may transact only the business stated in the notice.

- (d) **Attendance.** The Council may compel the attendance of absent members, may punish such absent members, and may remove a member, unless for good reason, for continued nonattendance.

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§ 4.4. Proceedings

(a) **Vote required.**

(1) **Rules.** The Council at its organizational meeting may by simple majority adopt or amend its rules of order for the conduct of its own business. The Council may thereafter amend its rules by simple majority unless the rules themselves require a supermajority. The Council may decide a question of order under its rules by simple majority.

(2) **Acts.** An act by the Council takes a simple majority of a quorum of its membership, except as this charter or state law otherwise provides. For this Article’s purposes, the noun “act”

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(A) means any ordinance, resolution, appropriation, or any other lawful action of the Council, and any action amending, repealing, or otherwise affecting any such act; but

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(B) does not include a rule or other vote that relates to the Council’s internal organization, rule or procedure.

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(3) **Effect.** The Council must provide for each act’s certification, publication, and codification. An act so certified, published, and codified –

(A) is admissible as evidence,

(B) establishes a presumption that the act is valid, and

(C) is entitled to judicial notice.

(4) **Acts taking a majority of its membership.** The Council may take the following action only with a majority of its membership.

(A) appointment or removal of officers under section 9.4(b);

(B) passage of all ordinances or resolutions;

(C) any appropriation;

(D) appropriation of funds for expenses of each department;

(E) authorizing improvements to sidewalks for which a special assessment can be levied.

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(5) **Acts taking supermajority.** The Council may take the following action only with the prescribed supermajority:

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- (A) by two-thirds of its membership, authorize an improvement (other than a sidewalk) subject to a special assessment (sec. 4.4(a)(4));
- (B) by two-thirds of its membership, regrade a graded street;
- (C) by two-thirds of its membership, sell realty;
- (D) by two-thirds of its membership, vacate wholly or partly any public way or plat, which power the Council enjoys exclusively;
- (E) by two-thirds of its membership, remit or discharge any judgment in the City's favor;
- (F) by two-thirds of its membership, pass an act over the Mayor's veto (sec. 4.4(c));
- (G) by three-fourths of its membership, authorize a slaughterhouse within the City. No person may operate a slaughterhouse within the City without such authorization; and
- (H) by three-fourths of its membership, authorize an unbudgeted payment out of current funds (sec. 10.2(a)(3)).

(6) **Improvements.** The Council may by a majority of its membership authorize a sidewalk, with or without a special assessment. The Council may, by two-thirds of its membership, authorize any other improvement subject to a special assessment. The Council may by a majority of its membership act with respect to an improvement already authorized or to a special assessment in connection with such an improvement.

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(b) **Ordinances.** The Council may adopt, amend or repeal an ordinance only—

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- (1) at least one week after its introduction at a meeting;
- (2) after a report from a committee to which the matter was referred at a Council meeting held at least one week earlier; or

(3) by unanimous consent.

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(c) **Mayor's signature or veto.** The Council must present each act to the Mayor in the manner that this charter prescribes for giving notice. The act takes effect—

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(1) when the Mayor signs it; or

(2) five days after its presentation to the Mayor, if he or she neither signs nor vetoes it; or

(3) if the Mayor vetoes it by returning it to the City Clerk with an objection within five days (excluding Sundays) after its presentation, only if the Council at its next meeting by two-thirds of its membership again passes the act over the Mayor's veto; and

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(4) it has been published in the official paper of the City.

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§ 4.5. **Executive Committee**

(a) **Function and powers.** The Executive Committee enjoys the powers and performs the duties that this charter provides and such further duties as the City Council by ordinance or resolution, prescribes.

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(b) **Organization.** The Executive Committee comprises—

(1) the Mayor, as chair;

(2) the Council president; and

(3) up to three Council members elected by the Council.

The Committee's members may not all belong to the same political party unless the Mayor and all the Council members belong to the same political party.

(c) **Rules.** The Executive Committee establishes its own rules and procedures.

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Article V **Boards and Commissions**

This article V contains general rules that apply to boards and commissions. Its provisions are subject to any other provision that applies to a particular board or commission, including any provision in articles IV, VI and VII.

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Except as this charter otherwise provides:

§ 5.1. **“Board” defined**

For this article’s purposes, a “board”—

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(a) is defined as a body formed under this charter, which is authorized to exercise independent authority as provided by this charter or by state law, and includes—

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(1) the City Council, when this charter or a state law provides that the City Council acts as a board;

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(2) the Board of Estimate and Taxation; and

(3) the Park and Recreation Board; and

(4) any other body that this charter calls a “board”; but

Deleted: (2) the Executive Committee; and¶

(b) does not include a department or a board established under this charter or an ordinance for the purpose of advising the City or its elected officials.

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§ 5.2. **“Commission” defined**

For this article’s purposes, a “commission” –

(a) is defined as a body formed under this charter, which is authorized to exercise independent authority as provided by this charter or by state law, and includes –

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(1) the City Council, when this charter or a state law provides that the City Council acts as a commission;

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(2) the Charter Commission;

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(3) the Planning Commission.

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§ 5.3. **Officers**

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- (a) **Election.** Each board or commission elects or appoints its officers by a majority of its membership.
- (b) **President.** Each board at its organizational meeting must elect from its membership a president or a chair.
- (c) **Finance Officer.** The city finance officer serves as each board's or commission's finance officer, but may not serve on the board or commission.
- (d) **Secretary, other officers.** Each board or commission must elect a secretary and may elect or appoint, or provide for the election or appointment of, any other necessary officer. A board's or commission's rules may require that its secretary or any other officer must (or must not) come from or serve on the board or commission, otherwise the officer may but need not come from or serve on the board or commission.
- (e) **Tenure.** Each officer serves until his or her successor is qualified and takes office.

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§ 5.4. **Meetings**

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- (a) **Meetings generally.** Each board or commission meets as this charter or the board's or commission's rules provide. Each such meeting must comply with the Minnesota open meeting law.
- (b) **Quorum.** Each board's or commission's quorum is a simple majority of its membership, disregarding any vacancy. A quorumless meeting may adjourn to a more convenient time, and may take measures to obtain a quorum.
- (c) **Majority.** A board or commission ordinarily acts by simple majority of a quorum, disregarding any abstention. Where this charter or a general law, special law, ordinance, rule, or other authority provides for action by a majority of the board's or commission's membership, it refers to a majority of the board's or commission's members then serving, disregarding any vacancy.
- (d) **Rules.** Each board or commission may adopt rules of order for the conduct of its own business.
- (e) **Proceedings.** The board's or commission's secretary must carefully and faithfully record its proceedings, including each act adopted and each member's vote on each such act, which the secretary must promptly file with the city clerk or in the board's or commission's office. The clerk, board, or commission must keep the board's or commission's proceedings

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on file and available for inspection and copying by any voter during normal business hours at the clerk's, board's, or commission's office.

(f) Acts.

(1) **“Act” defined.** For this article's purposes, the noun “act”—

- (A) means any ordinance, resolution, appropriation, or any other lawful action, and any action amending, repealing, or otherwise affecting any such act; but
- (B) does not include a rule or other vote that relates to a board's or commission's internal organization, rule or procedure.

(2) **Effect.** Any board or commission that can adopt an act must provide for each such act's certification, publication, and codification. An act so certified, published, and codified—

- (A) is admissible as evidence,
- (B) establishes a presumption that the act is valid, and
- (C) is entitled to judicial notice.

§ 5.5. **Powers**

(a) **General powers.** Each board or commission enjoys all the powers for which this charter or any general law, special law, or ordinance provides, including any power necessary and proper for exercising its enumerated powers or for performing its lawful functions.

(b) **Employment.** Unless permitted elsewhere in the charter, no board or commission may employ any staff, contractor or agent.

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(c) **Delegation.** A board or commission may delegate its authority over a particular subject or in a particular matter to a committee or officer subject to the board's or commission's direction, unless such a delegation is contrary to law.

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Article VI

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Deleted: an appropriate staff, for which purpose it may hire, regulate and direct, and discipline or discharge any employee (subject to the Civil Service Commission's rules, in the case of an employee in the classified service); and¶
¶
(2) : any necessary contractor or other agent.

Deleted: § 5.5. Notice¶

¶ Any notice of a board's meeting must comply with the Minnesota open meeting law. Any other notice to a board may be given by—¶
¶ (a) certified mail to its office (or, if the board does not have an office, to the city clerk); or¶
¶ (b) delivery to its chair or secretary in the manner provided by law for service of a summons in a civil action,¶
¶ mailed or delivered at least 10 days before the meeting or other event for which notice is given.¶

Deleted: § 5.6. Finances¶

¶ (a) **Financial Control.** Each board with borrowing or taxing power may apply the proceeds for its own purposes and controls its own finances. Each such board may dedicate any proceeds from a particular source to a particular purpose, and may establish any necessary account or fund for that purpose or any other lawful purpose.¶
¶ (b) **Borrowing power.** A board's borrowing power includes the power of issuing bonds, taking out loans, and otherwise incurring debt, to which the City pledges its full faith and credit. Any such power is subject to section 10.4.¶
¶ (c) **Taxing power.** Each board's taxing power is subject to the maximum set under section 10.3(a)(4), except as this charter or any applicable law otherwise provides.¶
¶ (d) **Accounting.**¶

... [1]

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¶ Each board may adopt ethical standards for its members, officers, and employees.

Board of Estimate & Taxation

For this article VI's purposes, the "Board" means the Board of Estimate & Taxation.

§ 6.1. Policy

Through the Board of Estimate & Taxation, the City coordinates in the general interest its various taxes and taxing and borrowing powers.

§ 6.2. Functions and powers

- (a) **General functions and powers.** The Board enjoys the powers and performs the duties that this charter provides.
- (b) **Employment.**
 - (1) **Compensation.** The Board may provide for any necessary employees and for their compensation.
 - (2) **Unclassified service.** The Board may employ in the unclassified service--
 - (1) an executive secretary, and
 - (2) an auditor.

§ 6.3. Organization

- (a) **Composition.** The Board comprises six members:
 - (1) the Mayor;
 - (2) the Council president;
 - (3) the Council member who chairs the Council committee whose charge includes the budget;
 - (4) a commissioner elected by and from the Park & Recreation Board (or, if the Board has not elected a commissioner, the Board's president); and

- (5) two members elected by the voters in a regular election held in each year following a year whose number is evenly divisible by four.
- (b) **Officers.** The Board elects, in addition to its president (sec. 5.2(b)), a member as its vice-president.
- (c) **Vacancies.** The Mayor and the City Council must, by an appointment under section 9.4(b), fill any vacancy in the office of any member elected to the Board by the voters.

§ 6.4. Meetings

The Board meets at least monthly.

§ 6.5. Borrowing power

The Board may, by a vote of at least five of its members, borrow against anticipated tax revenues up to half the amount due and not delinquent, which debt is redeemable or otherwise payable not later than the revenue is anticipated.

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§ 6.6. Taxing power

Subject to article X, the Board may annually tax up to 0.0012 percent of the total value of the property in the City.

**Article VII
Park & Recreation Board**

For this article VII's purposes, the "Board" means the Park & Recreation Board.

§ 7.1. Policy

Through the Park & Recreation Board, the City provides for parks, parkways, and recreational opportunities for its current and future citizens' use. The Board may likewise provide for service for nonresidents.

§ 7.2. Functions and powers

(a) **General function and powers.**

- (1) **Charter powers.** The Board establishes, governs, administers, and maintains, and may design, develop, and improve--
 - (A) the parks, parkways, and recreational opportunities in and adjacent to the City;
 - (B) each waterway or other body of water in the park system;
 - (C) the ornamental and shade trees in the City's streets, alleys, and public grounds and ways; and
 - (D) any gallery, museum, or school in the park system.

(2) **Powers.** When exercising its powers under this article VII, the Board may act on the City's behalf and enjoys all the powers granted under this charter, including (but not limited to)--

- (A) eminent domain;
- (B) power over public ways that pass through, over, or adjacent to property that it owns or governs, including the power to open, improve, or vacate a public way;
- (C) power over shores and waterways adjacent to any waterway or other body of water that it owns or governs, including exclusive power over any waterway or other body of water whose shore it owns.

(3) **Powers beyond City's boundaries.** The Board may exercise all the same powers and functions with respect to any park, parkway,

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Note. The organic laws that establish the Minneapolis park system include, among others, "An act to consolidate and amend all acts relating to parks and park ways in the city of Minneapolis and incident thereto; and defining the powers and duties of the board of park commissioners of said city," 1889 Minn. Laws, Special Laws, ch. 30; and a special law that the same legislative session enacted amending that law, 1889 Minn. Laws, Special Laws, ch. 103.¶

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or other property that it owns or governs outside the City as with respect to the parks and parkways inside the City.

- (b) **Department of the City.** The Board is a unique, department of the City and, in the exercise of its general functions and specially defined powers, may, on behalf of the City--

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- (1) adopt a seal;
- (2) make contracts;
- (3) buy and sell property;
- (4) accept and administer, invest, or otherwise dispose of gifts; and

(5) exercise any other lawful power that the Board is authorized to exercise under this charter.

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- (c) **Ordinances.** The Board may enact any necessary or prudent ordinance within this article VII's purposes.

- (1) **Violations.** An ordinance may provide for a fine, imprisonment, other penalty, or any combination of such penalties for its violation. The city attorney prosecutes any such violation. Any resulting fine or other monetary penalty goes to the park & recreation fund.

- (d) **Park museum.** The Board has accepted a gift of property for the benefit of a park, museum, gallery, or school of arts and crafts, which a donor-designated nonprofit organization administers according to the terms under which the gift was accepted and in accordance with any agreements with the Board. The Board must annually levy a tax, on property in Hennepin County in accordance with state law, whose proceeds go to a fund that pays for the park, museum, gallery, or school, and may not be diverted for any other purpose.

Deleted: (2) **Park-dedication fee.** The Board and the City Council may jointly by ordinance impose a park-dedication fee as provided by law.

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- (e) **Park police.** The Mayor must appoint as many police officers for the parks and parkways as the Board requests. The Board must pay for such police out of the park & recreation fund, may regulate and direct them, and may discipline or discharge them (subject to the Civil Service Commission's rules).

- (f) **Realty.**

- (1) **Supermajority required for certain actions.** The Board may dedicate, buy, lease, or name or rename realty with at least six affirmative votes.
 - (2) **Acquiring realty.** The Board may acquire realty--
 - (A) by purchase, contract, or mortgage, and
 - (B) by assessing the benefited property, in which case the Board must identify the property benefited and determine the appropriate assessment.
 - (3) **Mortgages.** The Board may issue or give back a mortgage, with or without bonds securing the unpaid purchase price, that evidences its indebtedness for any such realty.
 - (4) **Selling realty.** The Board may sell realty only if it has abandoned the realty, and the district approves the sale.
- (g) **Compensation.** The Board may provide for the commissioners' compensation.
- (h) **Employment.**
- (1) **Employment and compensation.** The Board may provide for any necessary employees and for their compensation.
 - (2) **Unclassified service.** The Board may employ in the unclassified service--
 - (A) the superintendent,
 - (B) its attorney,
 - (C) the park police chief,
 - (D) a landscape architect, and
 - (E) any officer or other employee for whose unclassified status this charter or a general or special law provides.
- (i) **Purchases.** The Board may buy supplies for the recreational and eating facilities under its charge without going through the City's purchasing department.

(j) **Mayor's signature or veto.** The Board must present each act to the Mayor in the manner that this charter prescribes for giving notice. The act takes effect--

(1) when the Mayor signs it; or;

(2) five days after its presentation to the Mayor, if he or she neither signs nor vetoes it; or

(3) if the Mayor vetoes it by returning it to the Board with an objection within five days (excluding Sundays) after its presentation, only if the Board at its next meeting by two-thirds of its membership again passes the act over the Mayor's veto.

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§ 7.3. **Organization**

(a) **Composition.** The Board comprises nine commissioners, elected in each general election in which a Mayor is elected:

(1) three commissioners at large, and

(2) six commissioners elected by district.

(b) **Removal.**

(1) **Petition.** On a petition sworn by at least 10 citizens, the district court, after notice and hearing, may remove any commissioner for malfeasance or misdemeanor in office.

(2) **Nonattendance.** The Board may remove any commissioner absent from its meetings for 90 days.

(c) **Vacancies.** The Board, with at least six affirmative votes, may fill any vacancy in its membership.

(d) **Secretary.** The Board elects a secretary who does not serve on the Board. The secretary may administer an oath or affirmation in any proceeding under this article VII.

(e) **Attorney.** The Board may appoint its own attorney at law.

§ 7.4. **Meetings**

(a) **Organizational meeting.** The Board must annually hold an organizational meeting on the first weekday in January that is not a holiday.

- (b) **Special meetings.** The Mayor may call a special meeting by notice to each member. A special meeting may transact only the business stated in the notice.

§ 7.5. **Borrowing power**

The Board, with at least six affirmative votes, may borrow an amount on which the annual interest does not exceed \$50,000, for up to 50 years, with the debt secured by the parks and parkways.

§ 7.6. **Taxing power**

Subject to article X's provisions:

- (a) **Park & recreation fund.** The Board may annually tax up to 0.10415 percent of the total value of the property in the City.
- (b) **Tree fund.** The Board may annually tax up to 0.02753 percent of the total value of the property in the City for taking care of shade and ornamental trees and shrubbery.

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§ 7.7. Parkways

- (a) **Jurisdiction.** The Board has the same power and jurisdiction to establish, discontinue, vacate, modify, or improve parkways that the City has over city streets.
- (b) **Special assessments.** The Board may levy and collect assessments, in the same manner as the City Council levies and collects assessments, from property owners whose land is specially benefited by Board improvements.
- (c) **Water mains and sewers.** The City Council may lay water mains and sewers along or under parkways with the same power and jurisdiction that the City Council has with respect to city streets.

**Article VIII
Administration**

§ 8.1. Mayor

(a) **Term; election.** The Mayor's term is four years. The Mayor is elected by the voters in a regular election held every four years, in each year following a year whose number is evenly divisible by four. The Mayor in office at the time of the election continues in office until his or her successor is elected and has been qualified.

Deleted: (a) Chief executive. The chief executive officer is the Mayor.¶

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(b) **Duties.** The Mayor must--

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- (1) take care that all laws and ordinances are faithfully observed and enforced within the City;
- (2) take care that each other officer discharges his or her duties, for which purpose the Mayor may seek a writ of mandamus or other appropriate action against any delinquent officer;
- (3) recommend action in the City's interest by any other government;
- (4) address the City Council annually on the state of the City, and recommend appropriate measures for the City's physical and economic development; and
- (5) notify the City Council and any other interested board or department of any litigation against the City.

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(c) **Delegation.** The Mayor may appoint or designate a representative to serve in the Mayor's place on any board, commission, or department of which he or she is a member. The Mayor's appointee's term will not exceed the Mayor's term on the board, commission, or department.

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(d) **Vacancy.** Whenever the Mayor vacates his or her office before the year of the next regular election, or in that year before March 1, the City Council must provide for a special election filling the vacancy within 90 days after the vacancy occurs.

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(e) **Succession.**

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(1) **Temporary vacancy.** Whenever the Mayor cannot discharge his or her duties, or the office is vacant pending an election, then the Council president (or, if the Council president cannot act, the Council vice-president) must act as Mayor until the Mayor (or the Council president, if the vice-president is acting as Mayor) resumes his or her duties or a new Mayor takes office. Any action taken by the Council president or vice-president, or any other successor, acting as Mayor is as valid as if taken by the Mayor. Any successor acting Mayor draws the Mayor's salary instead of the salary of the office by virtue of which he or she is acting as Mayor.

(2) **Succession plan.** The City Council must by resolution adopt a succession plan, which must establish a line of succession beyond the Council vice-president.

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The City Council must review the plan at each organizational meeting.

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(f) **Resources.** The City Council must provide for the staff and other resources that the Mayor needs for the effective performance of his or her duties.

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(1) **Staff.** For the Mayor's support, the Council must provide for at least--

- (A) one administrative deputy,
- (B) two administrative aides,
- (C) one administrative assistant,

(D) One executive assistant, and

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(E) any other appropriate staff.

The Mayor may appoint any such staff without regard to section 9.4(b). The Mayor's staff serves in the unclassified service.

(2) **Contingent fund.** The Council must annually appropriate a fund of not less than \$5000 for use at the Mayor's discretion. The Mayor may not contribute from this fund to any individual's political campaign. The Mayor must report each expense from this fund to the Council.

§ 8.2. **Departments**

(a) **The departments generally.** The City Council must establish, organize, and otherwise provide for --

(1) a city coordinator, and an appropriate office and staff;

(2) a city clerk, and an appropriate office and staff;

(3) a city assessor, and an appropriate office and staff;

(4) a city finance officer, and an appropriate office and staff including a budget office and budget director;

(5) a city attorney and legal department;

(6) a civil rights director and appropriate office and staff

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(7) a commissioner of health and an appropriate office and staff;

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(8) a director of community planning and economic development and an appropriate office and staff;

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(9) a director of public works and an appropriate office and staff;

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(10) a director of regulatory services and an appropriate office and staff;

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(11) a police chief and an appropriate office and staff;

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(12) a fire chief and an appropriate office and staff;

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(13) a planning commission; and

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(14) any other department necessary or convenient for the efficient delivery of municipal services.

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(b) **Departmental organization.** The ordinance establishing each department must provide for an officer or a board as its head, for any other necessary officer, and for appropriate staff and other resources. The Mayor nominates and the City Council appoints each department's head under section 9.4(b), except as this charter or any applicable law or ordinance otherwise provides. This process does not apply to the City Clerk, who is elected by the City Council.

(c) **City attorney.**

(1) **Function.** Except as this charter otherwise provides, the city attorney and the legal department under his or her direction--

(A) are the legal advisors to the Mayor, the City Council, City Council committees, other City officers and employees, and to the City's boards and commissions that exist now and in the future;

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(B) counsel each board, department, and officer, and delivers an opinion on any legal question from any such board, department, or officer, who must consult only the city attorney for any necessary legal advice, and who must not consult, employ, retain or pay any other attorney for legal services, unless as permitted under this charter.

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(2) **Deputy city attorneys.** The city attorney may appoint two deputies, who serve in the unclassified service, but with the same employee benefits (except as to hiring and removal) as an officer in the classified service. If a deputy is appointed from the classified service, then he or she is treated as taking a leave of absence while serving as a deputy, after which he or she is entitled to return to his or her permanent grade in the classified service. If no vacancy is available in that grade, then the least senior employee so classified returns to his or her grade before being so classified.

(d) **Civil rights.** For the purpose of enforcing civil-rights legislation, the civil rights commission enjoys jurisdiction over each board, department officer, and other agency or agent, notwithstanding anything in this charter to the

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contrary. No board, commission, officer, or other agency or agent may limit the commission's jurisdiction.

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(e) **Planning commission.**

(1) **Commission.** The commission consists of--

(A) the Mayor;

(B) a person selected by the board of county commissioners as its representative;

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(C) a commissioner elected by and from the City Council;

(D) a commissioner elected by and from the Park & Recreation Board;

(E) a director elected by and from the Minneapolis Public Schools board of education;

(F) one citizen appointed by the City Council; and

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(G) four citizens who are not members of any board otherwise represented on the commission, appointed under section 9.4(b).

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(2) **Function.** The commission must—

(A) prepare a comprehensive plan for the City's physical development and improvement, with particular regard to public utility and convenience and the general welfare;

(B) recommend to any appropriate board, department, or officer specific plans for public improvements, consistent with the comprehensive plan;

(C) recommend to the City Council ordinances regulating the zoning of buildings and other structures with respect to their size, location, and use; and

(D) perform any other duties for which an ordinance provides.

(3) **Plans and plats.** No public office may receive or record any plan, plat, or replat of any street or other realty in the City, intended for dedication to public use or for the benefit of the fronting or

Deleted: **Annual report.** The commission must annually report in January to the Mayor about its activities, plans, and recommendations. The Mayor must within 15 days transmit the report, together with his or her comments and recommendations, to the City Council. ¶

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adjacent property, unless the planning commission has endorsed its approval on the plan, plat, or replat. The commission's disapproval rejects, and its approval accepts, the proposed dedication on the City's behalf. But accepting such a dedication does not subject the City to any duty to maintain the dedicated property until the City has entered, used, or improved upon it.

(4) **Public improvements.** The City may not authorize or incur debt for any public improvement, including (but not limited to) any structure of permanent character intended for ornament or commemoration, unless—

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- (A) the planning commission approves the location and design;
- (B) the commission, within 30 days after receiving a plan for a proposed improvement's location and design, notifies the City Council of particular objections, and the Council approves over the commission's objections; or
- (C) the commission does not notify the Council of particular objections within 30 days.

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(f) **Purchasing.** The City Council may require that each officer, board, or department buy goods through the purchasing department, except as this charter otherwise provides.

§ 8.3. Police

(a) **Police department.** The Mayor has complete power over the establishment, maintenance and command of the police department. The Mayor may make all rules and regulations and may promulgate and enforce general and special orders necessary to operating the police department. Except where the law vests an appointment in the department itself, the Mayor appoints and may discipline or discharge any employee in the department (subject to the Civil Service Commission's rules, in the case of an employee in the classified service).

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(1) **Police chief.**

- (A) **Appointment.** The Mayor nominates and the City Council appoints a police chief under section 9.4(b).
- (B) **Term.** The chief's term is three years. If the office of the police chief becomes vacant during the three year term, the chief appointed to the unexpired three year term serves out the remainder of the term.

- (C) **Civil service.** The chief serves in the unclassified service, but with the same employee benefits (except as to hiring and removal) as an officer in the classified service. If a chief is appointed from the classified service, then he or she is treated as taking a leave of absence while serving as chief, after which he or she is entitled to return to his or her permanent grade in the classified service. If no vacancy is available in that grade, then the least senior employee so classified returns to his or her grade before being so classified.
- (D) **Public health.** The chief must execute the City Council's orders relating to the preservation of health.

(2) **Police officers.** Each peace officer appointed in the police department must be licensed as required by law. Each such licensed officer may exercise any lawful power that a peace officer enjoys at common law or by general or special law, and may execute a warrant anywhere in the county.

Deleted: Crime-prevention bureau. The City Council must provide for a crime-prevention bureau, headed by a director in the unclassified service, who need not be a peace officer. The Council must provide by ordinance for the director's appointment, which need not comply with section 9.4(b). The bureau performs the duties that the police chief assigns. ¶

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(b) **Temporary police.** The Mayor may, in case of riot or other emergency, appoint any necessary temporary police officer for up to one week. Each such officer must be a licensed peace officer.

(c) **Funding.** The City Council must fund a police force of at least 0.0017 employees per citizen, and provide for those employees' compensation, for which purpose it may annually tax up to 0.03591 percent of the total value of the property in the City. This tax is in addition to any other tax, and not subject to the maximum set under section 10.3(a)(4).

Deleted: Special police. The Mayor may appoint special police for a limited place and time at the request and expense of any organization, business, individual, or other person. The special police may not wear a badge or exercise any authority outside those limits. ¶

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§ 8.4. Fire

(a) **Fire department.**

(1) **Fire chief.**

- (A) **Appointment.** The Mayor nominates and the City Council appoints a fire chief under section 9.4(b).
- (B) **Civil service.** The chief serves in the unclassified service, but with the same employee benefits (except as to hiring and discharge) as an officer in the classified service. If a chief is appointed from the classified service, then he or she is treated as taking a leave of absence while serving as chief, after which he or she is entitled to return to his or her

permanent grade in the classified service. If no vacancy is available in that grade, then the least senior employee so classified returns to his or her grade before being so classified.

(2) **Senior management.**

(A) **Appointment.** The fire chief, with the City Council's assent, appoints as the department's senior managers--

- (i) an assistant chief,
- (ii) a deputy chief,
- (iii) a fire marshal,
- (iv) ~~assistant chiefs of training, and~~
- (v) an engineering officer.

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(B) **Civil Service.** The fire chief appoints, without examination, a senior manager from the department's firefighters with the rank of captain or higher; and may discharge him or her at will, without regard to the Civil Service Commission's rules. An officer who accepts such an appointment is treated as taking a level of absence, retains his or her grade and seniority in the classified service, and earns seniority in that grade while serving as a senior manager, after which he or she is entitled to return to his or her permanent grade in the classified service. If no vacancy is available in that grade, then the least senior employee so classified returns to his or her grade before being so classified.

(3) **Officers and staff.**

(A) **Appointment.** The fire chief, with the City Council's assent, appoints (subject to the Civil Service Commission's rules) the department's other officers and other employees.

(B) **Layoffs.** The fire chief may (subject to the Civil Service Commission's rules) discharge an employee in the City's interest. If the City Council directs that the department reduce its force, then the chief must recommend only such layoffs as will not impair the department's operations.

- (b) **Fire marshal.** The fire marshal must take care that all laws and ordinances against danger from fire are faithfully observed and enforced, for which purpose the marshal may enter and inspect any building (including a dwelling) at any reasonable time, and as authorized by law. The marshal must examine and record the cause of any fire.
- (c) **Fire police.** The City Council may provide for fire police within either the fire department or the police department. The fire department may command the police officers at any fire.
- (d) **Fire emergencies.** If necessary for the protection of life or property from an unusual fire, a riot, or a like emergency, the fire chief may—
 - (1) compel the attendance of any employee in the fire department (including an off-duty firefighter), for which purpose the chief may make any necessary or prudent rule; and
 - (2) appoint additional officers or other firefighters for temporary service during the emergency, without regard to the Civil Service Commission’s rules.
- (e) **Funding.** The City Council must fund a fire department that can maintain adequate staffing levels.
 - (1) **Operating expenses.** The department’s operating expenses are paid out of the general fund.
 - (2) **Capital expenses.** The department’s capital expenses are paid out of the permanent-improvement fund, or the proceeds from bonds issued for the purpose, or out of the general fund.

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Article IX Officers and Other Employees

§ 9.1. Definitions

For this charter’s purposes—

- (a) an “officer” includes—
 - (1) each elected officer,
 - (2) each member of a board or commission for which this charter provides.

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(3) each employee listed in section 8.2 or appointed pursuant to section 9.4(b); and

Deleted: that this charter, a general law, special law, ordinance, or board designates as an officer;

(b) an “employee” includes—

(1) each officer, but does not include members of boards and commissions who are not otherwise considered employees under this charter, general law, special law or ordinance, and

(2) everyone in the classified or unclassified service who is not an officer.

§ 9.2 Officers generally

Except as this charter otherwise provides:

(a) **Oath.** Before taking office, each officer must sign and file with the city clerk an oath in substantially the following form: “I swear [*or* ‘affirm’] that I will faithfully discharge the office of [title], and will support the constitutions of the United States and of Minnesota.”

(b) **Bond.** The city clerk, the finance officer, and any other officer that the City Council requires, must before taking office deliver an executed bond in whatever amount and form and on whatever conditions the Council requires.

(c) **Tenure.** Each officer takes office, after taking the required oath—

(1) in the case of an elected officer elected in a regular election and who has been qualified, on the first weekday in January that is not a holiday in the calendar year next following the election;

(2) in the case of an elected officer elected at a special election, when the results are certified and the officer has been qualified; and

(3) in the case of any other office, as any applicable ordinance provides, otherwise upon election or appointment,

and serves until his or her successor is qualified and takes office. All officers required to be appointed by the City Council shall, unless this Charter provides otherwise, hold their respective offices for a term of two years from and after the first business day in January in even numbered years.

Deleted: An ordinance establishing an office may provide for the officer’s term, otherwise the term is two years.

(d) **Duties.** Each officer must perform the duties that this charter or any other applicable general or special law, ordinance, or rule, or the electing or appointing body, prescribes.

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- (e) **Vacancy.**
 - (1) **Determination.**
 - (A) **Elected office.** Each board to which the voters elect an elected officer determines when that office is vacant.
 - (B) **Other office.** The electing or appointing body determines when any other office is vacant.
 - (2) **Resignation.** Any officer may resign—
 - (A) by tendering a written resignation that the electing or appointing authority accepts; or
 - (B) in any other manner provided by law.
 - (3) **Removal.** The electing or appointing body (or, in the case of an elected office, the City Council) may remove any officer after notice and hearing. The notice must specify,
 - (C) the case for removal, and
 - (D) the hearing’s time and place.

The electing or appointing body may compel the testimony of any witness who may have relevant information, and may compel the production of any relevant book, document, or thing. This section is subject to section 9.4(b)(6), for whose purposes the appointing body is the City Council.
 - (4) **Vacancies.** The electing or appointing body may fill any vacancy that this charter does not provide another method of filling. Where the voters are the electing body, the City Council may fill the vacancy. A successor filling a vacancy serves only until an elected successor is qualified and takes office or for the unexpired term’s remainder.
- (f) **Notice.** Any notice to an officer may be given by—
 - (1) certified mail addressed to his or her last-known residence, or
 - (2) delivery in the manner provided by law for service of a summons in a civil action,

mailed or delivered at least 10 days before the meeting or other event for which notice is given.

§ 9.3. **Elected officers**

- (a) **“Elected office” defined.** For this charter’s purposes—
 - (1) an “elected office” means one that the voters elect; and
 - (2) an “elected officer”—
 - (A) means the incumbent holding an elected office, and includes an appointee filling a vacancy in such an office pending an election; but
 - (B) does not include an officer elected by a board to an office that is not an elected office.
- (b) **Qualifications.** No person is eligible as an elected officer unless he or she can vote for that office. A redistricting does not affect the eligibility or term of any incumbent holding office when the plan takes effect.
- (c) **Resignation.** Any elected officer may resign by tendering a written resignation to the city clerk.

§ 9.4. **Other officers**

- (a) **Other offices.** The City Council may establish any other necessary office, in which case the Council must provide for its title, appointment, term, compensation, and duties.
- (b) **Appointment by Mayor or Council.** Where a general law, special law, ordinance, rule, or other authority provides for an officer’s appointment by the Mayor, by the City Council, by any board whose membership mostly consists of Council members, or by any combination of them, and does not explicitly override this section 9.4(b), then the appointment is vested collectively in the Mayor, Executive Committee, and Council as this section provides. The Council may prescribe the Executive Committee’s process, and may require consultation with any interested Council committee or member, but may not limit the candidates that the Mayor may nominate or the Committee may review. This section 9.4(b) does not apply to any appointment for which another provision within this charter provides unless the other provision explicitly refers to this section.
 - (1) **Nomination by Mayor.** The Mayor enjoys the exclusive power of nominating the officer in the first instance.

- (2) **Recommendation by Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee must review the Mayor’s nomination, which it may forward to the City Council with a recommendation that the candidate be appointed.
- (3) **Appointment by City Council.** The City Council may appoint a candidate that the Executive Committee has recommended. The Council may not appoint a candidate that the Executive Committee has not recommended.
- (4) **Failure of appointment.** If an office has been vacant for at least 90 days (or 30 days in the case of the police chief), or if the Mayor has nominated three candidates that the Executive Committee or the Council has rejected, then the Executive Committee may name three or more candidates, from whom the Mayor must nominate one. If the Mayor has not, after 20 days, nominated a candidate so named, then a majority of the Executive Committee may recommend one such candidate to the Council, and the Council may appoint the recommended candidate, without the Mayor’s nomination. This process recurs until an officer is appointed.
- (5) **Suspension.** The Executive Committee may suspend without pay any officer appointed under this section 9.4(b). Any such suspension expires after five days unless the City Council extends it.
- (6) **Removal.** The City Council may not remove an officer appointed under this section 9.4(b) unless the Executive Committee so recommends, and may not remove a Civil Service Commissioner except for cause.
- (7) **Holding over.** Any officer subject to appointment under this section 9.4(b) whose term has expired but whose successor has not been appointed may continue in office for up to 180 days. The Executive Committee may thereafter appoint a temporary successor for up to 90 days. The office is otherwise vacant until a successor is appointed and has been qualified.

Deleted: If the Council does not accept or reject a recommendation by its first meeting held at least 60 days after the Mayor’s nomination, then the nominee is appointed.

§ 9.5. **Classified service**

For this section 9.5’s purposes, the “Commission” means the Civil Service Commission for which section 9.5(c) provides.

- (a) **Policy.** Through the Civil Service Commission, the City will adopt and follow fair, impartial, and practical rules for the classified service. Except

as this charter otherwise provides, the City must fill each vacancy in the classified service in a fair and impartial manner with the most qualified applicant according to an examination that measures qualifications and fitness for the job.

- (1) **Examination.** The examination may inquire into the applicant's experience, skill, and character to the extent that the job requires them.
- (2) **Nondiscrimination.** The examination may not inquire into any applicant's—
 - (A) ancestry, color, or race;
 - (B) cultural or ethnic background;
 - (C) political, ideological, or philosophical belief or affiliation;
 - (D) marital or parental status;
 - (E) national or regional origin;
 - (F) religion, or religious or denominational affiliation; or
 - (G) sexual or affectional orientation or preference,or into any other status on the basis of which discrimination is unlawful.
- (3) **Written answers.** Where a job requires expert knowledge, the examination may seek narrative answers, in which case the examiners must examine the answers and rank the applicants without seeing their names.

(b) **Classified service defined.**

- (1) **Classified service.** The “classified service” includes—
 - (A) each employee of the Commission; and
 - (B) each officer and other employee not in the unclassified service.
- (2) **Unclassified service.** The “unclassified service” includes the elected officers and—

- (A) for each board—
 - (i) its members, and
 - (ii) its secretary, if he or she serves without pay;
- (B) the city clerk;
- (C) the city assessor;
- (D) the city attorney;
- (E) the director of public works;
- (F) the commissioner of health;
- (G) the director of planning and economic development;
- (H) the civil rights director;
- (I) the director of regulatory services;
- (J) the police chief;
- (K) the fire chief;
- (L) the city coordinator;
- (M) the finance officer; and
- (N) any officer or other employee for whose unclassified status this charter or a general or special law provides.

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(c) **Commission.**

- (1) **Function and powers.** The Civil Service Commission administers the classified service, with respect to which it--
 - (A) must classify each job into a grade based on the job's description and duties, so that each grade includes jobs with similar descriptions and duties;
 - (B) must establish standards and qualifications for each job, and design a competitive examination that measures those standards and qualifications;

- (C) must administer or provide for the administration of a competitive examination after giving public notice for each job in the classified service, and must—
 - (i) maintain an application register of each applicant for examination, listing the job sought;
 - (ii) based on the results, maintain an eligibility register listing eligible applicants in order of their standing on the examination, on which eligibility expires at the time specified in the examination notice, unless the Commission extends it; and
 - (iii) certify to the board, department, or officer that will fill any vacancy a list of the three (3) eligible applicants standing highest on the appropriate list from the eligibility register (see sec. 9.5(d)(2));
- (D) must maintain and monitor a service register of each employee in the classified service, listing his or her title, compensation, employment record, and any other useful information;
- (E) may waive an examination for unskilled labor, and instead provide for hiring by fair and equitable means or arrange for tests of physical fitness or other qualifying tests; and
- (F) may waive an examination in a particular case if—
 - (i) the job requires unusual professional or scientific credentials or expertise; and
 - (ii) the Commission unanimously concludes after a public hearing that a competitive examination is impracticable,

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in which case its next report must so note.

(2) **Composition.** The Commission comprises three citizens, appointed under section 9.4(b), who—

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- (A) favor merit, efficiency, and affirmative action in the public service; and
- (B) hold no other office or employment under the federal, state, municipal, or any other government, or any department,

agency, court, or political subdivision of any such government.

Each commissioner serves a three-year term, with one commissioner's term expiring each year on March 1.

- (3) **Meetings.** The Commission must annually hold an organizational meeting on the second Monday in August.
- (4) **Rules.**
 - (A) **Notice for rulemaking.** The Commission may, after giving public notice, adopt any necessary or prudent rule in furtherance of this section 9.5's purposes.
 - (B) **Contents.** These rules must encourage the filling of each vacancy by promotion, and provide for—
 - (i) hiring, evaluation, discipline (include by suspension for up to 90 days, with or without pay), and discharge with a view toward an efficient and effective classified service;
 - (ii) promotion (include raised compensation) based on competitive examination, efficiency, charter, conduct, and seniority;
 - (iii) transfer among jobs in the same grade or class;
 - (iv) leaves of absence;
 - (v) reinstatement of employees laid off or otherwise discharged without fault; and
 - (vi) with the Commission's consent, temporary employment without examination in an emergency or pending a hiring from the eligibility register, for up to 60 days per vacancy.
 - (C) **Notice of rules.** The Commission must send its rules, including each amendment, to—
 - (1) the Mayor,
 - (2) the City Council,

- (3) each other board, and
- (4) each officer who can hire an employee in the classified service.

(D) **Report.** The Commission must annually report in January to the Mayor and the City Council, and publish its report to each other board and each officer who can hire an employee in the classified service. The report must cover the preceding calendar year, and include--

- (1) the Commission's rules, including any amendment during the preceding year;
- (2) each action under this section 9.5(c);
- (3) an accounting for the civil service fund;
- (4) the state of the civil service and any results of the Commission's work; and
- (5) any recommendation for the civil service's greater efficiency and integrity.

(d) **Employment.**

- (1) **Application register.** Each applicant on the application register is entitled to notice of each examination for a job for which he or she has applied and qualified.
- (2) **Eligibility register.** Except as otherwise provided by law:
 - (A) each vacancy in the classified service is filled from the eligibility register; and
 - (B) the Commission must certify the first three eligible applicants standing highest on the eligibility register, unless a board, department, or officer is filling more than one vacancy from the same list, in which case the Commission must certify one additional applicant for each additional vacancy.
- (3) **Service register.** The City must pay an employee in the classified service only for the time and at the rate that the service register shows his or her employment.

(4) **Tenure.** After a probationary period that begins upon hiring, an employee in the classified service may be disciplined or discharged only as this charter, the Commission's rules, or any other applicable law or agreement provides.

(A) **Probation.** The probationary period for each officer or employee is as specified in a collective bargaining agreement, ordinance, contract, Commission rules or other document that defines the terms and conditions of employment between the City and the employee's labor representative or the employee or officer.

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(B) **Discharge.** No employee in the classified service, having completed the probationary period, may be discharged except for just cause after—

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- (1) written notice of the cause for dismissal;
- (2) a hearing before the Commission, or an officer or board that the Commission designates; and
- (3) a finding by the hearing authority that the evidence supports the cause charged and warrants dismissal.

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(C) **Suspension.** A supervisory may, without regard to this article IX's other provisions, discipline a subordinate employee by means of a suspension for up to 30 days.

(e) **Administration and enforcement.**

(1) **Enforcement.** The Commission must take care that this section 9.5 and its rules are faithfully observed and enforced, for which purpose any commissioner may inquire of any responsible officer, board, or department. Any commissioner in the exercise of the Commission's functions and powers, and any hearing authority that the Commission designates, may compel the testimony of any witness who may have relevant information, or the production of any relevant book, document, or thing.

(2) **Cooperation.** Each officer, board, and department must—

(A) furnish any information that the Commission requests for the service register;

- (B) administer an examination as the Commission requests, without additional compensation; and
 - (C) cooperate with an inquiry by the Commission.
- (3) **False statement.** Any applicant who knowingly furnishes false information on an application for employment in the classified service forfeits—
- (A) his or her entry on the application register,
 - (B) any employment held in the classified service, and
 - (C) eligibility for such employment for three years.
- (4) **Bribery.** Any person who, in connection with or for the purpose of influencing any examination or other action under this Section 9.5—
- (A) offers, accepts, or solicits any money, service, or other thing of value; or
 - (B) seeks or accepts any recommendation from any officer or employee of the City,

will be punished as provided by law.

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- (f) **Fund.** The City Council must annually establish a civil-service fund for this section 9.5's purposes by levying, in addition to any other tax, a tax upon all taxable property in the City that yields at least 2.5 cents per citizen. The Commission may use the proceeds from this fund and controls its own finances. Any unspent civil-service funds at year's end must be returned to the City's general fund.

Article X Finance

§ 10.1. Fiscal year

The fiscal year coincides with the calendar year.

§ 10.2. Appropriations

- (a) **Payments.** Except as this section 10.2 otherwise provides, no money may be paid out of the City's treasury except—

- (1) pursuant to a budgeted appropriation, and approval of a contract or order for payment, by the City Council or other authorized board;
- (2) in payment of principal or interest on a bond issued or other debt incurred under this charter; or
- (3) pursuant to a resolution by the City Council, by three-fourths of its membership, authorizing a payment out of current funds.

(b) **Routine claims and bills.** The City Council (or, in the case of a matter under its charge, the Park & Recreation Board) may by ordinance provide—

- (1) for the current payment of authorized bills, including bills for goods and services, payroll, and other routine claims, including payment of court judgment against the City and workers' compensation claim against the City, incurred in the ordinary course of business;
- (2) for recovery of any overpayment, including civil liability up to double the amount overpaid; and
- (3) for criminal liability for a fraud or other abuse.

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(c) Payroll. The City finance officer is authorized to approve the payment of the city payroll from the appropriate city funds.

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§ 10.3. Budget

(a) **Schedule.** Each year, for the next fiscal year—

- (1) **Goals and priorities.** The Mayor must establish the City's goals and priorities in his or her annual state of the City address. The City Council must review, and may amend, those goals and priorities prior to the Mayor's budget submission to the City Council.
- (2) **Departmental estimates and recommendations.** By July 1, each board with taxing power and each board, department, or office that the City funds must notify the Mayor and the Board of Estimate & Taxation of—
 - (A) its estimated revenue and expenses and its budgetary needs for the next fiscal year; and

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(B) any recommended capital improvements for the next five fiscal years.

(3) **Recommended budget.** By August 15, the Mayor must recommend to the City Council and to the Board of Estimate & Taxation a budget, which must—

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(A) include a message outlining the budget's significant features;

(B) estimate the revenue, expenses, and budgetary needs for each board, department, and officer;

(C) recommend any capital improvements for the next five fiscal years;

(D) summarize all taxes applicable to property in the City and their effect; and

(E) recommend any necessary or prudent legislation or other action affecting the City's finances.

(4) **Maximum taxation.** By September 15, after a public hearing, the Board of Estimate & Taxation must set the maximum amounts and rates that the City Council and other boards may levy, including the maximum amount and rate of each fund. The levy for the general fund must not exceed 0.53871 percent of the total value of the property in the City.

(5) **Budget.** After a public hearing on the budget for and taxes payable in the following year, the City Council and each board must adopt a budget, which must—

(A) appropriate money for each board's, department's, and officer's operations;

(B) provide for payment of the City's general-obligation debt service;

(C) levy any tax, up to the maximum set by the Board of Estimate & Taxation, necessary for those purposes; and

(D) tax the property in the City in an amount, without regard to the maximum set by the Board of Estimate & Taxation, that will satisfy any judgment against the City.

- (6) **Transfers.**
 - (A) **Administrative transfers.** The budget or an ordinance may provide for transferring money appropriated for one purpose to another by administrative transfer without further action by the City Council.
 - (B) **Transfers within same board's or department's budget.** A board that controls its own finances may transfer money appropriated for one purpose to another within its budget only if the Board of Estimate & Taxation, with at least five affirmative votes, approves a request to that effect. No such transfer may affect the proceeds from bonds issued or other debt incurred for a particular purpose.
 - (C) **Other transfers.** Any other transfer within the budget, or any additional expense in excess of the amount budgeted, requires action by the Council.
- (b) **Cooperation, information.** For this article X's purposes, each officer, board, or department must cooperate with the Mayor, with the Board of Estimate & Taxation, and with the budget director, and must furnish any information that the Mayor, the Board, or the director requests.

§ 10.4. **Debt**

- (a) **Borrowing power.**
 - (1) **Conditions.** The City may issue bonds, borrow money, or otherwise pledge its credit only for a lawful purpose, consistent with this charter; and with the concurrence of—
 - (A) the City Council, by two-thirds of its membership;
 - (B) the Board of Estimate & Taxation, with at least five affirmative votes; and
 - (C) any other board in which this charter vests the borrowing power, by two-thirds of its membership.
 - (2) **Contract.** Whenever the City acting under this charter issues bonds, borrows money, or otherwise pledges its credit, then its contract with the bondholder or other creditor incorporates this section 10.4's provisions and creates an obligation that no subsequent amendment or other action by the City can impair. Any debt contracted or engagement entered into before this

charter's latest revision is as valid against the City under this charter as under any prior version of this charter.

(b) **Sinking fund.**

(1) **Fund.** The City Council must maintain a sinking fund sufficient at least for paying off the City's debt as it comes due. Any tax collected for interest or principal on any such debt goes into the sinking fund, and may not be diverted to any other purpose. Any other revenue not otherwise appropriated, and any proceeds from bonds whose purpose has been discharged or abandoned, go into the sinking fund.

(2) **Fund insufficient.** If—

(A) the sinking fund will not pay the City's debt that has come due, or

(B) the City Council finds that buying any bonds not due whose holders are offering them for sale will serve the City's interests,

then the Council may issue refunding bonds covering the shortfall. No such bond's term may exceed 30 years, and no such bond may bear interest at a higher rate than any bond that it refunds.

(c) **Premium from bonds.** Any premium received from selling bonds must service those bonds.

(d) **Capital improvements.** The City may not issue bonds, borrow money, or otherwise incur debt in connection with any capital improvement where the debt exceeds \$15 million for the entire project unless the voters so authorize.

(e) **Putting Professional Sports Facility Financing Before the Voters. The City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Community Development Agency, or any city department, agency, commission, or board, shall use no city resources over \$10 million dollars for the financing of professional sports facilities without the approval of a simple majority of the votes cast on the question, in a ballot question put to the public at the next regularly scheduled election. City resources are defined for these purposes as: Tax increment financing, bonds, loans, land purchase or procurement, land or site preparation, including necessary infrastructure such as roads, parking development, sewer and water, or other infrastructure development, general fund expenditures, sales tax or other taxes, deferred payments, interest free or below market interest rate loans, the donation or below**

Deleted: Professional sports facility. Neither the City, nor any governmental body whose territorial jurisdiction is coextensive with or falls wholly within the City, may finance any professional sports facility in an amount greater than \$10 million unless the voters in an otherwise scheduled election (and not an election held only for that purpose) so authorize. For this section 10.4(e)'s purposes, "finance" includes applying existing realty, infrastructure, overhead, or other resources, and forgoing taxes or any other revenue, as well as spending money directly, issuing bonds, or otherwise incurring debt.

market value sale of any city resources or holdings or any other free or below cost city services. The ballot question shall not be put before the public in a special election, in order to prevent the costs associated with special elections.

- (f) **Public utilities.** The City may not issue bonds, borrow money, or otherwise incur debt for the purpose of acquiring a public utility.
- (g) **Standing.** Any taxpayer may enforce this section 10.4, and any creditor may enforce section 10.4(a)-(c), by an action in the district court.

§ 10.5. Taxable value

For this charter's purposes, a property's "value" means the assessor's estimated total market value.

§ 10.6. Improvements

- (a) **Permanent-improvement fund.**
 - (1) **Fund.** The City Council must maintain a permanent-improvement fund into which go the proceeds from—
 - (A) each bond issued, and each tax levied, for permanent improvements, whose proceeds may not be diverted to any other purpose; and
 - (B) each special assessment levied against the property fronting or benefited by any improvement of a local character.
 - (2) **Payments.** The Council may pay out of the fund for any improvement of a local character—
 - (A) in anticipation of revenue from a special assessment levied against the property fronting or benefited by the improvement; or
 - (B) to the extent that the City otherwise bears the improvement's cost.

(3)

Deleted: Transfer of unused money.
The Council may transfer to the sinking fund any unused money from the permanent-improvement fund.

- (b) **Tax.** The City Council annually—
- (1) must tax up to 0.0025 percent of the total value of the property in the City for the cost of any permanent improvement not defrayed by special assessment, and
 - (2) may tax up to 0.0025 percent of the total value of the property in the City for sewers and related infrastructure, the disposal and treatment of sewage and other waste, and related purposes, for which the City may acquire realty and extend infrastructure beyond the City’s boundaries.

(c) **Special assessments.**

- (1) **Improvements.** The City Council may levy a special assessment that partly or wholly defrays the cost of any improvement of a local character against the property fronting or benefited by the improvement.

(A) Authority. The City Council may levy a special assessment that partly or wholly defrays the cost of any improvement of a local character against property fronting or benefited by the improvement. For purposes of this section, “improvement” includes --

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(i) the abatement of nuisance conditions,

(ii) public utility or service charges,

(iii) solid waste disposal charges, or

(iii) any service or improvement to the public right-of-way including, but not limited to, sidewalk upkeep and maintenance, the paving, repaving or maintenance of any road, street, lane or alley, any gutter or gutters along any such road, street, lane or alley, the laying, re-laying or extension of any water main or sewer pipe in or through such roads, streets, lanes or alleys or any portion thereof, or the installation of street lighting.

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(B) Procedure. In levying special assessments, the Council must determine or designate the character and extent of the improvements. Following the Council’s determination or designation--

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(i) the department of public works must make and present to the Council an estimate of the cost of the proposed improvements,

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(ii) an assessment roll listing the lots and parcels of land which will be benefited, including the names of the property owners or taxpayers of the parcels as nearly as the department of public works can readily ascertain the information.

(iii) A report of the department of public works' actions must be made and published in a record of the proceedings of the Council, which, except as otherwise provided in this section, must be held to be sufficient notice to all persons concerned.

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(iv) No assessment may be made until the next regular meeting of the Council which occurs at least one week after the Council receive the report.

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(v) In the meantime, the Council may direct the department of public works to advertise for and receive bids for performing the work and furnishing the material required to construct or complete any improvements.

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(vi) At any subsequent meeting, the Council may consider such estimate and assessment roll, and any further communications from the department of public works respecting the matter, and must hold a public hearing, after giving notice by mail to the owners or taxpayers of the properties to be assessed.

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(vii) The Council may adhere to its resolution for making such improvements, may modify the character of same, or abandon it.

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(viii) If the Council decides to proceed with the improvements, whether modified or not, it must determine what portion of the cost of the improvements is to be paid from city funds and what portion of the cost is to be levied as assessments against properties benefited by such improvements, and it may, either before or after contracting for or commencing construction such

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improvements, assess and levy the portion of such cost which is to be paid through assessments upon the same lots and parcels of land in the city as the Council shall deem benefited, in proportion to such benefits, irrespective of whether or not the property abuts the improvement.

(ix) The Council by ordinance must adopt a procedure providing for a public hearing to be held prior to the adoption of the assessment for any improvements.

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(C) The city may, at its option, levy special assessments pursuant to this charter and ordinances enacted pursuant to the charter, or pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 429.

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- (2) **Parks and parkways.** The Park & Recreation Board may levy a special assessment that partly or wholly defrays the cost of condemning realty for a part or parkway, or of any improvement in or along a part or parkway, against the property fronting or benefited by the park, parkway, or improvement. The City Council may levy an assessment with respect to an improvement in or along a park or parkway only after a request by the Park & Recreation Board.
- (3) **Services.** The City Council or the Park & Recreation Board may likewise assess against the property benefited the cost of municipal services to any street, sidewalk, or other property.
- (4) **Ordinances.** The City Council and the Park & Recreation Board each must by ordinance establish the procedure for levying a special assessment, including the procedure for any appeal. The City Council or the Park & Recreation Board may by ordinance provide for a lien from an assessment and for the lien's priority.
- (5) **County auditor.** The City Council or the Park & Recreation Board may—
 - (A) require that the county auditor furnish information about benefited property and its ownership in connection with a special assessment; and
 - (B) set the rate, at least five cents per entry, at which the City compensates the county for this service.
- (d) **Review of unassessed improvements.** If the City Council or the Park & Recreation Board votes to acquire realty for the City's system of streets or

of parks and parkways, and the cost is not wholly assessed against the benefited property, then the City may not begin incurring any related expense until 30 days after the board voting for the acquisition determines the resulting awards and assessments and so notifies the board of Estimate & Taxation. The Board of Estimate & Taxation, with at least five affirmative votes, at a public hearing of which at least 14 days' notice was given, may set aside the awards and assessments and thereby cancel the acquisition. But the acquisition may proceed without waiting for the 30 days, and the City may begin incurring related expenses, if the Board of Estimate & Taxation, with at least five affirmative votes, approves the acquisition.

§ 5.6. Finances

- (a) **Financial Control.** Each board with borrowing or taxing power may apply the proceeds for its own purposes and controls its own finances. Each such board may dedicate any proceeds from a particular source to a particular purpose, and may establish any necessary account or fund for that purpose or any other lawful purpose.
- (b) **Borrowing power.** A board's borrowing power includes the power of issuing bonds, taking out loans, and otherwise incurring debt, to which the City pledges its full faith and credit. Any such power is subject to section 10.4.
- (c) **Taxing power.** Each board's taxing power is subject to the maximum set under section 10.3(a)(4), except as this charter or any applicable law otherwise provides.
- (d) **Accounting.**
 - (1) **Practices.** Each board may adopt its own accounting and auditing practices, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards.
 - (2) **Examination.** The City Council may audit or examine any officer's accounts, and may declare vacant any office whose incumbent does not cooperate, in which case the Council may also provide for the officer's prosecution.