

CHARTER OF THE CITY OF WILSONVILLE

To provide for the government of the City of Wilsonville, Clackamas and Washington Counties, Oregon; and to repeal all Charter provisions the city enacted prior to the time this Charter takes effect.

Be it enacted by the people of the City of Wilsonville, Clackamas and Washington Counties, Oregon

CHAPTER I

NAME AND BOUNDARIES

Section 1. **TITLE OF ENACTMENT.** This enactment may be referred to as the Wilsonville Charter of 1987 and shall become effective January 1, 1987.

Section 2. **NAME OF CITY.** The City of Wilsonville, Clackamas and Washington Counties, Oregon, shall continue to be a municipal corporation with the name, "City of Wilsonville".

Section 3. **BOUNDARIES.** The city shall include all territory encompassed by its boundaries as they now exist or are hereafter modified pursuant to law. The City Recorder shall keep an accurate, up-to-date description of the boundaries and make copies of this charter and boundary descriptions available for public inspection.

CHAPTER II

POWERS

Section 4. **POWERS OF THE CITY.** The city shall have all powers that the constitutions, statutes and common law of the United States and of this state expressly or impliedly [sic] grant or allow municipalities, as fully as though this charter specifically enumerated each of those powers.

Section 5. **CONSTRUCTION OF CHARTER.** In this charter no mention of a particular power shall be construed to be exclusive or to restrict the scope of the powers which the city would have if the particular power were not mentioned. The charter shall be liberally construed to this end that the city may have all powers necessary or convenient for the conduct of its municipal affairs, including all powers that cities may assume pursuant to state laws and to the municipal home rule provisions of the state constitution.

CHAPTER III **FORM OF GOVERNMENT**

Section 6. **WHERE POWERS VESTED.** Except as this charter provides otherwise, all powers of the city are vested in the Council; the elected officers of the city.

Section 7. **COUNCIL.** The Council shall be composed of a Mayor and four Councilors elected from the city at large.

Section 8. **COUNCILORS.** Councilors in office at the time this charter takes effect shall continue in office until the end of the present term of office of each. At each biennial general election after this charter takes effect, two Councilors shall be elected, each for a term of four years.

Section 9. **MAYOR.** At the biennial general election held in 1988, and every fourth year thereafter, a Mayor shall be elected for a term of four years. The term of Mayor elected at the 1986 general election shall continue until January 1, 1989.

Section 10. **APPOINTIVE OFFICERS.** Additional officers of the city shall be a City Manager, City Attorney and Municipal Judge and other officers and the Council deems necessary. The Council shall appoint and may remove any of these officers by a majority vote of all incumbent members of the Council. In judicial functions, the Municipal Judge shall not be subject to supervisory by any other officer.

Section 11. **SALARIES.** The compensation for the service of each city officer and employee shall be the amount fixed by the Council.

Section 12. **QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTED OFFICERS.** No person shall be eligible for an elective office of the city unless at the time of his election, he is a qualified elector within the meaning of the state constitution and has resided in the city during the twelve months

immediately preceding the election. No person shall hold an elected office of the city if the person is an employee of the city. The Council shall be the final judge of the qualifications and election of its own members.

CHAPTER IV **CITY COUNCIL**

Section 13. **MEETINGS.** The Council shall hold a regular meeting at least once each month in the city at a time and place with it designates. It shall adopt rules for the government of its members and proceedings. The Mayor or three Council members may call special meetings of the Council. Special meetings may also be held at any time by the common consent of a quorum of all members of the Council at any regular meeting.

Section 14. **RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS.** The Council shall cause a record of its proceedings to be kept.

Section 15. **QUORUM.** A majority of the incumbent members of the Council shall constitute a quorum for its business.

Section 16. **PROCEEDINGS TO BE PUBLIC.** No action by the Council shall have legal effect unless the motion for the action and the vote by which it is disposed of take place at proceedings open to the public.

Section 17. **MAYOR'S FUNCTIONS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS.** The Mayor shall preside over Council deliberations and shall have a vote on all questions before the Council. The Mayor shall preserve order, enforce the rules of the Council, and determine the order of business under the rules of the Council.

Section 18. **PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.** At its first meeting after this charter takes effect and thereafter at its first meeting of each odd-numbered year, the Council shall elect a president from its membership. In the Mayor's absence from a Council meeting, the president shall preside over it. Whenever the council determines that the Mayor is unable to perform the functions of the office, the president shall act as Mayor.

Section 19. **VOTE REQUIRED.** Except as this charter otherwise provides, the concurrence of a majority of members of the Council voting when a quorum of the Council is present shall decide any questions before it.

CHAPTER V
POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 20. **MAYOR.** The Mayor shall appoint the Council committees provided by the rules of the Council. The Mayor shall sign all records of proceedings approved by the Council. The Mayor shall have no veto power and shall sign all ordinances passed by the Council within three days after their passage. After the Council approves a bond of a city officer or a bond for a license, contract or proposal, the Mayor shall endorse the bond.

Section 21. **CITY MANAGER.** (a) Qualifications. The City Manager shall be the administrative head of the government of the city. The City Manager shall be chosen by the Council without regard to political considerations and solely with reference to executive and administrative qualifications. The manager need not be a resident of the city or of the state at the time of appointment.

(b) Terms. The manager shall be appointed for an indefinite term and may be removed at the pleasure of the Council. Upon any vacancy occurring in the office of manager after the first appointment pursuant to this charter, the Council at its next meeting shall adopt a resolution of its intention to appoint another manager. Not later than six months after adopting the resolution, the Council shall appoint a manager to fill the vacancy.

(c) Powers and Duties. The powers and duties of the manager shall be as follows:

(1) The manager shall devote full-time to the discharge of the manager's official duties, attend all meetings of the Council unless excused therefrom by the Council or the Mayor, keep the Council advised at all times of the affairs and needs of the city, and make reports annually, or more frequently if requested by the Council, of all the affairs and departments of the city.

(2) The City Manager shall see that all ordinances are enforced and that the provisions of all franchises, leases, contracts, permits and privileges granted by the city are observed.

(3) The manager shall designate a City Recorder and shall appoint and may remove appointive city officers and employees except as this charter

otherwise provides, and shall have general supervision and control over them and their work with power to transfer an employee from one department to another. The city Manager shall organize and supervise the departments to the end of obtaining the utmost efficiency in each of them. The manager shall have no control, however, over the Council, over the Mayor, over the City Attorney, or over the judicial activities of the Municipal Judge.

(4) The manager shall act as purchasing agent for all departments of the city. All purchases shall be made by requisition signed by the manager or his designate.

(5) The manager shall be responsible for preparing and submitting to the budget committee the annual budget estimates and such reports as that body requests.

(6) The manager shall supervise the operation of all public utilities owned and operated by the city and shall have general supervision over all city property.

(d) Seats at Council Meetings. The manager and such other officers as the Council designates shall be entitled to sit with the Council but shall have no vote on questions before it. The manager may take part in all Council discussion.

(e) Manager Pro Tem. Whenever the manager is absent from the city, is temporarily disabled from acting as manager, or whenever the office becomes vacant, the Council shall appoint a manager pro tem, who shall possess the powers and duties of the manager. No manager pro tem, however, may appoint or remove a city officer or employee except with the approval of the Council. No manager pro tem shall hold the position as such for more than six months, and no appointment of a manager pro tem shall be consecutively renewed.

Section 22. **MUNICIPAL JUDGE.** The Municipal Judge shall be the judicial officer of the city. The judge shall hold within the city, a court known as the municipal court for the City of Wilsonville, Clackamas and Washington Counties, Oregon. The court shall be open for the transaction of judicial business at times specified by the Council. All areas within the city shall be within the territorial jurisdiction of the court. The municipal judge shall exercise

original and exclusive jurisdiction of all offenses defined or authorized by ordinances of the city. The judge shall have authority to issue process for the arrest of any person accused of an offense against the ordinances of the city, to commit any such person to jail or admit to bail pending trial, to issue subpoenas, to compel witnesses to appear and testify in court on the trial of any cause before the judge, to compel obedience to such subpoenas, to issue any process necessary to carry into effect the judgments of the court, and to punish witnesses and others for contempt of court. When not governed by ordinances or this charter, all proceedings in the municipal court for the violation of a city ordinance shall be governed by the applicable general laws of the state governing justices of the peace and justice courts.

Notwithstanding this section or section 10 of this charter, the Council may provide for the transfer of powers and duties of the municipal court to the appropriate district court of the State of Oregon.

Section 23. **CITY RECORDER.** The City Recorder shall serve ex officio as clerk of the Council, attend all its meetings unless excused therefrom by the Council and keep an accurate record of its proceedings. In the Recorder's absence from a Council meeting, the Mayor shall appoint a clerk of the Council pro tem, who, while acting in that capacity, shall have all the authority and duties of the Recorder.

CHAPTER VI

ELECTIONS

Section 24. **REGULATION OF ELECTIONS GENERALLY.** Except as this charter provides otherwise and as the Council provides otherwise by ordinance, the general laws of the state shall apply to city elections.

Section 25. **TIE VOTES.** In the event of a tie vote for candidates for an elective office, the successful candidate shall be determined by a public drawing of lots in a manner prescribed by the Council.

Section 26. **COMMENCEMENT OF TERMS OF OFFICE.** The term of office of a person elected to a city office at a regular city election commences on January 1st of the year immediately following the election.

Section 27. **OATH OF OFFICE.** Before commencing the duties of elective office, each officer shall take an oath or shall affirm faithful performance of the duties of the office and support for the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Oregon.

Section 28. **NOMINATIONS.** A qualified elector who shall have resided in the city during the 12 months immediately preceding the election may be nominated for an elective city position. Nomination shall be by petition specifying the position sought in a form prescribed by the Council. Such petition shall be signed by not fewer than 20 electors. Nomination petitions shall be in the form and filed in the manner and within the time prescribed by ordinance and state law. The City Recorder shall make a record of the exact time at which each petition is filed and shall take and preserve the name and address of the person by whom it is filed.

CHAPTER VII

VACANCIES IN OFFICE

Section 29. **VACANCY.** An office shall be deemed vacant upon the incumbent's death, adjudicated incompetence, conviction of a felony, resignation or recall or upon the incumbent's ceasing to possess the qualifications necessary for the office; or upon the failure of the person elected or appointed to an office to qualify therefor within ten days after the time for the term of office to commence; and in the case of Mayor or Councilor, upon the absence from meetings from the Council for 60 days or absence from the city for 30 days without consent of the Council; and upon a declaration by the Council of the vacancy.

Section 30. **FILLING OF VACANCIES.** Vacancies in elective offices of the city shall be filled by appointment by a majority of the incumbent membership of the Council. The appointee's terms of office shall begin immediately upon appointment and shall continue until the first day of January following the next biennial election; and if the term of office does not then expire, the remainder thereof shall be filled by election at such biennial election. During the temporary disability of any officer or during the absence temporarily from the city for any cause, the office may be filled pro tem, in the manner provided for filling vacancies in office permanently.

CHAPTER VIII
ORDINANCES

Section 31. **ENACTING CLAUSE.** The enacting clause of all ordinances hereafter enacted shall be “The City of Wilsonville Ordains as Follows”.

Section 32. **MODE OF ENACTMENT.** (1) Except as subsection (2) and (3) provides to the contrary, every ordinance of the Council shall, before being put upon its final passage, be read fully and distinctly in open Council meeting on two different days.

(2) Except as sub-section (3) provides to the contrary, an ordinance may be enacted at a single meeting of the Council by unanimous vote of all incumbent Council members, upon being read first in full and then by title.

(3) Any of the readings may be by title only (a) if no Council member present at the meeting requests to have the ordinance read in full; or (b) if a copy of the ordinance is provided for each Council member and a copy is provided for public inspection in the office of the City Recorder not later than one week before the first reading of the ordinance and notice of their availability is given forthwith upon the filing by written notice posted in the City Hall and two other public places in the city; or advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation in the city. An ordinance enacted after being read by title alone may have no legal effect if it differs substantially from its terms as it was thus filed prior to such reading, unless each section incorporating such a difference is read fully and distinctly in open Council meeting as finally amended prior to being approved by the Council.

(4) Upon the final vote on an ordinance, the ayes and nays of the members shall be taken and entered into the record of proceedings.

(5) Upon the enactment of any ordinance, the City Recorder shall sign it with the date of its passage and the Recorder’s name and title of office, and within three days thereafter the Mayor shall sign it with the date of signature, name and the title of office.

Section 23. **WHEN ORDINANCES SHALL TAKE EFFECT.** An ordinance enacted by the Council shall take effect on the thirtieth day after its enactment. When the Council deems it advisable, however, an ordinance may provide a later time for it to take effect, and in case of emergency, it may take effect immediately.

CHAPTER IX
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

Section 34. **CONDEMNATION.** Any necessity of taking property for the city by condemnation shall be determined by the Council and declared by a resolution of the Council describing the property and stating the uses to which it shall be devoted. All such proceedings shall be in accordance with existing state laws pertaining to condemnation.

Section 35. **IMPROVEMENTS.** The procedure for making, altering, vacating or abandoning a public improvement shall be governed by ordinance or, to the extent not so governed, by the applicable general laws of the State of Oregon.

Section 36 **SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS.** The procedure for levying, collecting, and enforcing the payment of special assessments for public improvements or other services to be charged against real property shall be governed by ordinance or to the extent not so governed, by the applicable general laws of the State of Oregon.

Section 37. **PUBLIC CONTRACTING.** Except as authorized by Oregon Public Contracting law or general ordinance, all city contracts shall be based on competitive bids.

CHAPTER X
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 38. **DEBT LIMIT.** Except by consent of the voters, the city's voluntary floated indebtedness shall not exceed ten percent of the current budget, nor its bonded indebtedness exceed that as may be set by Oregon law. For purposes of calculating the limitation, however, the legally authorized debt of the city in existence at the time this charter takes effect shall not be considered. All city officials and employees who create or officially approve any indebtedness in excess of this limitation shall be jointly and severally liable for the excess.

Section 39. **TORTS.** In no event shall the city be liable in damages except as provided by Oregon law.

Section 40. **EXISTING ORDINANCES CONTINUED.** All ordinances of the city consistent with this charter and in force when it takes effect shall remain in effect until amended or repealed.

Section 41. **REPEAL OF PREVIOUSLY ENACTED PROVISIONS.** All charter provisions of the city enacted prior to the time that this charter takes effect are hereby repealed except those charter amendments giving authority for the issuance of general obligation bonds which shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 42. **TIME OF EFFECT OF CHARTER.** This charter shall take effect January 1, 1987.

Section 43. **USE OF WILLAMETTE RIVER.** The City of Wilsonville shall not use Willamette River water as a drinking water source for its citizens unless the question of so using the Willamette River water as a drinking water source has received the affirmative majority of the total number of legal votes cast on such measure and entitled to be counted thereon. *[Section 43 is a Charter Amendment voted upon and approved by a majority of the qualified voters of the City of Wilsonville in a special election September 20, 1999.]*

Section 44. **REQUIRES VOTER APPROVAL BEFORE CITY EXPENDS RESOURCES TO CONSTRUCT ANY NEW CITY HALL BUILDING.** The city shall not expend resources on the construction of a new City Hall Building without first obtaining approval of a majority of voters casting ballots during a regularly scheduled City election. A regularly scheduled city election shall be defined as the general election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November in even numbered years or such special election called by the City council for a statutorily scheduled county election date in March, May, September or November. Any ballot proposal seeking such approval must include the total cost of completing the construction project in its title caption. The total cost of construction must be detailed in a proposal summary and shall include principal construction costs, infrastructure costs, the commercially zoned market value of any land acquired or appropriated for the project, the maximum cost of paying interest on any bonded indebtedness attached to the project, and an

estimate of any other costs necessary to complete the project. The term ‘City Hall Building’ includes any significant structure housing one or more chief administrative functions of the city.” Spending necessary to determine costs is not restricted. *[Section 44 is a Charter Amendment voted upon and approved by a majority of the qualified voters of the City of Wilsonville in a regular election held November 5, 2002.]*

Amended September 1999, Section 43.

Amended November 2002, Section 44.

Amended November 2004, Section 44 to clarify ‘regularly scheduled election’