

Act No. M-19 (H.883). Municipal charters; City of Winooski; amendments

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Winooski

This act amends the charter of the City of Winooski. In addition to making amendments that are technical or stylistic in nature, the amendments make the following changes to the charter:

- City Councilors and the Mayor hold office until their successors take office, as opposed to when the successor is chosen.
- The Mayor may take an action that has been approved by the City Council, and in the event of a vacancy in the Office of Mayor, the Deputy Mayor shall become Mayor until the next annual meeting, regardless of when the vacancy occurs.
- The voting requirements of the City Council regarding recommendations of bonds, decisions on forfeiture of office, removal from office or employment, and other Council actions are changed or clarified.
- The City Council is permitted to adopt policies as long as the policy is not required to be adopted by ordinance.
- The following officers hold office at the will of the Council: City Treasurer, City Attorney, Auditor, and Health Officer.
- The Personnel Board is eliminated.
- The City Council may designate someone other than the City Clerk as the Clerk of the Council.
- Article 8 of the charter is repealed and reorganized into new sections within the charter's Article 4.
- Emergency ordinances expire on the 31st day following the date of adoption, rather than the 61st day.
- The requirement that an initiative or referendum be commenced by a Petitioner's Committee is removed, and the charter now allows any qualified voter to commence proceedings regarding an initiative or referendum.
- The procedure for removing the City Manager is revised.
- The City Manager is required to submit financial reports to the City Treasurer and is permitted to act as the Emergency Management Director.
- Provides that officers appointed by the City Manager hold office at the will of the City Manager, and allows the Manager to appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator.

- If the Collector of Taxes is a City employee, the Collector is prohibited from charging and collecting from taxpayers a commission on the amount of tax he or she collects.
- Requires the City Council to approve of any charter or bylaw specifying the powers, duties, organization, and procedure of each board, committee, commission, and agency of the City.
- Requires the City to pay the premium on any surety bond required by City officers and employees.
- Moves the date the City Manager must submit a budget to the City Council from 90 days prior to the annual meeting to 60 days prior.
- Requires that the general fund budget shall not include enterprise or special revenue funds and that those budgets shall be presented to the Council separately.
- Allows the Council to move unencumbered funds and makes other miscellaneous amendments regarding City finances.

Effective Date: May 17, 2016