

No. M-1. An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Barre.

(H.10)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. CHARTER AMENDMENT APPROVAL

The General Assembly approves the amendments to the charter of the City of Barre as set forth in this act. The voters of the City approved the amendments on May 14, 2024.

Sec. 2. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 1 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 1. CITY OF BARRE

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§ 110. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the City ~~and the City School District~~ shall begin on the first day of July ~~and end on the last day of June~~ of each calendar year. The fiscal year shall constitute the budget and accounting year as used in this charter.

§ 111. BONDING OF CITY OFFICIALS

The Mayor, councilors, members of the Police Department, City Manager, Finance Director, Superintendent of Public Works, Tax Collector, ~~and Clerk,~~ and Treasurer shall annually be bonded by the City for the faithful discharge of their respective duties, as provided by State statute, and the expense of said bonds to be paid by the City.

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§ 202. TIME OF ELECTIONS AND MEETINGS

(a) The annual City meeting of the City for the election of officers, the voting of budgets, and any other business included in the warnings for the meeting, shall be held on the ~~first~~ second Tuesday in ~~March~~ May, unless otherwise legally warned by the Council.

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§ 203. SPECIAL CITY AND ~~SCHOOL DISTRICT~~ MEETINGS

Special City meetings ~~and Special School District meetings~~ shall be called in the manner provided by the laws of the State, and the voting on all questions shall be by the Australian ballot system, ~~except for budget votes as provided in section 207(d).~~

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§ 205. OFFICERS ELECTED

(a)(1) The legal voters shall elect biennially a Mayor and ~~one person to serve as a Clerk and Treasurer.~~

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(3) ~~Annually, the legal voters shall elect school commissioners to serve for a term of three years, as follows:~~

~~(A) at the 2019 annual City meeting, and each successive three year cycle after that, three school commissioners;~~

~~(B) at the 2020 annual City meeting, and each successive three year cycle after that, two school commissioners;~~

~~(C) at the 2021 annual City meeting, and each successive three year cycle after that, two school commissioners. [Repealed.]~~

~~(b) The legal voters shall elect annually Spaulding Union High School District School Board members in the manner, number, and term limit as is specified in the Barre City/Barre Town Union High School Agreement, dated November 30, 1986, or any such successor document. [Repealed.]~~

§ 206. VACANCIES

(a) In case of vacancy of any elected municipal City officer, except a councilor ~~or school commissioner~~, occasioned by death, removal from the City, resignation, or inability to serve, such vacancy, unless herein otherwise provided, shall be filled by appointment by the City Council until the next annual election. In such case, nomination may be made by any member for the Council.

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~~(c) In case of a vacancy of any school commissioner, occasioned by death, removal from the City, resignation, or inability to serve, such vacancy, unless herein otherwise provided, shall be filled by appointment by the remaining members of the School Board until the next annual election. In such case, nomination may be made by any member of the School Board. [Repealed.]~~

§ 207. VOTING ON REQUEST OF THE CITY MANAGER

(a) Annually, on the ~~first~~ second Tuesday in ~~March~~ May, the legal voters of the City shall meet to vote on the requests of the City Manager.

(b) If, at the annual ~~March~~ meeting, the voters disapprove the request of the City Manager, the Mayor, or in his or her absence or disability, the City Clerk, shall warn a general meeting of the legal voters to consider the article disapproved by the voters and to authorize a specific sum of money therefor. The meeting shall be in accordance with 17 V.S.A. §§ 2630–2689 and shall be held at the same location as the previous meeting with the polls open for the same hours as the previous meeting. If the voters continue to disapprove any portion of the request, similar meetings shall be held in the same manner.

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§ 301. GOVERNING BODY

The City shall be governed by an elected Council and by an appointed City Manager and by such other officers and employees as may be duly appointed pursuant to this charter, City ordinances, or general laws of the State of Vermont.

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(2) Within the limitations of the foregoing, the Council shall have the power to:

* * *

(B) appoint and remove a Treasurer, and such Assistant Treasurers as shall be deemed necessary, who shall be responsible for the performance of all duties of a municipal treasurer under State law;

(C) assign additional duties to offices, commissions, or departments established by this charter, but may not discontinue or assign to any other office, commission, or department duties assigned to a particular office, commission, or department established by this charter;

~~(C)~~(D) make, amend, and repeal ordinances; and

~~(D)~~(E) adopt an official seal of the City.

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§ 315. COMPENSATION OF CITY OFFICIALS

Compensation of Mayor, councilors, and other appointees and City officers:

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(3) When the legal voters have authorized an annual City ~~and school~~ budget, the City Council, ~~School Board, and/or~~ or the City Manager shall not authorize appropriations, expenditures, or payment in excess of the amount voted. Deficit spending shall be prohibited by the City of Barre ~~and the City of Barre Schools~~.

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Sec. 3. REPEALS

24 App. V.S.A. chapter 1, §§ 413 (School District), 516 (powers and duties of Board of School Commissioners), and 517 (appointment of superintendent and principal) are repealed.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Date Governor signed bill: May 1, 2025