

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 68

H. P. 39

House of Representatives, January 11, 1967

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Snow of Caribou.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Provide a City Council-Manager Charter for the Town of Caribou.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts passed by the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment of the Legislature unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, it is very desirable that the following Act be voted upon by the inhabitants of the Town of Caribou at the annual town election in March, 1967; and

Whereas, it is vitally necessary that the charter provided for in the following Act be put into operation as soon as possible; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

City Council-Manager Charter of Caribou

Article I

Powers of the City

Section 1.01 Powers of the city.

The city shall have all powers possible for a city to have under the Constitution and laws of this State as fully and completely as though they were specifically enumerated in this charter.

Section 1.02 Construction.

The powers of the city under this charter shall be construed liberally in favor of the city, and the specific mention of particular powers in the charter shall not be construed as limiting in any way the general power stated in this article.

Section 1.03 Intergovernmental relations.

The city may exercise any of its powers or perform any of its functions and may participate in the financing thereof, jointly or in cooperation by contract or otherwise, with any one or more states or civil divisions or agencies thereof, or the United States or any agency thereof.

Article II**City Council****Section 2.01 Composition; eligibility; election and terms.**

1. Composition. There shall be a city council of 7 members elected by qualified voters of the city at large for a term of 3 years each.

2. Eligibility. Only qualified voters of the city shall be eligible to hold the office of Councilman.

3. Election and terms. The regular election of municipal officials shall be held on the 2nd Tuesday of December in each year, in the manner provided in Article VII, except that all present municipal officials shall retain their office for their elected term. City councilmen shall be elected as follows:

First city election — 2 for 3 years and 2 for 2 years.

Second city election — 2 for 3 years.

Thereafter, all city councilmen shall be elected for 3-year terms. The terms of municipal officials shall begin on the first Monday of January.

Section 2.02 Compensation; expenses.

The annual salary of councilmen shall be as follows:

Mayor or chairman	\$1,000
Other members of Council	500 each

Adjustments in salary shall be in accordance with the following procedures:

The council may determine the annual salary of councilmen by ordinance, but no ordinance increasing such salary shall become effective until the date of commencement of the terms of councilmen elected at the next regular election, provided that such election follows the adoption of such ordinance by at least 6 months. Councilmen shall receive their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties of office.

Section 2.03 Mayor - council chairman.

The council shall elect from among its members officers of the city who shall have the titles of mayor or council chairman, and deputy mayor or council chair-

man, each of whom shall serve an annual term. The mayor or council chairman shall preside at meetings of the council, shall be recognized as head of the city government for all ceremonial purposes and by the Governor for purposes of military law but shall have no administrative duties. The deputy mayor or council chairman shall act as mayor or council chairman, during the absence or disability of mayor or council chairman.

Section 2.04 General powers and duties.

All powers of the city shall be vested in the council except as otherwise provided by law or this charter, and the council shall provide for the exercise thereof and for the performance of all duties and obligations imposed on the city by law.

Section 2.05 Prohibitions.

1. **Holding other office.** Except where authorized by law, no councilman shall hold any other city office or city employment.

2. **Appointments and removals.** Neither the council nor any of its members shall in any manner dictate the appointment or removal of any city administrative officers or employees whom the manager or any of his subordinates are empowered to appoint, but the council may express its views and fully and freely discuss, with the manager, anything pertaining to appointment and removal of such officers and employees.

3. **Interference with administration.** Except for the purpose of inquiries and investigation under section 2.08 the council or its members shall deal with city officers and employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the manager, solely through the manager, and neither the council nor its members shall give orders to any such officer or employee, either publicly or privately.

Section 2.06 Vacancies; forfeiture of office; filling of vacancies.

1. **Vacancies.** The office of a councilman shall become vacant upon his death, resignation, removal from office in any manner authorized by law for forfeiture of his office.

2. **Forfeiture of office.** A councilman shall forfeit his office if he **A.** lacks at any time during his term of office any qualification for the office prescribed by this charter or by law, **B.** Violates any express prohibition of the charter, **C.** is convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, or **D.** fails to attend 3 consecutive regular meetings of the council without being excused by the council.

3. **Filling of vacancies.** A vacancy in any elected office shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term, if any, at the next regular election following not less than 60 days upon the occurrence of the vacancy, but the council by a majority vote of its members shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy until the person elected to serve the remainder of the unexpired term, takes office.

Section 2.07 City clerk.

The council shall appoint an officer of the city who shall have the title of city clerk and the city clerk shall be ex officio the secretary of the council. If the said city clerk fails to act the council can elect anyone qualified to said office. The

acting secretary or the city manager shall give notice of council meetings to its members. City clerk shall appoint a deputy clerk.

Section 2.08 Investigations.

The council may make investigations into the offices of the city and the conduct of any city department, office or agency and, for this purpose, may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony and require the production of evidence. Any person who fails or refuses to obey a lawful order issued in the exercise of these powers by the council shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by a fine of not more than \$50 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or by both.

Section 2.09 Independent audit.

The council shall provide for an independent audit of all city accounts and may provide for such more frequent audits as it deems necessary. Such audits shall be made by a certified public accountant or firm of such accountants who have no personal interest direct or indirect, in the fiscal affairs of the city government or any of its officers.

The council may, without requiring competitive bids, designate such accountant or firm annually or for a period not exceeding 3 years. If the State makes such an audit, the council may accept it as satisfying the requirements of this section.

Section 2.10 Procedure.

1. Meetings. The council shall meet regularly at least once in every month at such times and places as the council may prescribe by rule. Special meetings may be held on the call of the mayor or council chairman, or a majority of the members of the council and whenever practicable, upon no less than 12 hours notice to each member. All meetings shall be public. The council may recess for the purpose of discussing in a closed or executive session limited to its own membership any matter which would tend to defame or prejudice the character or reputation of any person, provided that the general subject matter for consideration is expressed in the motion calling for such session and that final action thereon shall not be taken by the council until the matter is placed on the agenda.

2. Rules and journal. The council shall determine its own rules and order of business and shall provide for keeping a journal of its proceedings. The journal shall be a public record.

3. Voting. Voting, except on procedural motions, shall be by roll call and the ayes and nays shall be recorded in the journal. A majority of the members constitutes a quorum.

Section 2.11 Action requiring an ordinance.

In addition to other acts required by law or by specific provisions of this charter to be done by ordinance, those acts of the city council shall be by ordinance which:

1. Adopt or amend an administrative code or establish, alter or abolish any city department, office or agency.

2. Provide for a fine or other penalty or establish a rule or regulation for violation of which a fine or other penalty is imposed.
3. Levy taxes, except as otherwise provided in Article V with respect to the property tax levied by adoption of the budget.
4. Grant, renew or extend a franchise.
5. Regulate the rate charged for its services by a municipal public utility.
6. Authorize the borrowing of money.
7. Convey or lease or authorize the conveyance or lease of any lands of the city.
8. Adopt with or without amendment ordinances proposed under the initiative power, and
9. Amend or appeal any ordinance previously adopted, except as otherwise provided in Article VIII with respect to repeal of ordinances reconsidered under the referendum power. Acts, other than those referred to in the preceding sentence, may be done either by ordinance or by resolution.

Section 2.12 Ordinances in general.

1. **Municipal ordinances.** The city council shall pass such municipal ordinances as they think necessary and proper, governed by the authority which cities have to enact ordinances under the Revised Statutes of 1964 and amendments thereto; provided that any such ordinances shall be properly adopted if a public hearing has been held thereon after not less than 7 days notice thereof, which notice need only contain the title of the proposed ordinance and a brief summary of its contents together with the time and place of said hearing.
2. **Existing ordinances.** All existing ordinances of the Town of Caribou shall be retained as active ordinances under this city charter.
3. **Procedure.** An ordinance may be introduced by any member at any regular or special meeting of the council and upon introduction of an ordinance, the city clerk shall distribute a copy to each council member and to the city manager, shall file a reasonable number of copies in the office of city clerk and such other public places as the council may designate, and shall publish the ordinance together with a notice setting out the time and place for a public hearing which shall follow the publication by at least 7 days, may be held separately or in connection with a regular or special council meeting and may be adjourned from time to time. All persons interested shall have an opportunity to be heard. After the hearing the council may adopt the ordinance with or without amendment or reject it, but if it is amended as to any matter of substance, the council may not adopt it until the ordinance or its amended sections have been subjected to all the procedures hereinbefore required in the case of a newly introduced ordinance. As soon as practicable after adoption of any ordinance, the city clerk shall have it published again together with a notice of its adoption.
4. **Effective date.** Except as otherwise provided in this charter, every adopted ordinance shall become effective at the expiration of 30 days after adoption or at any later date specified therein.

5. "Publish" defined. As used in this section, the term "publish" means to print in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the city:

A. The ordinance or a brief summary thereof, and:

B. The places where copies have been filed and the times when they are available for public inspection.

Section 2.14 Emergency ordinances.

1. Emergency ordinances. To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or the public peace, the council may adopt one or more emergency ordinances, but such ordinances may not levy taxes, grant, renew or extend a franchise, regulate the rate charged by any municipal public utility for its services or authorize the borrowing of money except as provided in section 5.09, sub-section 2. An emergency ordinance shall be introduced in the form and manner prescribed for ordinances generally, except that it shall be plainly designated as an emergency ordinance and shall contain, after the enacting clause, a declaration stating that an emergency exists and describing it in clear and specific terms. After its adoption the ordinance shall be published and printed as prescribed for other adopted ordinances. It shall become effective upon adoption or at such later time as it may specify.

Section 2.15 Authentication and recording; codification; printing.

1. Authentication and recording. The city clerk shall authenticate by his signature and record in full in a properly indexed book, kept for that purpose, all ordinances and resolutions adopted by the council.

2. Codification. Within 5 years after adoption of this charter and at least every 10 years thereafter, the council shall provide for the preparation of a general codification of all city ordinances and resolutions having the force of and effect of law. The general codification shall be adopted by the council by ordinance and shall be published promptly in bound or loose-leaf form, together with this charter and any amendments thereto, pertinent provisions of the Constitution and other laws of the State of Maine and such codes of technical regulations and other rules and regulations as the council may specify. This compilation shall be known and cited officially as the Caribou City Code. Copies of the code shall be furnished to city officers, placed in libraries and public offices for free public reference and made available for purchase by the public at a reasonable price.

Section 2.16 General information.

There shall be in all: Seven city councillors; 3 members of the Board of Managers of the Jefferson Cary Hospital Fund; 6 members of the board of education; 7 members of the library committee; 7 appointed directors of Cary Memorial Hospital together with 2 ex-officio members, namely the city manager and the chairman of the Board of Managers of the Jefferson Cary Hospital Fund; 3 members of the board of assessors; 3 trustees of the hospital district; 5 members of the Urban Renewal Authority and 3 members of the Caribou Utilities District.

Section 2.17 Public Library Committee.

The city council of Caribou shall elect by written ballot by a majority vote of the membership, a public library committee of not exceeding 7 members, to serve as follows: One for one year, one for 2 years, one for 3 years, 2 for 4 years, and 2 for 5 years, respectively; except that the present members of the Public Library Committee at its first meeting shall designate by lot the period of services for which each has been elected. As each term expires, the city council shall annually elect for 5 years one or more members to fill, in the usual manner, the vacancies which have occurred. The committee shall organize and designate its chairman.

Section 2.18 General powers and duties of the hospital board.

1. Composition. There shall be established a Board of Directors of the Cary Memorial Hospital, composed of 7 members to be appointed by the city council for terms of 3 years each. The city manager and the Chairman of the Managers of the Cary Estate shall be ex-officio members. The present members of the hospital board shall retain their office of appointment.

2. Board of directors. The board of directors shall organize annually and appoint their own chairman. The board shall be charged with the responsibility of:

- A.** Providing patient care satisfactory to the review board in an effort to retain accreditation certification.
- B.** Maintenance and care of all hospital buildings and grounds.
- C.** Maintaining medical records, accounting and auditing practices in keeping with acceptable methods approved by the American Hospital Association.
- D.** Shall submit monthly statements and periodical reports regarding capital improvements and general business to the city council.
- E.** The city council shall have the final decision regarding expenditures for capital improvements, in accordance with section 5.05, subsection 2.

Section 2.19 Organization of city council and election of officers.

1. Organization; meetings. The city council shall meet on the first Monday of January each year and organize by electing by written ballot and by majority vote of the whole membership one of its members as mayor or chairman and one of its members as deputy mayor or chairman, and:

- A.** A city treasurer to serve for the ensuing year who may at his option appoint a deputy city treasurer, subject to the approval of the city council.
- B.** A city manager for an indefinite term in accordance with section 3.01.
- C.** A city clerk to serve for the ensuing year in accordance with section 2.07.
- D.** An auditor in accordance with section 2.09.

E. The assessors of taxes shall be 3 in number, appointed by the city council. The chairman shall be designated by the city council. They shall hold office for a term of 3 years or until their successors are appointed and qualified; except, that at the first appointment one assessor shall be appointed for 3 years, one assessor for 2 years and one assessor for one year, and thereafter one assessor shall be appointed each year for a term of 3 years, and each shall hold office until his successor is appointed and qualified as described in Title 36, sections 701 to 713, of the Revised Statutes of 1964, as amended.

F. Tax collector who shall serve, as provided for under the Revised Statutes of 1964, and amendments thereto. The city manager may be tax collector if the council so elects.

G. Any other necessary committees or boards.

H. Duties of councilors:

1. The city councilors shall be overseers of the poor, with authority to appoint a person to act as their agent.
2. No money shall be paid out of the city treasury except by order issued and signed by a majority of the city councilors, or their authorized representative and presented to the treasury for payment.

I. Bonds of officials: The city council shall require a bond by a reputable surety company satisfactory to said city council from all persons trusted with the collection, custody or disbursement of any of the moneys of said city, and may require such bond from such officials as they deem advisable: provided, however, that the city shall pay the costs of providing said bond.

J. Any other city officers and any other requirements for conducting the affairs of the city not specifically provided for herein shall be continued in the same manner as at present or may be provided for under the general statutes.

K. At election of officers at the municipal election, who shall be elected in open meeting by written ballot or voting machine, the method of voting shall be that set forth in Title 30, sections 5352 to 5357, of the Revised Statutes of 1964, and amendments thereto.

Article III

City Manager

Section 3.01 Appointment; qualifications; compensation.

The council shall appoint a city manager for an indefinite term and fix his compensation. The city manager shall be appointed solely on the basis of his executive and administrative qualifications. He need not be a resident of the city or State at the time of his appointment but may reside outside the city while in office only with the approval of the council.

Section 3.02 Removal.

The council may remove the city manager from office in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Preliminary resolution. The council shall adopt by affirmative vote of a majority of all its members a preliminary resolution which must state the reasons for the removal and may suspend the city manager from duty for a period not to exceed 45 days. A copy of the resolution shall be delivered promptly to the city manager.

2. Public hearing. Within 5 days after a copy of the resolutions is delivered to the city manager, he may file with the council a written request for a public hearing, this hearing shall be held at a council meeting not earlier than 15 days nor later than 30 days after the request is filed. The city manager may file with the council a written reply not later than 5 days before the hearing.

3. Final resolution of removal. The council may adopt a final resolution of removal, which may be made effective immediately by affirmative vote of a majority of all its members at any time after 5 days from the date when a copy of the preliminary resolution was delivered to the city manager, if he has not requested a public hearing or at any time after the public hearing if he has requested one. The city manager shall continue to receive his salary until the effective date of a final resolution of removal. The action of the council in suspending or removing the city manager shall not be subject to review by any court or agency.

Section 3.03 Acting city manager.

By letter filed with the city clerk the city manager shall designate, subject to approval of the council, a qualified city administrative officer to exercise the powers and perform the duties of city manager during his temporary absence or disability. During such absence or disability, the council may revoke such designation at any time and appoint another officer of the city to serve until the city manager shall return or his disability shall cease.

Section 3.04 Powers and duties of the city manager.

The city manager shall be the chief administrative officer of the city. He shall be responsible to the council for the administration of all city affairs placed in his charge by or under this charter. He shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Officers appointed by city manager. The city manager shall, with the consent and approval of the city council, appoint the following officers:

A. Chief of police for an indefinite period.

B. Chief of fire department for an indefinite period.

C. Health officer, whose appointment shall be subject to approval of the State Department of Health & Welfare as provided in the Revised Statutes of 1964, and amendments thereto.

D. Sealer of weights & measures.

E. Constables.

F. All other necessary city officers, except plumbing inspectors, who shall be appointed by the health officer and approved by the State Department of

Health and Welfare as provided in the Revised Statutes of 1964, and amendments thereto.

Such officers shall hold office for the remainder of the year during which they are appointed or until their removal by the city manager, with the consent and approval of the council.

G. He shall direct and supervise the administration of all departments, offices and agencies of the city, except as otherwise provided by this charter or by law.

H. He shall attend all council meetings and shall have the right to take part in discussion but may not vote.

I. He shall see that all laws, provisions of this charter and acts of the council, subject to enforcement by him or by officers subject to his direction and supervision, are faithfully executed.

J. He shall prepare and submit the annual budget and capital program to the council.

K. He shall submit to the council and make available to the public a complete report on the finances and administrative activities of the city as of the end of each fiscal year.

L. He shall make such other reports as the council may require concerning the operations of city departments, offices and agencies subject to his direction and supervision.

M. He shall keep the council fully advised as to the financial conditions and future needs of the city and make such recommendations to the council concerning the affairs of the city as he deems desirable.

N. He shall perform such other duties as are specified in this charter or may be required by the council.

O. To act as superintendent of roads, streets, bridges and buildings with the exception of those buildings coming under the school department, Cary Memorial Hospital, Public Library and Jefferson Cary Hospital Fund.

P. To act as a purchasing agent of said city and to purchase all supplies and materials for the city and for the several departments, with the exception of the school department, Cary Hospital, Public Library, and Jefferson Cary Hospital Fund. All accounts for the purchase of supplies and materials and works performed for said city, with the exception of accounts for the purpose of supplies and materials and works for Cary Hospital, School Department, Public Library, and Jefferson Cary Hospital Fund, shall bear the approval of the city manager when presented for payment. Provided that no single contract of purchase, the price of which exceeds \$200 shall be purchased by the city manager without the previous approval of the council and he shall, if the city council so directs, receive and submit to the council for decisions, competitive bids on orders exceeding this amount.

Q. To perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the city council. The city manager may sign and send written notices and written acceptances

in accordance with the Revised Statutes of 1964, and amendments thereto, such written notice and written acceptance shall have the same effect as if signed and sent by the overseers of the poor.

R. If any part of this Act shall be declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall not invalidate the remainder of the Act. The provisions of this Act shall supersede all laws and ordinances not consistent herewith, insofar as the City of Caribou, in the County of Aroostook, is affected thereby.

Article IV

Administrative Departments

Section 4.01 General provisions.

1. Creation of departments. The Council may establish City Departments, offices or agencies in addition to those created by this charter, and may prescribe the functions of all departments, offices, and agencies, except that no function assigned by this Charter to a particular department, office, or agency may be discontinued or unless this charter specifically so provides, assigned to any other.

2. Direction by manager. All Departments, offices and agencies under the direction and supervision of the Manager shall be administered by an officer appointed by and subject to the direction and supervision of the Manager. With the consent of the Council the Manager may serve as the head of one or more such departments, offices or agencies or may appoint one person as the head of two or more of them.

Section 4.02 Personnel system.

1. Merit principle. All appointments and promotions of city officers and employes shall be made solely on the basis of merit and fitness demonstrated by examination or other evidence of competence.

2. Personnel board. There may be a personnel board consisting of the city council or 3 members appointed by the council for terms of 3 years from among the qualified voters of the city.

3. Personnel rules. A personnel policy shall be prepared by the City Manager and submitted to the Council for approval, and the Council may by ordinance adopt them with or without amendment. The existing personnel policy, shall continue in force until amended or repealed. Personnel rules shall provide for:

- A.** The classification of all City positions, based on the duties, authority, and responsibility of each position, with adequate provision for reclassification of any position whenever warranted by changed circumstances.
- B.** A pay plan for all City positions.
- C.** Methods for determining the merit and fitness of candidates for appointment or promotion.
- D.** The policies and procedures regulating reduction in force and the removal of employees.

- E. The hours of work attendance, regulations, and provisions for sickness, leave of absence and vacation leave.
- F. The policies and procedures governing persons holding provisional appointments.
- G. The policies and procedures governing relationships with employee organizations.
- H. Policies regarding in-service training programs.
- I. Grievance procedures, including procedures for the hearing of grievances by the personnel board, which may render advisory opinions based on its finding to the city manager with a copy to the aggrieved employee, and
- J. Other practices and procedures necessary to the administration of the city personnel system.

Section 4.03 Legal officer.

There shall be a legal officer of the city, appointed by the manager as provided in section 4.01, who shall serve as chief legal adviser to the council, the manager, and all city departments, offices and agencies, shall represent the city in all legal proceedings, and shall perform any other duties prescribed by this charter or by ordinance.

Article V

Financial Procedures

Section 5.01 Fiscal year.

The fiscal year of the city shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December.

Section 5.02 Submission of budget and budget message.

On or before the first Monday of February of each year the manager shall submit to the council a budget for the ensuing fiscal year and an accompanying message.

Section 5.03 Budget message.

The manager's message shall explain the budget both in fiscal terms and in terms of the work programs. It shall outline the proposed financial policies of the city for the ensuing fiscal year, describe the important features of the budget, indicate any major changes from the current year in financial policies, expenditures and revenues, together with the reasons for such changes, summarize the city's debt position and include such other material as the manager deems desirable.

Section 5.04 Budget.

The budget shall provide a complete financial plan of all city funds and activities for the ensuing fiscal year and, except as required by law or this charter, shall be in such form as the manager deems desirable or the council may require.

In organizing the budget, the manager shall utilize the most feasible combination of expenditure classification by fund, organization unit, program, purpose or activity, and object. It shall begin with a clear general summary of its contents; shall show in detail all estimated income, indicating the proposed property tax levy, and all proposed expenditures, including debt service for the ensuing fiscal year; and shall be so arranged as to show comparative figures for actual and estimated income and expenditures of the current fiscal year and actual income and expenditures of the preceding fiscal year. It shall indicate in separate sections:

1. Current operations. Proposed expenditures for current operations during the ensuing fiscal year, detailed by offices, departments and agencies in terms of their respective work programs, and the method of financing such expenditures;

2. Capital expenditures. Proposed capital expenditures during the ensuing fiscal year, detailed by offices, departments and agencies when practicable, and the proposed method of financing each such capital expenditure.

Section 5.05 Capital program.

1. Submission to council. The manager shall prepare and submit to the council a 5 year capital program at least 3 months prior to the final date for submission of the budget.

2. Contents. The capital program shall include:

A. A clear general summary of its contents;

B. A list of all capital improvements which are proposed to be undertaken during the 5 fiscal years ensuing, with appropriate supporting information as to the necessity for such improvements;

C. Cost estimates, method of financing and recommended time schedules for such improvement; and

D. The estimated annual cost of operating and maintaining the facilities to be constructed or acquired.

E. All capital improvement projects involving \$100,000 or more shall be submitted to the registered voters of the City of Caribou, by holding a referendum vote thereon.

The above information may be revised and extended each year with regard to capital improvements still pending or in process of construction or acquisition.

Section 5.06 Council action and budget

1. Notice and hearing. The council shall publish in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the city the general summary of the budget and a notice stating:

A. The times and places where copies of the message and budget are available for inspection by the public, and

B. The time and place, not less than 2 weeks after such publication, for a public hearing on the budget.

2. Amendment before adoption. After the public hearing, the council may adopt the budget with or without amendment. In amending the budget, it may add or increase programs or amounts and may delete or decrease any programs or amounts, except expenditures required by law or for debt service or for estimated cash deficit, provided that no amendment to the budget shall increase the authorized expenditures to an amount greater than the total of estimated income.

3. Adoption. The council shall adopt the budget on or before the 3rd Monday of March of the fiscal year currently ending. If it fails to adopt the budget by this date, the amounts appropriated for current operation for the current fiscal year shall be deemed adopted as of the preceding fiscal year on a month-to-month basis, with all items in it prorated accordingly, until such time as the council adopts a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. Adoption of the budget shall constitute appropriations of the amounts specified therein as property tax therein proposed.

Section 5.07 Council action on capital program.

1. Notice and hearing. The council shall publish in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the city the general summary of the capital program and a notice stating:

- A.** The times and places where copies of the capital program are available for inspection by the public, and
- B.** The time and place, not less than 2 weeks after such publication, for a public hearing on the capital program.

2. Adoption. The council by resolution shall adopt the capital program with or without amendment after the public hearing and on or before the first day of March of the current fiscal year.

Section 5.08 Public records.

Copies of the budget and the capital program as adopted shall be public records and shall be made available to the public at suitable places in the city.

Section 5.09 Amendments after adoption.

1. Supplemental appropriations. If during the fiscal year the manager certifies that there are available for appropriation revenues in excess of those estimated in the budget, the council by ordinance may make supplemental appropriations for the year, up to the amount of such excess.

2. Emergency appropriations. To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or the public peace, the council may make emergency appropriations. Such appropriations may be made by emergency ordinance in accordance with the provisions of section 2.14. To the extent that there are no available unappropriated revenues to meet such appropriations, the council may by such emergency ordinance authorize the issuance of emergency notes which may be renewed from time to time, but the emergency notes and renewals of any fiscal year shall be paid not later than the last day of the fiscal year next succeeding that in which the emergency appropriation was made.

3. Reduction of appropriations. If at any time during the fiscal year it appears probable to the manager that the revenues available will be insufficient to meet the amount appropriated, he shall report to the council without delay, indicating the estimated amount of the deficit, any remedial action taken by him and his recommendations as to any other steps to be taken. The council shall then take such further action as it deems necessary to prevent or minimize any deficit and for that purpose it may by ordinance reduce one or more appropriations.

4. Transfer of appropriations. At any time during the fiscal year the manager may transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balance among programs, within a department, office or agency and, upon written request by the manager, the council may by ordinance transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balance from one department, office or agency to another.

5. Limitations; effective date. No appropriation for debt service may be reduced or transferred, and no appropriation may be reduced below any amount required by law to be appropriated or by more than the amount of the unencumbered balance thereof. The supplemental and emergency appropriations and reduction or transfer of appropriations authorized by this section may be made effective immediately upon adoption.

Section 5.10 Lapse of appropriations.

Every appropriation, except an appropriation for a capital expenditure, shall lapse at the close of the fiscal year to the extent that it has not been expended or encumbered. An appropriation for a capital expenditure shall continue in force until the purpose for which it was made has been accomplished or abandoned. The purpose of any such appropriation shall be deemed abandoned if 3 years pass without any disbursement from or encumbrance of the appropriation.

Section 5.11 Administration of budget.

1. Work programs and allotments. At such time as the manager shall specify, each department, office or agency shall submit work programs for the ensuing fiscal year showing the requested allotments of its appropriation by periods within the year. The manager shall review and authorize such allotments with or without revision as early as possible in the fiscal year. He may revise such allotments during the year if he deems it desirable and shall revise them to accord with any supplemental, emergency, reduced or transferred appropriations made pursuant to section 5.09.

2. Payments and obligations prohibited. No payment shall be made or obligation incurred against any allotment or appropriation except in accordance with appropriations duly made and unless the manager or his designee first certifies that there is a sufficient unencumbered balance in such allotment or appropriation and that sufficient funds therefrom are or will be available to cover the claim or meet the obligation when it becomes due and payable unless state law permits an overdraft of certain accounts. Any authorization of payment or incurring of obligation in violation of the provisions of this charter, unless permitted by state law, shall be void and any payment so made illegal. Such

action shall be cause for removal of any officers who knowingly authorized or made such payment or incurred such obligation unless permitted by state law and he shall also be liable to the city for any amount so paid. However, except where prohibited by law, nothing in this charter shall be construed to prevent the making or authorizing of payments or making of contracts for capital improvements to be financed wholly or partly by the issuance of bonds or notes or to prevent the making of any contract or lease providing for payments beyond the end of the fiscal year, provided that such action is made or approved by ordinance.

Article VI

Board of Education

Section 6.01 Composition.

A board of education is created in said city to consist of 6 members elected in accordance with Article VII—of this charter.

Section 6.02 Term of office.

The members of the board of education shall serve for a term of 3 years. At each annual city election thereafter a sufficient number of members of the board of education shall be elected for a period of 3 years as may be necessary to fill the vacancies in said committee caused by expiration of the term of office of said members. A vacancy in the board of education shall be filled in accordance with section 2.06, subsection 3 of this charter.

Section 6.03 Powers, duties, organization.

The board of education shall perform all the duties and be invested with all the rights and powers of school committees of cities, including the expenditure of all school moneys in accordance with the Revised Statutes of 1964, Title 20, sections 473, 851 and 853, as amended.

The board shall elect a chairman annually, and appoint some suitable person, not a member of the board, superintendent of schools, and may adopt such rules and regulations for the management of the schools and the conduct of the business of the board as are not inconsistent with the laws of the State. The superintendent shall be the secretary and executive agent of the board, which shall fix his salary to be paid from the city treasury as salaries of teachers are paid, and may remove him and appoint a successor in accordance with the general laws of the state. The members of the board of education shall not be members of the city council.

Section 6.04 School budget; hearing appropriations; audit of accounts.

The Board of Education shall annually prepare a report of the affairs and conditions of the city schools for the year ending on the 31st day of December preceding and a detailed estimate in the form of a budget of the amount needed for school purposes for the current year and shall submit a copy of said report and estimate to the city manager and to each member of the city council by the first day of March of each year. There shall be held at such time as shall be

fixed by the city manager a joint meeting of the board of education and the city manager and the city council, due notice of which meeting shall be given jointly by the city manager and superintendent of schools to each member of the board of education and city council, to consider such estimate. Said board of education shall give full information with reference to said estimate and their reasons for fixing the items thereof at the amounts therein stated. It shall be the duty of the city manager and the members of the board of education and city council to be present at said meeting. The city manager and city council, or any member thereof, or of the board of education, who do not concur in said estimate or any item thereof shall, unless said item or items are changed by said board of education, present their reasons for their non-concurrence at the meetings of the city council at which the appropriations of school moneys are made. The council shall have the power to raise moneys for the support of public schools in said city and shall appropriate for the current year ending on the 31st day of December such sum, not less than the amount required by the general laws of the State, as they may deem necessary for that purpose in accordance with the Revised Statutes of 1964, Title 20, section 851.

Such sum shall be included with and assessed like other city taxes, and all the provisions of law relating to the assessment and collection of taxes shall be applicable to such tax. All salaries, wages and bills contracted by the board of education in the usual and regular course during the period between the 31st day of December and the raising of said money for the current year, and for the payment of which school funds are not available, shall be paid by the city treasurer and charged against the school appropriation for said current year. It shall be the duty of the city auditor, under the direction of the city manager and city council to audit the books of the board of education as directed by the city council. The city council shall have the power to raise or borrow money for the building and reconstruction of school buildings and the purchase of lots therefor in accordance with Article V, section 5.05, subsection 2 of this charter. The city council shall control the appropriation of school funds in accordance with Article V, section 5.06 of this charter and the general laws of the State.

Article VII

Nominations and Elections

Section 7.01 City elections.

1. **Regular elections.** The regular city election shall be held on the 2nd Tuesday of December of each year.

2. **Qualified voters.** All citizens qualified by the constitution and laws of the State of Maine to vote in the city and who satisfy the requirements for registration prescribed by law shall be qualified voters of the city within the meaning of this charter.

3. **Conduct of elections.** Except as otherwise provided by the charter, the provisions of the general election laws of the State of Maine shall apply to elections held under this charter. All elections provided for by this charter shall be conducted by the election authorities established by law. For the conduct of city elections, for the prevention of fraud in such elections and for the re-

count of ballots in cases of doubt or fraud, the council may adopt by ordinance all regulations which it considers desirable, consistent with law and this charter, and the election authorities may adopt, and if they adopt, shall publicize further regulations consistent with law and this charter and the regulations of the council.

Section 7.02 Nominations.

Candidates for elective offices shall obtain nomination papers from the city clerk, in accordance with the Revised Statutes of 1964, Title 30, section 2061, as amended.

Section 7.03 Voting machines.

The council may provide for the use of mechanical or other devices for voting or counting the votes not inconsistent with law.

Section 7.04 Availability of list of qualified voters.

If for any purpose relating to a general or city election or to candidates or issues involved in such an election, any organization, group or person requests a list of qualified voters of the city, the department, office or agency which has custody of that list shall either permit the organization, group or person to copy the voters' names and addresses from the list, or furnish a copy of the list.

Section 7.05 Ballots for ordinances and charter amendments.

An ordinance or charter amendment to be voted on by the city shall be presented for voting by ballot title. The ballot title of a measure may differ from its legal title and shall be a clear, concise statement describing the substance of the measure without argument or prejudice. Below the ballot title shall appear the following question:

“Shall the above described (ordinance) (amendment) be adopted?”

Immediately below such question shall appear, in the following order, the words “Yes” and “No”.

Article VIII

Initiative and Referendum

Section 8.01 General authority.

1. **Initiative.** The qualified voters of the city shall have power to propose ordinances to the council and, if the council fails to adopt an ordinance so proposed without any change in substance, to adopt or reject it at a city election, provided that such power shall not extend to the budget or capital program or any ordinance relating to appropriation of money, levy of taxes or salaries of city officers or employees.

2. **Referendum.** The qualified voters of the city shall have power to require reconsideration by the council of any adopted ordinance and, if the council fails to repeal an ordinance so reconsidered, to approve or reject it at a city election, provided that such power shall not extend to the budget or capital program or any emergency ordinance or ordinance relating to appropriation of money or levy of taxes or salaries of city officers or employees.

Section 8.02 Commencement of proceedings; petitioners' committee; affidavit.

Any 5 qualified voters may commence initiative or referendum proceedings by filing with the city clerk an affidavit stating they will constitute the petitioners' committee and be responsible for circulating the petition and filing it in proper form, stating their names and addresses and specifying the address to which all notices to the committee are to be sent, and setting out in full the proposed initiative ordinance or citing the ordinances sought to be reconsidered.

Promptly after the affidavit of the petitioners' committee is filed, the clerk shall issue the appropriate petition blanks to the petitioners' committee.

Section 8.03 Petitions.

1. Number of signatures. Initiative and referendum petitions must be signed by qualified voters of the city equal in number to at least 10 per cent of the total number of qualified voters registered to vote at the last regular city election.

2. Form and content. All papers of a petition shall be uniform in size and style and shall be assembled as one instrument for filing. Each signature shall be executed in ink or indelible pencil and shall be followed by the address of the person signing. Petitions shall contain or have attached thereto throughout their circulation the full text of the ordinance proposed or sought to be reconsidered.

3. Affidavit of circulator. Each paper of a petition shall have attached to it when filed an affidavit executed by the circulator thereof stating that he personally circulated the paper, the number of signatures thereon, that all the signatures were affixed in his presence, that he believes them to be the genuine signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be and that each signer had an opportunity before signing to read the full text of the ordinance proposed or sought to be reconsidered.

4. Time for filing referendum petitions. Referendum petitions must be filed within 30 days after adoption by the council of the ordinance sought to be reconsidered.

Section 8.04 Procedure after filing.

1. Certificate of clerk; amendment. Within 20 days after the petition is filed, the city clerk shall complete a certificate as to its sufficiency, specifying, if it is insufficient, the particulars wherein it is defective and shall promptly send a copy of the certificate to the petitioners' committee by registered mail. A petition certified insufficient for lack of the required number of valid signatures may be amended once if the petitioners' committee files a notice of intention to amend it with the clerk within 2 days after receiving the copy of his certificate and files a supplementary petition upon additional papers within 10 days after receiving the copy of such certificate. Such supplementary petition shall comply with the requirements of subsections 2 and 3 of section 8.03 and within 5 days after it is filed the clerk shall complete a certificate as to the sufficiency of the petition as amended and promptly send a copy of such certificate to the petitioners' committee by registered mail as in the case of an original petition. If a petition or amended petition is certified sufficient, or if a petition or amended

petition is certified insufficient and the petitioners' committee does not elect to amend or request council review under subsection 2 of this section within the time required, the clerk shall promptly present his certificate to the council and the certificate shall then be a final determination as to the sufficiency of the petition.

2. Council Review. If a petition has been certified insufficient and the petitioners' committee does not file notice of intention to amend it or if an amended petition has been certified insufficient, the committee may, within 2 days after receiving the copy of such certificate, file a request that it be reviewed by the council. The council shall review the certificate at its next meeting following the filing of such request and approve or disapprove it, and the council's determination shall then be a final determination as to the sufficiency of the petition.

3. Court review; new petition. A final determination as to the sufficiency of a petition shall be subject to court review. A final determination of insufficiency, even if sustained upon court review, shall not prejudice the filing of a new petition for the same purpose.

Section 8.05 Referendum petitions; suspension of effect of ordinance.

When a referendum petition is filed with the city clerk, the ordinance sought to be reconsidered shall be suspended from taking effect. Such suspension shall terminate when:

1. **Determination of insufficiency.** There is a final determination of insufficiency of the petition, or
2. **Withdrawal of petition.** The petitioners' committee withdraws the petition, or
3. **Repeal of ordinance.** The council repeals the ordinance, or
4. **Elapse of 30 days.** Thirty days have elapsed after a vote of the qualified voters of the city on the ordinance.

Section 8.06 Action on petitions.

1. Action by council. When an initiative or referendum petition has been finally determined sufficient, the council shall promptly consider the proposed initiative ordinance in the manner provided in Article II or reconsider the referred ordinance by voting its repeal. If the council fails to adopt a proposed initiative ordinance without any change in substance within 60 days or fails to repeal the referred ordinance within 30 days after the date the petition was finally determined sufficient, it shall submit the proposed or referred ordinance to the voters of the city.

2. Submission to voters. The vote of the city on a proposed or referred ordinance shall be held not less than 30 days and not later than one year from the date of the final council vote thereon. If no regular city election is to be held within the period prescribed in this subsection, the council shall provide for a special election; otherwise, the vote shall be held at the same time as such regular election, except that the council may in its discretion provide for a spe-

cial election at an earlier date within the prescribed period. Copies of the proposed or referred ordinance shall be made available at the polls.

3. Withdrawal of petitions. An initiative or referendum petition may be withdrawn at any time prior to the 15th day preceding the day scheduled for a vote of the city by filing with the City Clerk a request for withdrawal signed by at least four members of the petitioners' committee. Upon the filing of such request the petition shall have no further force or effect and all proceedings thereon shall be terminated.

Section 8.07 Results of election.

1. Initiative. If a majority of the qualified electors voting on a proposed initiative ordinance vote in its favor, it shall be considered adopted upon certification of the election results and shall be treated in all respects in the same manner as ordinances of the same kind adopted by the council. If conflicting ordinances are approved at the same election, the one receiving the greatest number of affirmative votes shall prevail to the extent of such conflict.

2. Referendum. If a majority of the qualified electors voting on a referred ordinance against it, it shall be considered repealed upon certification of the election results.

ARTICLE IX

General Provisions

Section 9.01 Personal financial interest.

Any city officer or employee who has a substantial financial interest, direct or indirect or by reason of ownership of stock in any corporation, in any contract with the city or in the sale of any land, material, supplies or services to the city or to a contractor supplying the city shall make known that interest and shall refrain from voting upon or otherwise participating in his capacity as a city officer or employee in the making of such sale or in the making or performance of such contract. Any city officer or employee who willfully conceals such a substantial financial interest or willfully violates the requirements of this section shall be guilty of malfeasance in office or position and shall forfeit his office or position. Violation of this section with the knowledge express or implied of the person or corporation contracting with or making a sale to the city shall render the contract or sale voidable by the city manager or the the city council.

Section 9.02 Prohibitions.

1. Activities prohibited.

A. No person shall be appointed to or removed from, or in any way favored or discriminated against with respect to any city position or appointive city administrative office because of race, sex, political or religious opinions or affiliations.

B. No person shall willfully make any false statement, certificate, mark, rating or report in regard to any test, certification or appointment under the per-

sonnel provisions of this charter or the rules and regulations made thereunder, or in any manner commit or attempt to commit any fraud preventing the impartial execution of such provisions, rules and regulations:

C. No person who seeks appointment or promotion with respect to any city position or appointive city administrative office shall directly or indirectly give, render or pay any money, service or other valuable thing to any person for or in connection with his test, appointment, proposed appointment, promotion or proposed promotion.

D. No person shall orally, by letter or otherwise solicit or assist in soliciting any assessment, subscription or contribution for any political party or political purpose whatever from any person holding any compensated appointive city position.

E. No person who holds any compensated appointive city position shall make, solicit or receive any contribution to the campaign funds of any political party or any candidate for public office or take any part in the management, affairs or political campaign of any political party, or candidate for public office, but he may exercise his rights as a citizen to express his opinions and to cast his vote.

2. Penalties. Any person who by himself or with others willfully violates any of the provisions of paragraphs A through D shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$50 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or by both. Any person who by himself or with others willfully violates any of the provisions of paragraph E shall be guilty of an offense and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$50. Any person convicted under this section shall be ineligible for a period of 5 years thereafter to hold any city office or position and, if an officer or employee of the city, shall immediately forfeit his office or position.

Section 9.03 Charter amendment.

1. Proposal of amendment. Amendments to this charter may be framed and proposed:

A. In the manner provided by law, or

B. By ordinance of the council containing the full text of the proposed amendment and effective upon adoption, or

C. By the registered voters of the city, or

D. By report of a charter commission created by ordinance. Proposal of an amendment by the registered voters of the city shall be by petition containing the full text of the proposed amendment and shall be governed by the same procedures and requirements prescribed in Article VIII for initiative petitions until such time as a final determination as to the sufficiency of the petitions is made, except that there shall be no limitation as to subject matter and the petition must be signed by qualified voters of the city equal in number to at least 20% of the total number of qualified voters registered at the last regular city election. The petitioners' committee may withdraw the petition

at any time before the 15th day immediately preceding the day scheduled for the city vote on the amendment.

2. Election. Upon delivery to the city election authorities of the report of a charter commission or delivery by the city clerk of an adopted ordinance or a petition finally determined sufficient, proposing an amendment pursuant to subsection 1, the election authorities shall submit the proposed amendment to the voters of the city at an election. Such election shall be announced by a notice containing the complete text of the proposed amendment and published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the city at least 30 days prior to the date of the election. The election shall be held not less than 60 and not more than 120 days after the adoption of the ordinance or report or the final determination of sufficiency of the petition proposing the amendment. If no regular election is to be held within that period, the council shall provide for a special election on the proposed amendment; otherwise, the holding of a special election shall be within the discretion of the council.

3. Adoption of amendment. If a majority of the qualified voters of the city voting upon a proposed charter amendment vote in favor of it, the amendment shall become effective at the time fixed in the amendment or, if no time is therein fixed, 30 days after its adoption by the voters.

Section 9.04 Separability.

If any provision of this charter is held invalid, the other provisions of the charter shall not be affected thereby. If the application of the charter or any of its provisions to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the application of the charter and its provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

ARTICLE X

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Section 10.01 Officers and employees.

1. Rights and privileges preserved. Nothing in this charter, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall affect or impair the rights or privileges of persons who are city officers or employees at the time of its adoption.

2. Continuance of office or employment. Except as specifically provided by the charter, if at the time this charter takes full effect a city administrative officer or employee holds any office or position which is or can be abolished by or under this charter, he shall continue in such office or position until the taking effect of some specific provision under this charter directing that he vacate the office or position.

3. Personnel system. An employee holding a city position at the time this charter takes full effect, who was serving in that same or a comparable position at the time of its adoption, shall not be subject to competitive tests as a condition of continuance in the same position but in all other respects shall be subject to the personnel system provided for in section 4.02.

Section 10.02 Departments, offices and agencies.

1. Transfer of powers. If a city department, office or agency is abolished by this charter, the powers and duties given it by law shall be transferred to the city department, office or agency designated in this charter or if the charter makes no provision, designated by the city council.

2. Property and records. All property, records and equipment of any department, office or agency existing when this charter is adopted shall be transferred to the department, office or agency assuming its powers and duties but, in the event that the powers or duties are to be discontinued or divided between units or in the event that any conflict arises regarding a transfer, such property, records or equipment shall be transferred to one or more departments, offices or agencies designated by the council in accordance with this charter.

Section 10.03 Pending matters.

All rights, claims, actions, orders, contracts and legal or administrative proceedings shall continue except as modified pursuant to the provisions of this charter and in each case shall be maintained, carried on or dealt with by the city department, office or agency appropriate under this charter.

Section 10.04 State and municipal laws.

1. In general. All city ordinances, resolutions, orders and regulations which are in force when this charter becomes fully effective are repealed to the extent that they are inconsistent or interfere with the effective operation of this charter or of ordinances or resolutions adopted pursuant thereto. To the extent that the constitution and laws of the State of Maine permit, all laws relating to or affecting this city or its agencies, officers or employees which are in force when this charter becomes fully effective are superseded to the extent that they are inconsistent or interfere with the effective operation of this charter or of ordinances or resolutions adopted pursuant thereto.

Section 10.05 Schedule.

1. First election. At the time of its adoption, this charter shall be in effect to the extent necessary in order that the first election of members of the city council may be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this charter. The first election shall be held on the 2nd Tuesday of December. The council (city officials to be designated) shall prepare and adopt temporary regulations applicable only to the first election and designed to insure its proper conduct and to prevent fraud and provide for recount of ballots in cases of doubt or fraud.

2. Time of taking full effect. This charter shall be in full effect for all purposes on and after the date and time of this first meeting of the newly elected council as provided in subsection 3.

3. First council meeting. On the 1st Monday of January following the first election of council members under this charter, the council shall meet:

A. For the purpose of electing the mayor-council chairman and deputy mayor-council chairman, appointing or considering the appointment of a city

manager or acting city manager, and choosing, if it so desires, one of its members to act as temporary clerk pending appointment of a city clerk pursuant to section 2.08; and

B. For the purpose of adopting ordinances and resolutions necessary to effect the transition of government under this charter and to maintain effective city government during that transition.

4. Temporary Ordinances. In adopting ordinances as provided in subsection 3, the council shall follow the procedures prescribed in Article II, except that at its first meeting or any meeting held within 60 days thereafter, the council may adopt temporary ordinances to deal with cases in which there is an urgent need for prompt action in connection with the transition of government and in which the delay incident to the appropriate ordinance procedure would probably cause serious hardship or impairment of effective city government. Every temporary ordinance shall be plainly labelled as such but shall be introduced in the form and manner prescribed for ordinances generally. A temporary ordinance may be considered and may be adopted with or without amendment or rejected at the meeting at which it is introduced. After adoption of a temporary ordinance, the council shall cause it to be printed and published as prescribed for other adopted ordinances. A temporary ordinance shall become effective upon adoption or at such later time preceding automatic repeal under this subsection as it may specify, and the referendum power shall not extend to any such ordinance. Every temporary ordinance, including any amendments made thereto after adoption, shall automatically stand repealed as of the first day following the date on which it was adopted, and it shall not be readopted, renewed or otherwise continued except by adoption in the manner prescribed in Article II for ordinances of the kind concerned.

5. Initial Expenses. The initial expenses of the council, including the expense of recruiting a city manager, shall be paid by the city on vouchers signed by the mayor.

Emergency clause; referendum; effective date; certificate to Secretary of State and resubmission to the voters. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved, only for the purpose of permitting its submission to the legal voters of the Town of Caribou at the next annual town meeting to be held in March, 1967 or at a special meeting to be held not later than 4 months after approval of this Act. Such town meeting shall be called, advertised and conducted according to the law relating to town meetings. The town clerk shall prepare the required ballots, on which he shall reduce the subject matter of this Act to the following question: "Shall the Act to Provide a City Council-Manager Charter for the Town of Caribou, passed by the 103rd legislature, be accepted?" The voters shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed against the words "Yes" or "No" their opinion of the same. This act shall take effect for all the purposes hereof on the first Monday of January after its acceptance by a majority of registered voters, voting at said meeting; but only if the total number of votes cast for and against the acceptance of this act at said election equals or exceeds twenty per cent of the total votes for all candidates for governor cast in said town at the last previous gubernatorial election.

The result of the vote shall be declared by the municipal officers of the Town of Caribou and due certificate thereof filed by the town clerk with the Secretary of State.

In the event this charter is not accepted by the legal voters of Caribou at the scheduled election, this charter may then be resubmitted to registered voters of Caribou.