

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1897

Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820,
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PRIVATE AND SPECIAL LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE.

1897.

CHAP. 529**Chapter 529.**

An Act to amend the city charter of the City of Biddeford.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

Charter
amended.

Sect. 1. Section three of chapter four hundred and eight of the private and special laws of eighteen hundred and fifty-five is hereby amended by striking out all after the word "vote," in the sixteenth line, and adding thereto the following: 'The salary and compensation of the mayor shall be eight hundred and forty dollars, which shall not be increased or diminished hereafter unless by a majority vote of the qualified voters in ward meetings called for the purpose; nor shall he receive from the city any other compensation for any service by him rendered in any other capacity or agency. The aldermen and common councilmen shall receive no compensation for their services as such.'

Purposes
for which
money may
be raised
by council.

Sect. 2. The city council shall not vote, assess or appropriate any money for any object or purpose for which towns are not authorized to vote, assess or appropriate money, except for such purposes as are authorized by this act. The city council shall not order the payment of any money, nor shall the mayor draw any warrant for any purpose whatever, in excess of the amount appropriated for the current year, and at the time of said order remaining unexpended in the appropriation of the particular class or department to which such expenditures belong. Neither the city council nor any officer of the city shall have the authority to make any contract or do anything binding the city or imposing upon the city any liability to pay money until a definite amount of money shall have been appropriated for the liquidation of all pecuniary liability under said contract, or in consequence thereof, and the amount of said appropriation shall be the maximum limit of the liability of the city under any such contract or in consequence thereof; said contract to be, ab initio, null and void as to the city for any other or further liability.

—expendi-
tures shall
not be ex-
cess of ap-
propriations.

—contracts
shall not
be made,
until
money has
been ap-
propriated.

Overseers
of the poor.

—clerk of
board and
duties.

Sect. 3. The municipal officers for and during each year shall be, and constitute the board of overseers of the poor, and shall have all the powers and perform all the duties now held and performed by the board of overseers. And the city council shall annually in the month of March or April, appoint some discreet and able person, who is an inhabitant of the city and

well versed in its municipal affairs, to be clerk of said board and who shall, under the direction and supervision of said board, have general charge and supervision of the city poor. Such person shall devote all his time to the duties of the office, and shall be paid an adequate salary therefor to be fixed by the city council.

—salary.

Sect. 4. The mayor and aldermen shall elect a city auditor, who shall hold his office for one year and shall have the powers and perform the duties usually held and performed by such officers. He shall direct and supervise the manner of keeping the books and accounts of the city. No bill or claim against the city shall be approved and allowed by the committee on accounts or warrant drawn therefor by the mayor, until such bill or claim has been presented to the auditor and he shall have certified thereon that it is proper in form and is a legal and valid claim, and shall designate under what department and appropriation the same may be due and payable. The auditor shall annually, in the month of February, cause to be published for use of the inhabitants of the city, a report containing a particular account of the receipts and expenditures of the city, and a schedule of the city property, and city debts and liabilities. Either of said officers may be removed by the mayor and aldermen.

Auditor,
election,
tenure,
powers and
duties.

—no bill
shall be al-
lowed, until
certified by
auditor.

—report
annually.

—removal
of.

Sect. 5. Section two of chapter one hundred and fourteen of the private and special laws of eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, and all acts or parts of acts, inconsistent with the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed.

Inconsis-
tent acts,
repealed.

Sect. 6. This act shall take effect when approved.

Approved March 26, 1897.