

THE  
**CHARTER**  
OF THE  
**CITY OF SAGINAW**



Effective January 6, 1936

Reprinted with Amendment No. 1; June 23, 1947  
Reprinted with Amendment Nos. 2, 3, and 4; June, 1953  
Reprinted with Amendment Nos. 5 – 15; August, 1965  
Reprinted with Amendment No. 16; April, 1980  
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Reprinted with Amendment Nos. 17 – 19; January, 1989  
Reprinted with Amendments Nos. 20 – 22; November 3, 2009  
Reprinted with Amendments Nos. 23 – 25; August 3, 2010  
Reprinted with Amendment No. 26; November 4, 2014  
Reprinted with Amendment Nos. 27 – 33; November 8, 2016

STATE OF MICHIGAN        }  
                                  }  
COUNTY OF SAGINAW      }  
                                  }  
CITY OF SAGINAW         }        SS.

I, Janet Santos, CMMC/CMC/MMC, Clerk of the City of Saginaw, county and state aforesaid, do hereby certify that I have compared the following copy of the Charter of the City of Saginaw, as amended, with the original and each amendment thereto, on file in this office and that it is a true and correct transcript therefrom.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of the City of Saginaw, Michigan on November 21, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JANET SANTOS, CMMC/CMC/MMC  
CITY CLERK

## PREFACE

The City of Saginaw as at present constituted is a consolidation of the former cities of Saginaw and East Saginaw. Pursuant to Act 455 of the Local Acts of the Legislature of 1889, the first meeting of the common council of the consolidated city was held March 12, 1890.

The former City of Saginaw was never incorporated as a village, its first incorporation being as a city in 1857. Its first council meeting was held April 11, 1857.

The former city of East Saginaw was first incorporated as a village in 1855. Its first board meeting was held May 11, 1855. It was incorporated as a city in 1859, and the first meeting of its council was held March 17, 1859.

The village of South Saginaw was incorporated and held its first meeting November 20, 1866. Prior to that time it was known by its post office name, Salina. It became a part of East Saginaw March, 1873.

The present charter was drafted pursuant to the provisions of the Home Rule Act of 1909, as amended, by charter Commissioners elected November 6, 1934. The Charter Commission in its entirety served gratuitously. The Charter Commission completed its work at a meeting held July 26, 1935, and the Charter was approved by the Governor of the State of Michigan on August 5, 1935. It was adopted by the electors of the City on October 14, 1935, by a vote of 4,701 to 4,375. Two copies were filed with the County Clerk and the Secretary of State on October 21, 1935.

On December 2, 1935, the entire Charter Commission was elected by a large majority to serve as Saginaw's first council under the Council-Manager form of government, taking office January 6, 1936.

The first amendment to this charter, proposed by Council resolution February 5, 1947, was approved by the Governor on February 20, 1947, and adopted by the electors on April 7, 1947, by a vote of 3,658 to 1,004. Two copies were filed with the county Clerk and the Secretary of State on April 18, 1947.

In 1948 an attempt was made to amend the charter, initiated by a group of citizens, and two proposals were placed on the ballot in the November 2, 1948 election.

Proposal No. 1 to elect councilmen by districts was defeated by a vote of 11,101 to 6,947.

Proposal No. 2 to provide a city primary election was defeated by a vote of 11,499 to 5,913.

The second amendment was initiated by petition, sponsored by members of the Saginaw Fire Department, filed with the City Clerk December 30, 1948. It was approved by the Governor on March 18, 1949, and adopted by the electors April 4, 1949 by a vote of 7,268 to 5,663 and became effective July 1, 1949.

On February 5, 1951, the Council adopted a resolution to place the question of amending Chapter 7, Section 45, to provide an "Income Profits Tax" on the ballot at a special election May 22, 1951. The amendment was approved by the voters with 9,030 votes for and 5,432 against.

On August 22, 1951, action was taken to restrain the City from enforcing the Income Profits Tax. The Circuit Court decision was against the city and on appeal the Supreme Court also decided against the city but on entirely different grounds. The decision was not based on the legality of the tax but on a technicality, the opinion of the Court being that instead of one question on the ballot, there should have been three. (House vs. City of Saginaw, 334, Mich. 241)

The third and fourth amendments, proposed by Council resolution February 2, 1953, were approved by the Governor on February 12, 1953, and adopted by the electors on April 6, 1953, by a vote of 5,590 to 1,519 and 5,415 to 1,561, respectively. Two copies were filed with the Secretary of State and the County Clerk on April 24, 1953.

The fifth amendment, proposed by Council resolution October 21, 1953, was approved by the Governor November 2, 1953, and adopted by the electors 2,101 to 345. It was filed with the County Clerk and Secretary of State and became effective December 29, 1953.

The sixth amendment petitioned for by the Fluoridation Research Committee was found to be inadequate (CP 1954 p. 376). On August 23, 1954, the Council recognizing the persons signing the petition in good faith, by resolution, ordered the proposed amendment placed on the ballot. It was approved by the Governor September 13, 1954, and adopted by the electors 12,034 to 11,806. It became effective November 10, 1954.

The seventh amendment, proposed by Council resolution January 31, 1955, was approved by the Governor February 11, 1955, and adopted by the electors by a vote of 7,812 to 3,392. It was filed with the County Clerk and Secretary of State and became effective April 8, 1955.

An amendment proposed by Council resolution June 4, 1956 to permit acquisition, improvement and equipping off-street parking areas and defraying cost by special assessment was approved by the Governor July 23, 1956, and defeated by the voters 2,642 to 2,296.

The eighth amendment, proposed by Council resolution June 4, 1956, was approved by the Governor July 9, 1956, and adopted by the electors by a vote of 2,727 to 2,224. It was filed with the County Clerk and Secretary of State and became effective August 14, 1956.

The ninth amendment, proposed by Council resolution September 3, 1957, was approved by the Governor October 2, 1957, and adopted by the electors 4,884 to 3,565. It was filed with the County Clerk and Secretary of State and became effective November 22, 1957.

The tenth amendment is the same as the ninth amendment except that the vote was 4,846 to 3,625.

In 1958 a proposal initiated by the City Council to permit purchase of passenger cars, trucks and truck tractors at prices established by negotiation rather than by competitive bidding was defeated 5,409 to 3,227.

Also in 1958, a proposal initiated by the City Council to permit the establishment of off-street parking and to pay all or part of the cost by special assessment on property specially benefited, was defeated 9,040 to 8,864.

The eleventh amendment, proposed by Council resolution February 2, 1959, was approved by the Governor March 6, 1959, and adopted by the electors 9,026 to 4,536. It was filed with the County Clerk and the Secretary of State and became effective April 17, 1959.

In 1959 a proposal, initiated by the Saginaw Fire Fighters' Association, to reduce work week from 63 to 56 hours was defeated 10,735 to 4,521.

The twelfth amendment, proposed by Council resolution, was approved by the Governor September 15, 1960, and adopted by the electors 13,923 to 10,943. It was filed with the County Clerk and Secretary of State and became effective November 15, 1960.

In 1960 a petition, filed by the Committee for Better Dental Health for Saginaw, proposing repeal of fluoridation prohibition was found to be inadequate (CP 1960 p. 374). On August 29, 1960, the City Council by resolution ordered this question placed on the ballot and it was defeated 15,313 to 11,860.

The thirteenth amendment, proposed by Council resolution, was approved by the Governor February 14, 1961, and adopted by the electors 6,547 to 5,293. It was filed with the County Clerk and Secretary of State and became effective April 13, 1961.

In 1961 a petition was filed by the Citizens Committee for Representative Government which proposed electing councilmen by districts and to establish a non-partisan city primary. Both proposals were defeated 9,722 to 3,683 and 8,979 to 4,033 respectively.

In 1962 a proposal was initiated by Council resolution to amend the Policemen and Firemen Retirement System and was defeated by the electors 3,216 to 3,028.

Also in 1962, a proposal was initiated by Council resolution to authorize for ten years an income tax of not to exceed 1 percent on salaries, bonuses, wages, commissions and other compensation and on net profits of all businesses, professions and other activities of residents and non-residents. The income tax proposal was defeated 10,671 to 7,985.

The fourteenth amendment, proposed by Council resolution, was approved by the Governor December 3, 1962, and adopted by the electors 9,389 to 9,133. It was filed with the County Clerk and the Secretary of State and became effective January 16, 1963.

In 1963 a proposal initiated by Council resolution to repeal Policemen and Firemen Retirement System and require a pension established by ordinance was defeated 6,950 to 6,383.

The fifteenth amendment, proposed by Council resolution, was approved by the Governor October 30, 1964, and adopted by the electors 16,135 to 8,531. It was filed with the County Clerk and the Secretary of State November 10, 1964, and became effective January 1, 1965.

In 1965 a proposal initiated by petition sponsored by members of the Saginaw Fire Department to reduce the duty hours of Firemen from 63 to 56 hours per week was defeated 12,909 to 12,303.

In 1969 a proposal initiated by Council resolution to add a new Section 83 to Chapter XIII to provide for sale of un-platted cemetery lands was defeated 7,585 to 1,370.

In 1973 a proposal initiated by Council resolution to amend Chapter III, Section 17, by increasing compensation of Councilmen to \$20 per meeting and Mayor to \$100 a month was defeated 4,805 to 4,704.

In 1976 a proposal initiated by petition sponsored by Saginaw United Taxpayers, Inc., to set maximum amount of taxes which may be levied at 8 mills was defeated 11,924 to 8,899.

In 1977 a proposal initiated by Council resolution to amend Chapter III, Section 17, by increasing compensation of Councilmen to \$20 per meeting was defeated 6,395 to 4,851.

Also in 1977, a proposal initiated by Council resolution to amend Chapter III, Section 17, by increasing compensation of Mayor to \$100 a month was defeated 7,236 to 3,985.

Also in 1977, a proposal initiated by Council resolution to amend Chapter III, Section 14, by reducing residency requirements for City Councilmen from 3 years to 6 months was defeated 7,363 to 4,112.

Also in 1977, a proposal initiated by Council resolution to amend Chapter V, Section 33, by increasing expenditures from \$2,000 to \$5,000 before requiring sealed bids and Council approval was defeated 5,838 to 5,134.

The sixteenth amendment was initiated by petition sponsored by Saginaw United Taxpayers, filed with the City Clerk July 19, 1979 to require adoption of the budget at least 30 days prior to first day of fiscal year, to limit amount of levy and yield, and to provide for exceeding the limit in declared emergency. It was approved by the Governor on September 24, 1979, and adopted by the electors November 6, 1979, by a vote of 6,729 to 3,484. It was filed with the County Clerk and Secretary of State and became effective December 5, 1979.

Also in 1979 a proposal initiated by Council resolution to reduce residency requirement for Council candidates from 3 years to 1 year was defeated 6,247 to 4,376.

In 1980, as a result of a letter of understanding between the Fraternal Order of Police, Saginaw Lodge No. 105, and the City, Proposal No. 1 to eliminate the Police Department from Act 78 and Proposal No. 2 to add a new Chapter to provide a civil service system for certain sworn members of the Police Department conditioned upon rescission of Act 78, were placed on the ballot. Proposal No. 1 was defeated 7,321 to 15,495 and Proposal No. 2 was defeated 8,000 to 14,725.

In 1983 a proposal initiated by Council resolution to eliminate the tax limitation contained in Chapter VII, Section 45, was defeated 1,677 to 4,849.

In 1988, a proposal initiated by the City Council to eliminate the tax limitation contained in Chapter VII, Section 45, was defeated 4,172 to 5,058.

The 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> amendments proposed by Council to amend Sections 85 and 86 and repeal Section 87, Chapter XIII, were approved by the Governor September 13, 1988, and by electors November 8, 1988, 9,480 to 6,407; 7,892 to 7,330; and 9,195 to 5,997; respectively. They were filed with the County Clerk and Secretary of State and became effective December 2, 1988.

In 2000, a proposal initiated by the City Council to eliminate the tax limitation contained in Chapter VII, Section 45, was defeated 1,077 to 4,690.

In 2002, a proposal initiated by the City Council to eliminate the tax limitation contained in Chapter VII, Section 45, was defeated 5,520 to 9,969.

In 2004, a proposal initiated by the City Council to establish a City Charter Commission for the purpose to conduct a general Charter revision review, was approved 11,226 to 7,389.

In 2005, a proposal initiated by the City Council to eliminate the tax limitation contained in Chapter VII, Section 45, was defeated 6,381 to 3,536.

In 2007, a proposal initiated by the City Council through the City Charter Commission to revise the City Charter was defeated 1,082 to 5,761.

The 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> amendments proposed in 2009 initiated by the City Council were approved are as follows: Chapter IV, Sections 18, 25 and 27.

The 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> amendments proposed in 2010 initiated by the City Council and approved by the voters are as follows: Chapter IV, Section 22 was approved, Chapter VII, Section 45(a) was repealed and Chapter XIV, Section 92 was approved.

The 26<sup>th</sup> amendment proposed in 2014 by a public initiatory petition to amend the City Charter by adding a new Section 24(a), entitled, "Marijuana," was approved by the voters 6,959 to 4,659.

The 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup>, and 33<sup>rd</sup> amendments proposed in 2016 by the City Council and approved by the voters are as follows: Proposal 1, Chapter IV, Section 21 was approved 7,202 to 7,011; Proposal 4, Chapter V, Section 37 was approved 8,609 to 5,337; Proposal 5, Chapter V, Section 37 was approved 8,678 to 5,156; Proposal 6, Chapter VIII, Section 56 was approved 10,364 to 3,231; Proposal 7, Chapter VIII, Section 56 was approved 9,957 to 3,654; Proposal 8, Chapter VIII, Section 56 was approved 10,446 to 2,407; Proposal 9, Chapter VIII, Section 57 was approved 8,952 to 3,612. Proposal 2, Chapter IV, Section 21 was defeated 3,087 to 11,115; and Proposal 3, Chapter V, Section 33 was defeated 4,428 to 9,368.

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## **STATEMENT OF THE CHARTER COMMISSION**

August 8, 1935

To the Electors of Saginaw:

In accordance with your instructions of September 11, 1934, when you voted both for charter revision and for a different type of government, we have drafted a revised charter for the City of Saginaw, embodying a change in form of government, and herewith submit it for your consideration.

Effort was made to have the charter brief and clear, to vest the city with every permitted home rule power, to limit rigidly those powers it seemed should be limited, to leave flexibility in the exercise of powers where flexibility appeared advantageous.

The plan of government is simple and logical. Responsibility is clearly fixed at every point, and where responsibility is placed proportionate power is granted.

To facilitate clear understanding of the proposed charter, we summarize as follows its more important provisions.

### **GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE**

The people elect a council of nine members, upon whom is placed the responsibility of governing the city.

The council appoints a city manager, who is the chief administrative officer of the city government and upon whom is placed the responsibility for efficient operation of the administrative service.

Other officials appointed by the council are: members of the board of review, the city's twenty-four (24) representatives on the board of supervisors, and a mayor. The mayor, chosen from the council's membership, serves as presiding officer of the council and as ceremonial head of the city government. Other duties of the council are chiefly legislative and policy-determining, the compensation of its members nominal.

The manager is given broad powers, including appointment and removal of administrative officers and employees but with provision for establishment of a personnel advisory board, and a system of city employment based wholly on fitness, training and experience.

The Council is free to hire the best manager available, paying such reasonable salary as his capabilities command, and is equally free to dismiss him if not satisfied with his performance. The field from which he may be chosen is not limited; he need not even be a resident of the city or the state at the time he is selected.

There are rigid requirements as to the manager's qualifications, and equally rigid safe-guards against interference by councilmen with the work of administrative officers and employees.

## **BUREAU OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMPLAINT**

To ensure every citizen easy and effective contact with his city government, provision is made for a bureau of public information and complaint, designed to be exactly what its name implies. . . a place where the public can get accurate and reliable information on city affairs, and, more important, where any resident may register complaint against the public service, with the assurance his complaint will bring prompt investigation and report.

## **ELECTIONS**

Regular non-partisan city elections are held the first Monday in April of each odd numbered year. Candidates for councilmen are nominated by petition and the pre-election primary has been eliminated as an unnecessary expense. Councilmen's terms of office are four years, five members being elected at one time and four at another. They are elected at large to that each member will represent the entire city and each citizen.

## **FINANCE – TAXATION – BONDS**

Greatest care was taken in preparing the provisions relating to finance, taxation and the issuance of bonds, so that the city might possess all rightful powers, but with the people's interest carefully safeguarded. Restrictions on borrowing money were not detailed in the charter, as authority to issue bonds without approval of three-fifths of the electors is strictly limited by state law.

Not because we believe it the ultimate answer to the vexatious taxation problem, but rather because it so recently was written into the existing charter by vote of the people, we have included in this new charter the constitutional fifteen-mill limitation on taxation.

## **BUDGET**

The annual budget, prepared by the finance director, reviewed by the manager and considered at a public hearing, will be passed upon finally by the council instead of by a board of estimates, as in the past. Under the existing form of government, in which the commissioners are administrators as well as legislators, a board of estimates perhaps is a necessary adjunct, but it is the commission's belief that under the form of government here proposed such a board is unnecessary.

## **RETIREMENTS – PENSIONS**

It is the intent of the chapter on retirements and pensions to assure that no superannuated or incapacitated firemen or policemen shall be obliged to depend on charity, and at the same time to make impossible abuses that have grown up around the pension system set up in the existing charter.

We realize there are many who oppose pensions on principle. To these we wish to point out that local precedent of nearly thirty years supports inclusion of pension provisions, and also that opposition to a pension system for firemen and policemen is no valid reason for rejection of this charter, because rejection would leave in operation a system of pensions less desirable than the one here proposed.

## **PUBLIC UTILITIES – FRANCHISES**

Every care was taken to safeguard fully the people's rights in the granting of public utility franchises, and at the same time to avoid such drastic restrictions as might work to the city's disadvantage. No franchise may be granted except by vote of the people, and exclusive franchises are prohibited. Thirty years is fixed as the maximum life of a franchise, but the council and the people are given power to limit them to any shorter term as circumstances at the time may dictate. Because the right of municipal ownership of public utilities is satisfactorily provided by state law and is among the powers vested in the city, it was not repeated in detail in this charter.

## **INITIATIVE – REFERENDUM – RECALL**

The early American "town meeting" rights of the people have been preserved in the only manner feasible in a modern city – through the initiative, the referendum and the recall. Exercise of any of these rights is cumbersome and costly, but there always is a possibility that at some time resort to one or another of them may be justifiable.

## **CEMETERIES – PARKS – TRUSTS**

The preservation inviolate of our cemeteries, parks and other public places, and trust funds created therefore, and the investment of such trust funds, has been carefully safeguarded.

## **CONCLUSION**

You are requested to pass judgment upon this proposed new charter in its entirety, and not allow disapproval of some particular provision to cause rejection of the whole.

Perfection is not claimed, but we are convinced this charter offers the best governmental machinery that has been evolved for a city of Saginaw's size.

Should you adopt this charter we urge that you follow up such action by electing to the council men with a will to carry out its provisions. There is no other method by which you can assure yourselves the benefits and advantages of the business-like, efficient and economical government it is our firm conviction this charter offers to the people of Saginaw.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Arnold Boutell	Harvey A. Penny
George H. Boyd	John W. Symons, Jr.
William J. Brydges	Eric F. Wieneke
Harwood J. Gilbert	Charles C. Wilson
Frank Marxer	

Charter Commissioners of the City of Saginaw, Michigan

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## **P R E A M B L E**

We, the People of the City of Saginaw, pursuant to authority granted by the constitution and laws of the State of Michigan, and in order to secure the benefits of efficient self-government, and otherwise to promote our common welfare, do hereby ordain and establish this charter.

### **CHAPTER I. INCORPORATION – POWERS**

Section 1. The municipal corporation now existing and known as “City of Saginaw” shall be and continue a municipal corporation under the name of “City of Saginaw” and shall be vested with any and all powers which cities are, or may hereafter be, required or permitted to exercise or to provide for in their charters under the constitution and laws of the State of Michigan, as fully and completely as though the powers were specifically enumerated herein, except for such limitations and restrictions as are provided in this charter, and no enumeration of particular powers of the city in this charter shall be held to be exclusive.

### **CHAPTER II. ELECTIONS**

#### **Wards and Districts**

Section 2. The City of Saginaw shall constitute one (1) ward. The council may by ordinance establish convenient election districts. Until the council shall otherwise ordain, the election districts continue as now established.

#### **Elections**

Section 3. A non-partisan regular city election shall be held on the first Monday in April in each odd numbered year. Special elections shall be held when called by resolution of the council at least thirty (30) days in advance of such election, or when required by this charter or the general laws of the state. Such resolution shall set forth the purpose of the election.

Regular City elections to be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in the even years via resolution #2013-062 approved by City Council on October 23, 2013, according to P.A. 523 of 2012. Date of special election must be approved by County Election Scheduling Committee (1969 P.A. 322, MCLA 168.639).
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#### **Nominating Petitions**

Section 4. Candidates for the office of councilman shall be nominated by petition. Nominating petitions on official blanks, signed by not less than fifty (50) nor more than one hundred (100) registered electors of the city shall be filed with the city clerk not later than twelve (12) noon on the fourth Saturday prior to the date of the city election. Official blank petitions shall be prepared by the city clerk and shall be furnished by him upon receipt of consent of the candidate in whose behalf petitions are requested.

Nominating petitions must be filed before 4 p.m. on the seventh Tuesday prior to the election (1970 P.A. 239, MCLA 168.644e, Ordinance Number D-975, Article 4, Chapter I, General Code).
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## **Approval of Petitions**

Section 5. The city clerk shall accept for filing only such nominating petitions for qualified candidates as are on official blanks and contain the required number of signatures. He shall forthwith determine the sufficiency of the signatures on each petition filed and, if he finds any petition does not contain the required number of legal signatures of registered electors, he shall forthwith notify the candidate, who may file an amended petition not later than five (5) days after the date and hour for filing the original petition. Petitions which are found by the city clerk to contain the required number of signatures of registered electors for qualified candidates shall be marked "Approved," with the date thereof.

## **Election Procedure**

Section 6. The general election laws of the state shall apply to and control, as near as may be, all procedure relating to elections, except as such laws relate to political parties or partisan procedures or require more than one publication of notice and except as otherwise provided by this charter. In any circumstance where the application of said laws may be uncertain, the election commission shall construe the same and prescribe the procedure.

## **Canvass of Vote**

Section 7. The council shall be the board of canvassers to canvass the votes at all elections under this charter. The council shall meet at seven-thirty (7:30) p.m., on the first Thursday after each election and publicly canvass the election returns, and shall determine the vote upon all questions and propositions and declare whether the same have been adopted or rejected and what persons have been elected at such election. The candidate or candidates (where more than one [1] are to be elected to the same office) who shall receive the greatest number of votes shall be elected.

Superseded by Public Act 51 of 2013 which eliminates City Board of Canvassers. All elections are canvassed by the County Board of Canvassers.
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## **Tie Vote**

Section 8. If at any municipal election there shall be no choice between candidates by reason of two (2) or more having received an equal number of votes, then the council shall proceed to determine the election of such candidates by lot in the same manner, as near as may be, as shall be provided by the general election laws of the state.

## **Election Commission**

Section 9. The election commission shall consist of the city clerk, the chief of police and the city attorney. The city clerk shall be chairman. The commission shall appoint the inspectors of election and fix their compensation and shall perform all of the duties required of city election commissions by state law or this charter.

## **Voting Hours**

Section 10. The polls for all elections shall be opened at seven (7) a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be, on election day and remain open until eight (8) p.m. of the same day.

## **Justice of the Peace**

Section 11. Justice of the Peace as established in Act No. 4 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1917 shall be nominated and elected in accordance with the provisions of this charter regulating the nomination and election of councilmen.

Act No. 4, P.A. 1917, Repealed 1939 P.A. 322

Changed to "Municipal Judge," 1947 P.A. 103 and Council Resolution adopted July 11, 1949. (CP p. 355)

These judicial duties are performed by the 70<sup>th</sup> District Court (MCLA 600.8135).

## **CHAPTER III. GOVERNING BODY**

### **The Council**

Section 12. The council shall consist of nine (9) members nominated and elected at large, and shall be vested with all legislative powers of the city except as otherwise provided by state law or this charter. The city clerk shall be clerk of the council.

### **Term of Office**

Section 13. The councilmen shall hold office for a term of four (4) years from the Monday next following the city election at which they are elected, except that the four (4) councilmen receiving the smallest number of votes at the first election under this charter shall hold office from January 6, 1936 until the Monday next following the regular city election in 1937 and the five (5) councilmen receiving the largest number of votes at said first election shall hold office from January 6, 1936, until the Monday next following the regular city election in 1939.

## Qualifications

Section 14. No person shall be eligible for the office of councilman unless he is a duly registered elector in the city and has been a resident of the city or any area annexed thereto for at least three (3) years immediately prior to the election at which he is a candidate.

**Section 14 amended (Amendment No. 11)  
Effective April 17, 1959**

Three-year residency ruled unconstitutional. Hargrove vs. City of Saginaw, U.S. Federal District Court, 1979.
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## Vacancies

Section 15. A vacancy occurring in the council shall be filled within thirty (30) days by a majority vote of the remaining councilmen, the appointee to hold office until the Monday next following the next regular city election; provided that no appointment shall be made within sixty (60) days prior to any regular city election; and provided further that, if a vacancy occurs more than forty (40) days next preceding a regular city election in the office of a councilman whose term is not then expiring, a successor shall be elected at such election for the remainder of the unexpired term.

## Procedure in Filling Vacancies

Section 15(a). In filling a vacancy in the council, the names of prospective appointees shall not be presented for seven (7) days, and no appointment shall be made for fourteen (14) days after the vacancy occurs.

**Section 15(a) added (Amendment No. 3)  
Effective April 24, 1953**

## Mayor

Section 16. The council shall, at its first regular meeting following the first election under this charter, choose one of its members mayor who shall hold office until the Monday following the regular city election in 1937. Thereafter the mayor shall be chosen for a term of two (2) years. The council shall choose one of its members mayor pro tem who shall act in the absence or disability of the mayor. In the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of the mayor, the council shall choose one of its members mayor at the next regular meeting to serve for the unexpired term. The mayor shall be the official head of the city for all ceremonial purposes, for the purposes of military law, and for all other purposes required by law. He shall preside at all meetings of the council, and may speak and vote in such meetings as any other member of the council.

## Compensation

Section 17. Each member of the council shall be compensated at the rate of five dollars (\$5) per meeting attended, but not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300) per year.

The mayor shall receive the sum of fifty dollars (\$50) per month, in addition to his compensation as councilman.

Ordinance D-1417 enacted November 15, 1982 and approved at the November 8, 1983 election established a commission to determine salaries, expense allowance and reimbursements for local elected officials. (1972, P.A. 8, MCLA 117.5c).

## CHAPTER IV. LEGISLATION

### Regular Meetings

Section 18. The council shall meet twice monthly. At the first regular meeting following each regular city election, newly elected councilpersons shall assume their duties of office.

**Section 18 amended (Amendment No. 20)  
Effective November 3, 2009**

Regular meetings shall be posted within ten days after the first meeting in each calendar or fiscal year. (1976 P.A. 267, MCLA 15.265)

### Special Meetings

Section 19. Special meetings shall be called by the city clerk on the written request of the mayor or manager or any three (3) councilmen on at least six (6) hours' written notice to each councilman served personally or left at his usual place of residence; but any special meeting shall be a legal meeting for all purposes without such notice if all councilmen are present thereat or have waived notice thereof in writing.

Eighteen hour notice of special meetings must be given by posting. (1976 P.A. 267, MCLA 15.265)

### Quorum

Section 20. A majority of the councilmen shall be a quorum for the transaction of business. The council may, by a majority vote of those present, compel the attendance of its members and other officers of the city at its meetings and enforce orderly conduct therein. No councilman shall vote on any question in which he has any financial interest other than the common public interest; but on all other questions every councilman present shall vote. On all votes which are not unanimous, the yea or nay vote of each member shall be recorded by roll call, but where the vote is unanimous, it shall only be necessary to so state.

## **Rules**

Section 21. The council shall determine its own rules and shall keep a journal of its proceedings in the English language, which shall be signed by the city clerk. All regular and special meetings of the council shall be open to the public. The minutes of each council meeting shall be prepared by the city clerk and made available to the public.

**Section 21 amended (Amendment No. 27)  
Effective November 8, 2016**

## **Ordinances**

Section 22. Legislation shall be by ordinance. Each ordinance shall be identified by a number and a short title. The style of all ordinances shall be "The City of Saginaw Ordains." The effective date of an ordinance shall be prescribed therein. At least 2 weeks shall elapse between the introduction and enactment of an ordinance. Enactment shall require the affirmative vote of not less than a simple majority of the councilpersons elected, appointed and seated and the effective date shall not be earlier than 10 days after enactment. Ordinances immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety may be enacted on the date of introduction and given immediate effect by the affirmative vote of not less than a simple majority plus one of the councilpersons elected, appointed and seated. No ordinance shall be amended by reference to its title only, but the section or sections amended shall be enacted in full. An ordinance may be repealed by reference to its number and title only.

**Section 22 amended (Amendment No. 24)  
Effective August 3, 2010**

## **Ordinance Record**

Section 23. All ordinances and the dates of introduction and enactment and the vote thereon shall be recorded by the city clerk in a book to be called "The Ordinance Book," and it shall be the duty of the mayor and the city clerk to authenticate such record by their official signatures. Except as otherwise provided by this charter, all ordinances when enacted shall be forthwith published by the city clerk, and he shall enter his certificate as to the manner and date of publication under each ordinance in the ordinance book; provided that, if codes (e.g. building regulations) be enacted by ordinance, publication may be had by printing not less than one hundred (100) copies in booklet form to be available for public distribution without cost on application.

## **Compilation and Revision**

Section 24. The council shall, by resolution, order a general revision and compilation of ordinances within two (2) years from the date this charter is adopted by the electors and every ten (10) years thereafter. Such revision and compilation, when completed, shall be adopted by appropriate ordinance which shall also designate when such revised and compiled ordinances shall become effective. Such revised and compiled ordinances need not be recorded in the "The Ordinance Book" or the council proceedings. The printing and binding of not less than one hundred (100) copies in book form, available for public distribution at cost, shall be deemed sufficient publication.

## **Marijuana**

Section 24 (a). Nothing in the Code of Ordinances shall apply to the use, possession or transfer of less than 1 ounce of marijuana, on private property not used by the public, or transportation or 1 ounce or less of marijuana, by a person who has attained the age of 21 years.

**Section 24 (a) added (Amendment No. 22)  
Effective November 4, 2014**

## **CHAPTER V. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE**

### **City Manager**

Section 25. The council shall appoint a city manager for an indefinite term by a 2/3 majority vote of the elected or appointed and seated members of council. The manager shall be the chief administrative officer and the head of the administrative branch of the city government. The manager need not be a resident of the city or the state at the time of his or her appointment. The council may designate a qualified administrative officer of the city to perform the duties of manager during his or her absence or disability.

**Section 25 amended (Amendment No. 21)  
Effective November 3, 2009**

### **Qualifications**

Section 26. The manager shall be chosen solely on the basis of his executive and administrative qualifications with special reference to his training and actual experience in municipal administration. No member of the council shall be eligible for appointment as manager until two (2) years subsequent to the termination of his service on the council.

### **Removal**

Section 27. The manager may be removed by a 2/3 majority vote of the elected or appointed and seated members of the council. At least 30 days before removal of the manager, the council shall adopt a resolution stating its intention to remove him or her and the reasons therefore, a copy of which shall be served forthwith on the city manager who may, within 10 days, demand a public hearing in which event the final resolution removing the manager shall not be adopted until such public hearing has been held. Upon passage of a resolution stating the council's intention to remove the manager, the council may suspend him or her from duty but his or her pay shall continue until his or her removal. The action of the council in removing the manager shall be final.

**Section 27 amended (Amendment No. 22)  
Effective November 3, 2009**

## **General Powers and Duties of Manager**

Section 28. The manager shall supervise the administrative affairs of the city and shall carry out the policies formulated by the council. He shall be charged with the preservation of the public peace and health and the safety of persons and property, and shall see to the enforcement of the ordinances of the city, this charter and the laws of the state. He shall keep the council informed of the condition and needs of the city and shall make such reports and recommendations as he may deem advisable, and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this charter, or required of him by ordinance or resolution of the council, not inconsistent with this charter. He shall have the right to take part in the discussion of all matters coming before the council, but not the right to vote.

## **Appointive Power of Manager**

Section 29. The manager shall have power to appoint and remove, subject to the provisions of this charter, all officers and employees in the administrative service of the city; but the manager may authorize the head of a department or office responsible to him to appoint and remove subordinates in such department or office. The appointments made by or under authority of the manager shall be on the basis of the fitness, training and experience of such appointees for the work they are to perform. All such appointments shall be without definite term unless for provisional, temporary or emergency service not to exceed the maximum periods which may be prescribed by personnel regulations.

## **Council Not to Interfere in Appointments or Removals**

Section 30. Neither the council nor any of its committees or members shall direct or request the appointment of any person to or his removal from office or employment by the manager or any of his subordinates. Except for the purpose of inquiry, the council and its members shall deal with the administrative service solely through the manager, and neither the council nor any member thereof shall give orders to any subordinate of the manager either publicly or privately. Any violation of the provisions of this section by a councilman shall be a misdemeanor, conviction of which shall constitute immediate forfeiture of his office.

## **Appointive Officers**

Section 31. The manager shall appoint a city clerk, treasurer, assessor, police chief, fire chief, health officer, purchasing officer, city attorney, director of public works and director of finance who shall be ex-officio controller and shall appoint such other officers and heads of departments as may be deemed necessary. The powers and duties of these officers and heads of departments shall be those prescribed by state law, by charter and by ordinance. The compensation of officers and employees shall be fixed by the council.

## **Administrative Departments**

Section 32. The administrative service shall be divided into such departments, divisions, and bureaus as may be provided by ordinance upon recommendation of the manager. Such ordinance shall be known as "Administrative Code." Pending the passage of such code the manager may establish temporary regulations. Each officer or director shall, subject to approval by the manager, have supervision and control of his department and shall have power to prescribe rules and regulations, not inconsistent with this charter and the administrative code.

## **Purchasing Procedure**

Section 33. Competitive bids for all purchases and public improvements shall be obtained where practicable and contracts awarded to the lowest and best bidders. Sealed bids shall be asked for in all transactions involving the expenditure of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) or more and the transaction evidenced by written contract submitted to and approved by the council; provided that, in cases where it is clearly to the city's advantage to contract without competitive bidding, the council upon recommendation of the manager may so authorize. Detailed purchasing and contracting procedure shall be established by ordinance. The council may authorize the making of public improvements by day labor.

## **Investigations**

Section 34. The council, the manager, or any person or committee authorized by either of them, shall have power to inquire into the conduct of any department, officer or officer of the city and to make investigation as to municipal affairs, and for that purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths and compel the production of books, papers and other evidence. Failure to obey such subpoena or to produce books, papers or other evidence as ordered under the provisions of this section shall be a misdemeanor.

## **Bureau of Public Information and Complaint**

Section 35. There is hereby established within the administrative service a bureau to be known as "Bureau of Public Information and Complaint" under the direction of an official appointed by the manager. It shall be the duty of such bureau to furnish information concerning the city government and to receive the complaints of citizens relative to the public service for investigation and report. The procedure for handling complaints shall be specified by executive order of the manager or prescribed in the administrative code. The bureau here created may be assigned other duties not inconsistent with the purpose of this section.

## **Supervisors**

Section 36. The number of representatives to which the city may be entitled by law on the board of supervisors of Saginaw County shall be appointed by the council. Any citizen or elective or appointive official may be appointed supervisor and shall hold office at the pleasure of the council. If any representative of the city on the county board of supervisors shall be unable to attend the meetings of the board for any reason, the council may appoint a qualified person to discharge the duties of such office, during his absence or disability. Supervisors shall be entitled to retain compensation received in such capacity.

## **Procedure in Appointing Supervisors**

Section 36(a). In making appointments to the board of supervisors, other than appointments to serve during the absence or disability of a city representative, no candidates shall be proposed until one week after the council shall have determined that an appointment is to be made to such office, and the names of all candidates shall be presented at least one week prior to the appointment.

**Section 36(a) added (Amendment No. 4)  
Effective April 24, 1953**

Sections 36 and 36(a) superseded. County apportioned into commissioner districts and all commissioners elected (1966 P.A. 261. as amended. MCLA 46.401).
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## **Board of Review**

Section 37. The council shall appoint a board of review of seven (7) citizens who are taxpayers on real property, who shall hold office at the pleasure of the council. The council shall fix the compensation of the members of the board of review. Members of the board of review shall serve five (5) year terms from the date of appointment. Vacancies on said board may be filled by the council any time.

**Section 37 amended (Amendment Nos. 28 and 29)  
Effective November 8, 2016**

## **CHAPTER VI. PERSONNEL ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Members, Terms**

Section 38. There is hereby created a personnel advisory board of three (3) members, none of whom shall hold any other city office. One (1) shall be appointed by the manager, one (1) by the mayor and the two (2) so chosen shall appoint the third who shall be chairman. The members shall serve without compensation at the pleasure of the respective appointing authority. Vacancies occurring shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made.

### **Qualifications**

Section 39. Members of the personnel advisory board shall be duly registered taxpaying electors of the city who shall have resided in the city for at least the three (3) years immediately prior to their appointment, and shall believe in the merit system for city employment.

### **Powers and Duties**

Section 40. The personnel advisory board shall administer the retirement and pension system provided for in this charter. It shall investigate complaints made to it in writing by any officer or employee in the administrative service who is suspended, reduced or removed and report its findings in writing to the manager. The decision of the manager shall be in writing and shall be final. The complaints, findings and decisions shall be filed with the city clerk. At the request of the manager the personnel advisory board shall create eligibility lists, a system of classification and give him such other assistance in personnel matters as occasion requires to the end that there shall be provided a fair and impartial approach to municipal employment based upon the fitness, training and experience of the applicant with no discrimination on account of political or religious opinions; but at the same time without in any sense handicapping the responsible administrative officers in securing efficient service. The manager shall provide for the necessary clerical help, office equipment and supplies.

## **CHAPTER VII. GENERAL FINANCE**

### **Fiscal Year**

Section 41. The fiscal and budget year of the city shall begin on the first day of July.

### **Financial Control**

Section 42. The director of finance shall have the charge of the administration of the financial affairs of the city, including supervision of the offices of assessor and treasurer. He shall maintain such accounting control over the finances of the city, make such financial reports and perform such other duties as may be required by this charter, by ordinance or by the manager. As controller he shall audit and approve all liquidated claims against the city and the treasurer shall pay the same on duly certified vouchers.

### **Budget Procedure**

Section 43. At such time as may be requested by the manager or specified by ordinance, each officer or director of a department shall submit to the director of finance an itemized estimate of the expenditures for the next fiscal year for the departments or activities under his control. The director of finance shall prepare and submit to the manager a complete budget for the next fiscal year in such detail and with such supporting schedules as the manager shall require. After review by the manager he shall submit the proposed budget to the council on or before the last Monday in April.

### **Budget Hearing**

Section 44. A public hearing on the budget shall be held before its final adoption by the council, at such time and place as the council shall direct, the notice of such public hearing shall be published at least one week in advance by the city clerk.

### **Budget System Bonds**

Section 44(a). Any capital improvement items contained in the budget may be financed by the issuance of bonds as a part of the budget system of the city, provided that the amount of such bonds together with the taxes levied for the same year shall not exceed the limit of taxation authorized by law. The budget shall indicate the items to be so financed by bonds.

**Section 44(a) added (Amendment No. 9)  
Effective November 22, 1957**

### **Adoption of Budget, Tax Limit**

Section 45. The council shall, by resolution, determine and adopt the budget and make the appropriations for the next fiscal year and shall provide, by resolution, for a tax levy of the amount necessary to be raised by taxation at least thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the upcoming fiscal year. The amount of property taxes which may be levied by the city in any year shall not exceed three-quarters of one percent (.75 of 1%) of the assessed valuation as equalized of all taxable real and personal property in the city. If the assessed value of all property in the city as determined on the first Monday in May, 1979, is increased in

subsequent years for any reason, the maximum millage rate provided herein shall be permanently reduced to yield the same gross dollar revenue as the fiscal 1978-79 property tax revenue yield.

This limit may be exceeded up to three-tenths of one percent (.3 of 1%) of the assessed value over the maximum limit provided herein as reduced only if the mayor declares a specific emergency, the dollar amount of the emergency and the portion of such dollar amount that is needed from property taxes, and the council thereafter, by a three-quarters recorded vote of the full council, declares an emergency in accordance with the specifics of the mayor's request. The millage limit may be exceeded only during the fiscal year for which the emergency is declared. Millage levied pursuant to Article 9, Section 6, 1963 Michigan Constitution, is exempt from these limitations.

**Section 45 amended (Amendment No. 10)  
Effective November 22, 1957  
Section 45 amended (Amendment No. 16)  
Effective December 5, 1979**

### **Reduction of Tax Limit**

**Section 45(a) Added (Amendment No. 14)  
Effective January 16, 1963  
Section 45(a) Repealed (Amendment No. 25)  
Effective August 3, 2010**

### **Transfer of Appropriations**

Section 46. After the budget has been adopted, no money shall be drawn from the treasury of the city, nor shall any obligation for the expenditure of money be incurred, except pursuant to a budget appropriation. Except as otherwise provided in this charter, the council may transfer any unencumbered appropriation balance or any portion thereof from one department, fund, or agency to another.

### **Budget Control**

Section 47. At the beginning of each quarterly period during the fiscal year, and more often if required by the council, the manager shall submit to the council data showing the relation between the estimated and actual income and expense to date; and if it shall appear that the income is less than anticipated, the council or manager may reduce appropriations for any item or items, except amounts required for debt and interest charges, to such a degree as may be necessary to keep expenditures within the cash income. If the revenues exceed the amounts estimated in the budget, the council may make supplemental appropriations. The manager may provide for monthly or quarterly allotments of appropriations to departments, funds or agencies under such rules as he shall prescribe.

### **Borrowing Procedure**

Section 48. Subject to the applicable provisions of state law and this charter, the council, by resolution, may authorize the borrowing of money for any purpose within the scope of the powers vested in the city and the issuance of bonds of the city or other evidences of indebtedness therefore, and may pledge the full faith, credit and resources of the city for the payment of the obligation created thereby.

## **Special Assessment Bonds**

Section 49. The council shall, subject to the general laws of the state, have authority to borrow money in anticipation of the payment of special assessments made for the purpose of defraying the cost of any public improvement, or in anticipation of the payment of any combination of such special assessments, and to issue bonds therefore. Such special assessment bonds may be an obligation of the special assessment district or districts or may be both an obligation of the special assessment district or districts and a general obligation of the city. All collections on each special assessment roll or combination of rolls shall be set apart in a separate fund for the payment of the principal and interest of the bonds issued in anticipation of the payment of such special assessments, and shall be used for no other purpose.

## **Issuance of Bonds**

Section 50. Each bond or other evidence of indebtedness shall contain on its face a statement specifying the purpose for which the same is issued and it shall be unlawful for any officer of the city to use the proceeds thereof for any other purpose, provided that, whenever the proceeds of any bond issue or any part thereof shall remain unexpended and unencumbered for the purpose for which said bond issue was made, the council may, by the affirmative vote of six (6) members, authorize the use of such unexpended and unencumbered funds for the retirement of said bond issue or if such bond issue shall have been fully retired, then for the retirement of other bonds of the city. All bonds and other evidences of indebtedness issued by the city shall be signed by the mayor and countersigned by the controller and the city clerk under the seal of the city. Interest coupons may be executed with the facsimile signatures of the mayor and controller. A complete and detailed record of all bonds and other evidences of indebtedness issued by the city shall be kept by the director of finance. Upon the payment of any bond or other evidence of indebtedness the same shall be marked "canceled."

## **Depository**

Section 51. The council shall designate the depository or depositories for city funds, and shall provide for the daily deposit of all city moneys. The council may provide for such security for city deposits as it may deem necessary, except that personal surety bonds shall not be deemed proper security.

## **Independent Audit**

Section 52. An independent audit shall be made of all accounts of the city government at least annually and more frequently if deemed necessary by the council. Such audit shall be made by qualified public accountants experienced in municipal accounting. An abstract of the result of such audit shall be made public. An annual report of the city's business shall be made available in such form as will disclose pertinent facts concerning the activities and finances of the city government.

## **Official Bonds**

Section 53. Any city officer elected or appointed by authority of this charter may be required to give a bond to be approved by the council for the faithful performance of the duties of his office, but all officers receiving or disbursing city funds shall be so bonded. All official

bonds, except those of the constable, which shall be the same as provided by state law for such official in townships, shall be corporate surety bonds, and the premiums thereon shall be paid by the city. Such bonds shall be filed with the city clerk.

### **Trust Funds**

Section 54. Trust funds, unless otherwise provided by the deed of trust, shall be kept separate and apart from all other funds and shall be invested, as authorized by the council, by purchase in the open market of such bonds, debentures and other securities of recognized investment quality, except stocks, as are authorized by the laws of the State of Michigan for the investment of the funds of life insurance companies, except that such funds shall not be invested in any investment prohibited by the Constitution of the State of Michigan.

**Section 54 amended (Amendment No. 13)  
Effective April 13, 1961**

## **CHAPTER VIII. GENERAL TAXATION**

### **Assessment Roll**

Section 55. On or before the first Monday of May\* of each year the assessor shall make and certify an assessment roll of all property in the city liable to taxation in accordance with the general tax laws of the state. The levy, collection and return of city, school, state and county taxes shall be in conformity with state law, except as otherwise provided by this charter as to city taxes. The subjects of taxation for municipal purposes shall be the same as for state, county and school purposes under the general law.

\*Changed to "On or before the second Monday in March." (MCLA 211.30)

### **Board of Review**

Section 56. The board of review shall meet on the second Monday in March to review and correct the assessment roll. It shall have the same powers and perform like duties in all respects as are by general law conferred upon and required of board of review in townships. The board of review shall choose its own chairman and a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The assessor shall be clerk of the board and shall keep a record of its proceedings. The membership of the board of review shall be divided into board of review committees consisting of three (3) members each for the purpose of hearing and deciding issues protested pursuant to law. Two (2) of the three (3) members of a board of review committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the committee. Should a quorum not be present at any meeting of either the full board of review or one of its committees, it shall be the duty of the board of review members who are present to notify each absent member to attend at once, and it shall be the duty of the member so notified to attend without delay.

**Section 56 amended (Amendment Nos. 30, 31 and 32)  
Effective November 8, 2016**

## **Notice of Meetings**

Section 57. Notice of the time and place of the sessions of the board of review shall be published by the city clerk at least ten (10) days prior to the second Monday in March. The board shall be in session for purposes of review for a minimum of twelve (12) hours during the week beginning the second Monday in March at times established by ordinance. On or before the first Monday in April the board of review shall endorse the assessment roll as provided by general law. Such roll shall be the assessment roll for city, school, state and county taxes and for any other taxes that may be authorized by law.

**Section 57 amended (Amendment No. 33)  
Effective November 8, 2016**

## **Tax Apportionment**

Section 58. The director of finance shall certify to the assessor the amount of the tax levy fixed by the council. The assessor shall apportion the tax levy ratably to each person and piece of property on the assessment roll, and spread said tax together with all special assessments and reassessed taxes upon said roll.

## **Treasurer to Collect**

Section 59. After extending the taxes on the assessment roll and certifying to such roll, the assessor shall make a copy thereof, which shall constitute the tax roll. Forthwith the director of finance shall annex his warrant to the tax roll, directing and requiring the treasurer to collect from the several persons named in such roll the several sums set opposite their respective names. The taxes thus levied shall become, on July first or as soon thereafter as levied, a debt to the city from the persons against who they are levied and the amount levied together with all charges thereon shall become a continuing lien until paid on the property of the taxpayer, of the same character and extent as the lien created by general law for state and county taxes. The treasurer shall have like power and duty to collect city taxes as is granted to and required of township treasurers in the collection of state and county taxes.

## **Taxes, When Due**

Section 60. City taxes shall be due and payable on the first day of July of each year. All taxes paid on or before the thirty-first day of July of the same year shall be collected without additional charge. After said thirty-first day of July, there shall be added one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of one percent (1%) for each and every month, or fraction thereof, to taxes remaining unpaid, together with such collection fee as the council may by resolution prescribe, but not exceeding one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of one percent (1%). The council may by resolution authorize the treasurer, for a period not extending beyond the next March first, to accept partial payments on taxes and special assessments together with interest and collection charges in such manner as the council may determine.

## **Return to County Treasurer**

Section 61. On the first day of March following receipt of said roll the treasurer shall return all unpaid taxes on real property to the county treasurer in the same manner and with like effect as returns of state and county taxes are made by township treasurers. Such return shall include all the additional charges hereinbefore provided, which charges shall in such

return be added to the amount levied in said roll against each description. The taxes thus returned shall be collected in the same manner as other taxes returned to such county treasurer are collected under the provisions of the general tax laws of the state, and the same rate of interest and all charges shall be collected thereon, and all taxes and charges upon lands so returned as delinquent shall be and remain a lien thereon until paid. At the time of making said return, the treasurer shall make and file in his office a copy thereof upon which he shall record subsequent collections or reassessments as returned to him by county treasurer.

## **CHAPTER IX. SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS**

### **Council Resolution**

Section 62. The council shall have power to determine that the whole or any part of the expense of any public improvement shall be defrayed by special assessments upon the property especially benefited and shall so declare by resolution. Such resolution shall state the estimated cost of the improvement, what proportion of the cost thereof shall be paid by special assessments, and what part, if any, shall be a general obligation of the city, the number of installments in which assessments may be paid, and shall designate the districts or land and premises upon which special assessments shall be levied.

### **Procedure Fixed by Ordinance**

Section 63. The council shall prescribe by general ordinance complete special assessment procedure concerning plans and specifications, estimate of costs, notice of hearing, the making of the assessment roll and correction of errors, the collection of special assessments, and any other matters concerning the making of improvements by the special assessment method.

### **Off-street Parking**

Section 63(a). The Council may acquire, improve and equip off-street areas for the parking of motor vehicles, and may defray the cost thereof in whole or in part by special assessment as provided in this chapter for other public improvements.

**Section 63(a) added (Amendment No. 12)  
Effective November 15, 1960**

### **Boulevard Lighting**

Section 63(b). The council shall have power to determine that the whole or any part of the cost of installing a boulevard lighting system on any street may be assessed upon the lands abutting thereon, subject to such limitations and conditions as are now or may hereafter be provided in Subdivision 2 of Sec. 4-d of Act No. 279 of the Public Acts of 1909, as amended. Sections 62 and 63 of this chapter shall, except where inconsistent herewith, be applicable to public improvements authorized by this section.

**Section 63(b) added (Amendment No. 8)  
Effective August 14, 1956**

**CHAPTER X.  
RETIREMENT – PENSIONS**

Chapter X repealed effective July 1, 1947. See Chapter XVI.

**CHAPTER XI.  
UTILITIES – FRANCHISES – PERMITS**

**Franchises**

Section 70. All irrevocable public utility franchises and all renewals, extensions and amendments thereof shall be granted only by ordinance. No such ordinance shall be adopted before thirty (30) days after application therefore has been filed with the council, nor until a full public hearing has been held thereon. No such ordinance shall become effective until it has been submitted to the electors and has been approved by three-fifths of the electors voting thereon. No such ordinance shall be submitted to the electors at an election to be held less than sixty (60) days after the grantee named therein has filed its unconditional acceptance of such franchise, and it shall not be submitted to a special election unless the expense of holding the election as determined by the council shall have been paid to the treasurer by the grantee. No exclusive franchises shall ever be granted and no franchise shall be granted for a longer term than thirty (30) years. No such franchise shall be transferable, directly or indirectly, except with the approval of the council expressed by ordinance.

**Right of Regulation**

Section 71. All public utility franchises, whether it be so provided in the ordinance or not, shall be subject to the right of the city: (a) to repeal the same for misuse or nonuse, or for failure to comply therewith; (b) to require proper and adequate extension of plant and service and the maintenance thereof at the highest practicable standard of efficiency; (c) to establish reasonable standards of service and quality of products, and prevent unjust discrimination in service or rates; (d) to make independent audit and examination of accounts at any time, and to require reports annually; (e) to require continuous and uninterrupted service to the public in accordance with the terms of the franchise throughout the entire period thereof; (f) to impose such other regulations as may be determined by the council to be conducive to the safety, welfare and accommodation of the public.

**Regulation of Rates**

Section 72. All public utility franchises shall make provision for fixing rates, fares and charges, and for readjustments thereof at periodic intervals of not more than five (5) years, either by arbitration upon terms to be specifically set forth in the franchise, or by any state agency, at the election of the city. The value of the property of the utility used as a basis for fixing such rates, fares and charges shall in no event include a value predicated upon the franchise, goodwill or prospective profits.

**Purchase, Condemnation**

Section 73. The city shall have the right to acquire by condemnation or otherwise the property of any public utility in accordance with the general laws of the state, provided that the price to be paid shall in no event include any value predicated upon the franchise, goodwill or prospective profits.

## **Revocable Permits**

Section 74. Temporary permits for public utilities, revocable at any time at the will of the council, may be granted by the council by resolution on such terms and conditions as it shall determine, provided that such permits shall in no event be construed to be franchises or amendments to franchises. Any such resolution shall be subject to the referendum provided for by this charter.

## **Joint Use**

Section 75. Every public utility may be required by the city to permit joint use of its property and appurtenances located in the streets, alleys and public places of the city by other utilities insofar as such joint use may be reasonably practicable upon payment of reasonable rental therefore; provided that in the absence of agreement, upon application by any public utility, the council shall provide for arbitration of the terms and conditions of such joint use and the compensation to be paid therefore, which award shall be final.

## **Use of Streets**

Section 76. The right to use, control and regulate use of its streets, alleys, bridges, and public places, and the space above and beneath them is hereby reserved to the city, and every public utility franchise shall be subject thereto. Every public utility shall pay such part of the cost of improvements or maintenance of streets, alleys, bridges and public places, as shall arise from its use thereof and shall protect and save the city harmless from all damages arising from said use.

## **CHAPTER XII. RECALL – INITIATIVE – REFERENDUM**

### **Recall**

Section 77. Any councilman may be removed from office by the electors in the manner provided by the general laws of the state. A vacancy created by the recall of any councilman shall be filled by election in the manner prescribed by law.

### **Initiative and Referendum**

Section 78. An ordinance may be initiated by petition, or a referendum on an ordinance enacted by the council may be had by a petition filed prior to thirty (30) days subsequent to enactment of the ordinance; as hereinafter provided.

### **Petitions**

Section 79. An initiatory or a referendary petition shall be signed by registered electors equal in number to twenty-five percent (25%) of those who voted at the last general municipal election prior to the filing of the petition, and before being circulated for signatures shall be approved as to form by the city attorney. The petition shall be filed with the city clerk who shall determine within fifteen (15) days the sufficiency thereof and so certify. If found insufficient, fifteen (15) days shall be allowed for the filing of supplemental petitions. When found sufficient, the city clerk shall present the petition to the council at its next regular meeting.

## **Council Procedure**

Section 80. Upon receiving an initiatory or a referendary petition from the city clerk the council, within thirty (30) days, shall either (a) if it be an initiatory petition, adopt the ordinance; (b) if it be a referendary petition, repeal the ordinance; or (c) determine to submit the proposal to the electors.

## **Submission to Electors**

Section 81. Should the council decide to submit the proposal to the electors, it shall be submitted at the next election held in the city for any other purpose or in the discretion of the council at a special election. The result shall be determined by the majority vote of the electors voting thereon except in cases where otherwise required by law.

## **General Provision**

Section 82. The certification by the city clerk of the sufficiency of a referendary petition shall automatically suspend the ordinance in question pending repeal by the council or final determination by the electors as the case may be. An ordinance adopted by the electorate may not be amended or repealed by the council for a period of two (2) years, and then only by the affirmative vote of six (6) councilmen. Should two (2) or more ordinances adopted at the same election have conflicting provisions, the one receiving the highest vote shall prevail as to those provisions.

## **CHAPTER XIII. CEMETERIES – PARKS – TRUSTS**

### **Cemetery and Park Lands**

Section 83. All cemeteries now owned or hereafter acquired by the city, either within or without its corporate limits, shall be forever dedicated solely to the cemetery purposes, and all grants or dedications heretofore made to or for cemeteries shall continue without change. No park or any part thereof now owned or hereafter acquired by the city, either within or without its corporate limits, shall be sold by the city unless the sale shall be first approved by three-fifths of the city electors voting thereon at any general or special election.

**Section 83 amended (Amendment No. 5)  
Effective December 29, 1953**

### **Trusts**

Section 84. All trusts heretofore established for cemetery, park or other purposes shall be used and continued in accordance with the terms of the trusts. The city may, in its discretion, receive and hold any property in trust for cemetery, park or other public purposes and shall apply the same to the execution of such trusts and for no other purposes whatsoever.

## **Cemetery Trust Funds**

Section 85. The amount now standing to the credit of Forest Lawn Cemetery Trust Fund, Oakwood Cemetery Trust Fund and Brady Hill Cemetery Trust Fund, so-called, together with twenty-five percent (25%) of all moneys which shall from time to time be received from the sale of lots and single graves in said cemeteries shall constitute trust funds, the income of which shall be used annually as occasion may require for the general care and maintenance of said cemeteries. Said trust funds shall never, under any pretext or evasion, be diverted from their declared purposes.

**Section 85 amended (Amendment No. 17)  
Effective December 2, 1988**

## **Platting and Sale**

Section 86. The council shall cause cemeteries to be laid out into lots, avenues and walks, the plats thereto to be recorded in the office of the Controller. The Council shall fix the price of such lots, establish interment permit fees, and regulate the manner of conveyance and recording of such lots.

**Section 86 amended (Amendment No. 18)  
Effective December 2, 1988**

## **Single and Pauper Graves**

**Section 87 Repealed Effective December 2, 1988  
(Amendment No. 19)**

## **Protection, Establishment, Maintenance**

Section 88. The council shall have power to enact all ordinances deemed necessary for the establishment, maintenance and protection of all cemeteries and parks (together with the improvements thereon and appurtenances thereto) now owned or hereafter acquired by the city, either within or without its corporate limits and like power with reference to all cemeteries within the city belonging to, or under the controls of any church, religious society, corporation, company or association.

## **CHAPTER XIV. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

### **Oath of Office**

Section 89. Every person elected or appointed to any city office, before entering upon the duties of his office, shall take and subscribe to an oath of office as provided by general law, which shall be filed and kept in the office of the city clerk.

## **Notice of Election or Appointment**

Section 90. Written notice of election or appointment of any city officer shall be mailed to him at his address in the city by the city clerk within forty-eight (48) hours after the appointment is made or the vote canvassed. If within ten (10) days from the date of the notice, such officer shall not take, subscribe to and file with the city clerk an oath of office, such neglect shall be deemed a refusal to serve and the office shall thereupon be deemed vacant, unless the council shall extend the time in which such officer may qualify.

## **Restrictions**

Section 91. No person in default to the city shall be eligible for election or appointment to any city office. No officer or employee shall hold any remunerative elective or appointive office outside of the city government except notary public or supervisor. No officer or employee shall be a candidate for any elective office or a member of any committee or similar organization of any political party or participate actively in partisan politics, except that a council may be a candidate to succeed himself.

1976 P.A. 169, superseded provision regarding employee political activity.

"...or participate actively in partisan politics" ruled unconstitutional – Hargrove v City of Saginaw, U.S. Federal District Court 1984.

## **Vacancy Defined**

Section 92. In addition to other provisions of this charter, a vacancy shall be deemed to exist in any office when an elected or appointed officer dies, resigns, is removed from office, is convicted of a felony or judicially declared to be mentally incompetent. Also, a vacancy shall be deemed to exist on City Council when a councilperson moves from the city.

**Section 92 amended (Amendment No. 23)  
Effective August 3, 2010**

## **Official Interest in Contracts**

Section 93. No elective or appointive officer shall take any official action on any contract or other matter in which he has any financial interest other than the common public interest. Any officer violating the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall forfeit his office.

## **Private use of Public Property**

Section 94. No officer or employee shall devote any city property or labor to a private use.

## **Misdemeanors Under Charter**

Section 95. All offenses in this charter declared to be misdemeanors and all violations of city ordinances shall be punishable by fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500) or imprisonment for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days, or both, in the discretion of the court.

## **Notice by Publication**

Section 96. Notices or proceedings requiring publication shall, unless otherwise provided by this charter, be published once in the official newspaper. The council shall annually in May designate the official newspaper for the next fiscal year. In lieu of publication in the official newspaper the council in any particular instance may order such notice or proceeding printed and posted in at least five (5) public places in the city.

## **Damage Claims**

Section 97. The city shall not be liable for unliquidated damages for injuries to persons or property unless the person claiming such damages, or someone in his behalf, shall file a claim in writing with the city clerk within sixty (60) days after such claim for damages shall have accrued. Such claim shall be verified by the claimant, or some person having knowledge of the facts, shall specify the time and place, the nature and extent of the injury sustained, the manner in which it occurred, the specific grounds upon which the claim of liability on the part of the city shall be asserted, the names and addresses of all known witnesses, the name of the attending physician, if any, and an itemized statement of the amounts claimed. Upon filing such claim, the city shall have a reasonable time in which to investigate the same and may require the claimant to produce all witnesses for examination under oath. Failure to file claim or produce witnesses in the manner required in this section shall forever bar any action or proceeding in any court for the collection of such claim. No action shall be maintained in any case unless the same be brought within one year after such injury or damages shall have been received. On trial of action on such claim no witness shall be competent to testify for claimant who was known and not named in the claim filed with the city or not produced upon demand.

## **City Planning Commission**

Section 98. The council shall by ordinance establish and maintain a city planning commission having the powers and duties prescribed by state law.

## **Uniform Accounting**

Section 99. The accounting system of the city shall conform to any uniform system of accounting that may be provided by state law.

## **Public Records**

Section 100. All records of the municipality shall be public.

## **Headings**

Section 101. Chapter and section headings are for convenience only and shall not be considered to be part of the charter.

## **CHAPTER XV. SCHEDULE**

### **Submission of Charter**

Section 102. This charter shall be submitted to a vote of the electorate of the City of Saginaw for adoption or rejection at a special election Monday, October 14, 1935.

### **First Election**

Section 103. If this charter shall be adopted at said election the first council to be chosen under it shall be elected at a special election Monday, December 2, 1935. Candidates for the office of councilman shall be nominated and the election conducted in all respects as prescribed in this charter.

### **First Council Meeting**

Section 104. The council first elected under this charter shall assemble at the official chamber at seven-thirty (7:30) p.m., Monday, January 6, 1936, and when it shall have been called to order by the city clerk, the council existing under the previous charter shall cease to be, and the office and term of the mayor and each and every council-commissioner holding office thereunder shall terminate and this charter shall become operative.

### **Holdover Officers**

Section 105. All officers holding office under the previous charter, except the mayor and councilmen-commissioners and members of the board of estimates, shall continue in office until their successors shall be chosen and shall qualify or the office shall be abolished. Where questions arise concerning the responsibility and authority of officers, pending the appointment of the manager, the council shall temporarily fix such responsibility and grant such authority as is necessary to maintain the services of the city.

### **Budget Adjustments**

Section 106. The first council elected under this charter shall have authority, on recommendation of the manager, to make any necessary adjustments in the budget then in force.

### **Ordinances Continued**

Section 107. All bylaws, ordinances, resolutions, rules or regulations of the city, not inconsistent with this charter, in force at the time this charter becomes effective, shall continue in full force until amended or repealed. All administrative powers and duties of the commissioners thereunder shall be exercised by the manager or other appropriate officers.

### **Obligations Unaffected**

Section 108. All taxes and assessments levied or assessed and all charged thereon and all fines and penalties imposed, uncollected at the time this charter becomes effective, shall be collected as if such change had not been made; if a different remedy is provided by this charter, or by any ordinance or resolution adopted pursuant thereto, which can be made

applicable to any rights existing upon the effective date of this charter, the remedy shall be deemed to be accumulative to the remedies before provided.

### **Severability**

Section 109. The sections of this charter and the parts thereof are severable, and in the event of any provision being declared unconstitutional or contrary to state law, it is hereby declared the intent of the charter commission and the electors voting thereon that such unconstitutionality or illegality shall not affect the validity of any other provision of this charter.

## **CHAPTER XVI. POLICEMEN AND FIREMEN RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

Section 1. A complete retirement system shall be provided for policemen and firemen of the city by general ordinance.

**Section 1 amended (Amendment No. 15)  
Effective January 1, 1965**

Section 2 to 22, both inclusive, Section 22-1, and Sections 23 to 45, both inclusive, of Chapter XVI of the charter are hereby repealed. All provisions of the charter inconsistent with the provisions of this charter amendment are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency. The adoption of this charter amendment shall not be construed as re-enacting any charter provision heretofore repealed by said Chapter XVI.

**Added (Amendment No. 15)  
Effective January 1, 1965**

The effective date of this charter amendment shall be January 1, 1965, but Chapter XVI of the charter as it existed at the time of the adoption of this charter amendment shall continue in full force and effect until the enactment by the council and the taking effect of the ordinance provided for in Section 1 hereof.

**Added (Amendment No. 15)  
Effective January 1, 1965**

Ordinance No. D-678 adding Chapter 5, "Pensions," enacted January 18, 1965, effective February 1, 1965.
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**Chapter XVI added (Amendment No. 1)  
Effective July 1, 1947  
Section 22-1 added (Amendment No. 7)  
Effective April 18, 1955  
Entire chapter, except Section 1, repealed  
(Amendment No. 15)  
Effective January 1, 1965**

**CHAPTER XVII.  
HOURS OF LABOR OF EMPLOYEES IN THE  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

It shall be unlawful for the City of Saginaw, or any officer or employee thereof, to require any person in the employ of the fire department of said city who is engaged in fire fighting or subject to the hazards thereof to be on duty in such employment more than 24 hours, or to be off duty less than 24 consecutive hours out of any 48-hour period; provided, that all persons in the employ of said fire department who are engaged in the employ of said fire department who are engaged in fire fighting or subject to the hazards thereof shall be entitled to an additional 24 consecutive hours off duty in every 8-day period, thereby requiring firemen to work not more than an average of 63 hours per week.

The provisions of the above paragraph shall not apply (a) to the chief officer or the assistant chief officer in command of said fire department, (b) to the members or employees of said fire department when required to remain on duty by the chief officer of such department, his aids or assistants, in cases of public necessity arising from great conflagration, riot, flood or epidemic of pestilence or disease.

Any officer or employee or agent of said city who shall require any employee who is engaged in fire fighting or subject to the hazards thereof, save as hereinbefore excepted, to be on duty in such employment for a longer time than hereinbefore provided, or to be off duty for a lesser time than that hereinbefore provided, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

All chapters or portions of chapters in conflict with this amendment are hereby repealed insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this amendment.

**Chapter XVII added (Amendment No. 2)  
Effective July 1, 1949**

**CHAPTER XVIII  
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY**

Section 1. The council shall not direct or permit the use or addition of fluoride chemicals of any kind in the public water supply.

**Chapter XVIII added (Amendment No. 6)  
Effective November 10, 1954**

This provision was superseded by the 1968 P.A. 346, MLA 325.191, which required fluoridation.
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