

**CHARTER OF THE  
CITY OF LINDSAY**

January 8, 1996

**Sections:**

**ARTICLE I  
NAME, BOUNDARIES AND  
FORM OF GOVERNMENT**

- 1.01 Name.
- 1.02 Boundaries.
- 1.03 Form of Government.

**ARTICLE II  
POWERS, DUTIES AND  
OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY**

- 2.01 Powers of the City.
- 2.02 General Law Powers.
- 2.03 Municipal Affairs.
- 2.04 Intergovernmental Powers.
- 2.05 Liberal Interpretation.
- 2.06 Duties and Obligations of the City Council.

**ARTICLE III  
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

- 3.01 City Council.
- 3.02 Judge of Qualifications.
- 3.03 Vacancies and Forfeiture of Office.
- 3.04 Filling of Council Vacancies.
- 3.05 Compensation and Expenses.
- 3.06 Powers and Duties of the City Council.
- 3.07 Council Procedure.
- 3.08 Actions Requiring an Ordinance.
- 3.09 Ordinances in General.
- 3.10 Emergency Ordinances.
- 3.11 Ordinance Authentication, Recording and Codes.
- 3.12 Mayor.
- 3.13 Mayor Pro Tem.
- 3.14 Prohibitions on City Council.
- 3.15 Independent Audit.

**ARTICLE IV  
CITY MANAGER**

- 4.01 City Manager Appointment.
- 4.02 Acting City Manager.
- 4.03 Powers and Duties of City Manager.

**ARTICLE V  
CITY CLERK**

- 5.01 Office of City Clerk.
- 5.02 Duties of City Clerk.

**ARTICLE VI  
CITY ATTORNEY**

- 6.01 Office of City Attorney.
- 6.02 Duties of City Attorney.
- 6.03 Special Counsel.

**ARTICLE VII  
DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES  
AND EMPLOYEES**

- 7.01 Departments.
- 7.02 Department Heads.
- 7.03 Personnel System.
- 7.04 Boards, Commissions and Committees.

**ARTICLE VIII  
FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

- 8.01 Financial Systems.
- 8.02 Submission of Budget and Budget Message.
- 8.03 Annual Budget.
- 8.04 City Council Review of Budget.
- 8.05 Adoption of Budget.
- 8.06 Budget Amendments After Adoption.
- 8.07 Overexpenditures Prohibited.
- 8.08 Lapse of Appropriations.
- 8.09 Capital Program and Budget.
- 8.10 Public Documents.
- 8.11 Purchasing and Contracting.
- 8.12 Miscellaneous Fiscal Procedures.

**ARTICLE IX  
TAXATION, REVENUES AND DEBT**

- 9.01 Property Taxation.**
- 9.02 Tax Limit.**
- 9.03 Balanced Revenue System.**
- 9.04 Annual Review of Rates & Fees.**
- 9.05 Debt.**
- 9.06 Depositories and Investments.**

**ARTICLE X  
ELECTIONS**

- 10.01 Election Procedures.**
- 10.02 Special Elections.**
- 10.03 Initiative, Referendum and Recall.**

**ARTICLE XI  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 11.01 Conflicts of Interest.**
- 11.02 Franchises.**
- 11.03 Violations.**
- 11.04 Definitions.**

**ARTICLE XII  
CHARTER AMENDMENT**

- 12.01 Charter Amendment.**
- 12.02 How Amended.**
- 12.03 Amendment Election.**

**ARTICLE XIII  
TRANSITION AND SEVERABILITY**

- 13.01 Transition.**
- 13.02 Severability.**
- 13.03 Transition of Current Elected Officials.**
- 13.04 Continuity of Laws, Officers and Employees.**

**CHARTER OF THE  
CITY OF LINDSAY, CALIFORNIA  
January 8, 1996**

**Vision Statement:**

The citizens of the City of Lindsay do enact this Charter to form a better City government for all citizens of the City, to provide for the public health, safety, welfare and morals of its residents, property owners and businesses, and to preserve and to enhance the quality of life for ourselves, our families, our neighbors, and our businesses, for now and the future.

**ARTICLE I**

**NAME, BOUNDARIES AND FORM OF  
GOVERNMENT**

**Section 1.01 Name.**

The municipal corporation now existing and known as the City of Lindsay shall remain and continue to exist as a municipal corporation under the name "City of Lindsay", but as a California Constitution Home Rule Charter City.

**Section 1.02 Boundaries.**

The boundaries of the City of Lindsay shall be as now established, and may be changed in the future as provided by law, by this Charter, or by ordinance.

**Section 1.03 Form of Government.**

The organizational form of government under which the City of Lindsay shall operate shall be that which is commonly known as "The Council-Manager Plan".

**ARTICLE II**

**POWERS, DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF  
THE CITY**

**Section 2.01 Powers of the City.**

The City shall have all powers possible for a city to have under the Constitution and laws of the United

States and of the State of California as fully and completely as though those powers were specifically enumerated in this Charter.

**Section 2.02 General Law Powers.**

Nothing in this Charter shall be construed to prevent or restrict the City from exercising any and all rights, powers and privileges heretofore or hereafter granted or prescribed by the General Laws of the State of California. All General Law powers of cities in California are hereby declared to be possessed by the City.

**Section 2.03 Municipal Affairs.**

The City may make and enforce all ordinances and regulations in respect to municipal affairs, subject only to restrictions and limitations provided in this Charter and applicable United States and California Constitution provisions, and decisions of courts with competent jurisdiction. As regards municipal affairs, and all powers granted herein and hereby, this Charter shall supersede all laws inconsistent therewith.

**Section 2.04 Intergovernmental Powers.**

The City may exercise and perform any of its functions and may participate in the financing thereof, jointly or in cooperation, by contract or otherwise, with any one or more states or any agency of the State of California, or any governmental jurisdiction or non-profit corporation thereof, or the United States or any of its agencies.

**Section 2.05 Liberal Interpretation.**

The powers of the City under this Charter shall be construed liberally in favor of the City, and the specific mention of particular powers in the Charter shall not be construed as limiting in any way any of the powers granted by this Charter.

**Section 2.06 Duties and Obligations of the City Council.**

A. Duties. The City Council shall have the power and it shall be the duty, obligation and responsibility of the City Council to develop plans and programs, provide adequate financial and physical re-

sources for, and to implement fully such plans and programs as it finds necessary to accomplish the duties and obligations set out in this Charter, and State and federal law.

B. Balanced Programs. The City Council shall make provision for, budget for, and at all times provide adequate financial resources and physical facilities for and shall have the power to maintain a balanced and full range of quality City services, activities and facilities to provide equitably for the quality of life for all economic, social, ethnic and age groups and geographical areas within the City.

**ARTICLE III**

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**Section 3.01 City Council.**

A. The Council. There shall be a City Council composed of five Councilmembers elected by the voters of the City at large.

B. Eligibility. Only registered voters of the City residing within the corporate boundaries of the City shall be eligible to file for, run for, and to hold the office of Councilmember.

C. Regular Election. The regular election of Councilmembers shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November in even numbered years, unless such date is changed by ordinance.

D. Election of Councilmembers. A regular Council election shall be held in November of 1996, at which election three Councilmembers shall be elected. A regular Council election shall be held in November of 1998, at which election two Councilmembers shall be elected.

E. Who Elected. The winner or winners in each election in which the office of Councilmember is to be filled shall be those candidates receiving the highest number of votes, in descending order, until all vacant Councilmember positions are filled.

F. Term. Councilmembers shall serve for four years or until their successor is elected and qualified, except as set out hereinafter in this Charter. The terms of Councilmembers shall begin as soon as pos-

## CHARTER

sible after canvass of the election is certified and each Councilmember elected files all required disclosure or other statements required by law or ordinance.

G. Non-Prohibition. The prohibition referred to in Article III, Section 3.14 A shall not apply to any person who holds the office of Councilmember at the time of the adoption of this Charter.

### **Section 3.02 Judge of Qualifications.**

A. Additional Standards of Conduct. The City Council shall be the judge of the election and qualifications of its members and of the grounds for forfeiture of office. The Council shall have the power to set additional standards of conduct for its members beyond those specified in this Charter or by State law, and may provide for such penalties as it deems appropriate, including forfeiture of office.

B. Exercise of Qualification Powers. To exercise the judge of qualifications powers the Council shall have power to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths and require the production of evidence. A Councilmember charged with conduct constituting grounds for forfeiture of office shall be entitled to a public hearing on demand, and notice of such hearing shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the City at least one week in advance of the hearing.

C. Decision Subject to Judicial Review. Decisions made by the Council under this Section shall be subject to judicial review.

### **Section 3.03 Vacancies and Forfeiture of Office.**

A. Vacancies. The office of a Councilmember shall become vacant upon the Councilmember's death, resignation, removal from office or forfeiture of office in any manner prescribed by law or by ordinance.

B. Forfeiture of Office. A Councilmember shall forfeit that office if the Councilmember:

1. Lacks at any time during the term of office for which elected any qualification for the office prescribed by this Charter or by law;

2. Violates any express provision or prohibition of this Charter;

3. Is convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, or;

4. Fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Council without being excused by the Council.

5. Establishes residence outside the City.

### **Section 3.04 Filling of Council Vacancies.**

A. Vacancy. Should a vacancy in the City Council occur more than 90 days prior to the election at which Councilmembers are to be elected the vacancy shall be filled by majority vote of the remaining members of the City Council by the appointment of a qualified person to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

B. Filling Vacancy By Regular Election. No appointment shall be made if the vacancy occurs less than 90 days prior to such election, in which case the vacancy shall be filled through the regular election process for the remainder of the unexpired term, if any.

C. Procedure to Fill Vacancy by Appointment. Within 15 working days of the occurrence of the Council vacancy, following a published notification of such vacancy, persons who are eligible for and interested in filling the vacancy shall file a standard application with the City Clerk. On the 16th working day following the creation of the vacancy, the City Clerk shall provide to the remaining Councilmembers the applications of all eligible applicants. Within 30 calendar days of receipt of said applications by the City Council the Council shall make an appointment from among the eligible applicants.

### **Section 3.05 Compensation and Expenses.**

The City Council may determine the annual salary of the Mayor and Councilmembers by ordinance, but no ordinance increasing such salary shall become effective until the date of the commencement of the terms of Councilmembers elected at the next regular election. The Mayor and Councilmembers shall receive their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties of office.

**Section 3.06 Powers and Duties of the City Council.**

A. Powers. All powers of the City shall be vested in the City Council except as otherwise provided by law or this Charter, and the Council shall provide for the exercise thereof and for the performance of all duties and obligations imposed on the City by law and by this Charter.

B. Duties of the City Council. The Council shall make policy for the City and, additionally, shall be responsible to the people of Lindsay for, but not limited to the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Considering ordinances and resolutions and adopting those which it determines to be necessary for the governance, proper administration and adequate financing of the City;
2. Providing oversight of the City Manager and all municipal activities under his/her purview;
3. Carrying out all provisions of this Charter, City ordinances and applicable State and federal laws;
4. Conducting such reviews and taking such actions as may be required for the effective governance and financing of the City;
5. Performing such other duties as may by State law, ordinance or resolution be assigned to the City Council, but in no way conflict with the duties of the City Manager as set out in this Charter or by ordinance.

**Section 3.07 Council Procedure.**

A. Regular Meetings. The Council shall meet regularly at least once in every month at such times and places as the Council may by ordinance prescribe, and may provide for more frequent meetings as it shall determine.

B. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Council may be held on the call of the Mayor or of three or more members of the City Council.

C. Notice and Agendas for Meetings. Notice of all meetings of the City Council shall be provided and all meeting agendas shall be prepared and all meetings held pursuant to State law and procedures established by the Council by ordinance.

D. Rules and Minutes. The City Council shall determine its own rules and order of business by ordinance.

E. Minute Book. The City Clerk shall keep a minute book of the proceedings of the Council, which book shall be a public record.

F. Voting. Voting on ordinances and resolutions shall be as determined by ordinance. All votes shall be recorded in the minute book. The number of votes required to adopt any issue before the Council shall be as determined by the rules of the Council.

G. Quorum. Three members of the Council shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time and may compel the attendance of absent members in the manner and subject to the penalties prescribed by the rules of the Council.

**Section 3.08 Actions Requiring an Ordinance.**

A. Acts Required By Ordinance. In addition to other acts required by law or by this Charter to be done by ordinance, those acts of the City Council shall be by ordinance which:

1. Adopt or amend an administrative code or establish, alter or abolish any City department, office, agency, authority or corporation;
2. Levy taxes;
3. Provide for a fine or other penalty or establish a rule or regulation for which a fine or other penalty is imposed;
4. Grant, renew or extend a franchise;
5. Authorize the borrowing of money except as provided elsewhere in this Charter;
6. Convey title to or lease or authorize the conveyance or lease of any lands owned by the City;
7. Regulate land use and development; and,
8. Amend or repeal any ordinance previously adopted.

B. Other Acts. Acts other than those referred to in the preceding Sub-Section may be taken by ordinance, resolution or motion, as determined by the rules of the Council.

## CHARTER

### **Section 3.09 Ordinances in General.**

A. Form. Every proposed ordinance shall be introduced in writing in the final form required for adoption as prescribed in the Council rules, and shall be enacted or repealed in the form: "The City Council of the City of Lindsay does ordain".

B. In Writing. A copy of any proposed ordinance shall be provided to the City Clerk a minimum of three days prior to the meeting at which such ordinance is proposed to be introduced. The City Clerk immediately shall distribute a copy of such proposed ordinance to each Councilmember, the City Manager and City Attorney, and any member of the public who requests such.

C. One Subject. No ordinance shall contain more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title.

D. Procedure. An ordinance may be introduced by any Councilmember at any regular, special or adjourned meeting of the Council, subject to the time limitations of this Section.

E. Reading and Adoption. An ordinance may be read by title only at the time of its introduction, and must be available to the public in full text in the office of the City Clerk when introduced. The second reading and adoption of the introduced ordinance shall be held at a regular, special or adjourned meeting of the Council, which meeting shall be not less than five calendar days after its introduction. The ordinance may be read by title only at the second reading.

F. Ordinance Effective Date. Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, by State law and by ordinance, every adopted ordinance shall become effective at the expiration of 30 days after adoption, or at any later date specified in the ordinance.

G. Adoption of Standard Codes. The Council may adopt standard codes, compilations and codifications by reference thereto in an adopting ordinance, without specific verbatim publication or codification in the City Code. Such Codes shall be:

1. Adopted by ordinance by the procedure and requirements prescribed for ordinances generally, except that:

a.) The requirement for distribution and filing of copies of the ordinance shall be construed to include copies of the specific standard Code as well as of the adopting ordinance, and;

b.) A copy of each adopted standard Code as well as of the adopting ordinance shall be authenticated and recorded by the City Clerk and maintained as a matter of public record in the office of the City Clerk;

2. Made available by the City Clerk for distribution or for purchase at a reasonable price.

H. Ordinance Publication. The City Clerk shall publish every ordinance adopted by the City Council, in full text or as a brief summary thereof, within 20 days following such adoption, in a newspaper of general circulation in the City or, if there is no newspaper of general circulation in the City, by posting in three established public places.

### **Section 3.10 Emergency Ordinances.**

A. Emergency Defined. To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or the public peace, the City Council may adopt one or more emergency ordinances.

B. Manner of Adoption. Emergency ordinances shall be:

1. Introduced in the form and manner prescribed for ordinances generally;

2. Plainly designated as an emergency ordinance, including after the enacting clause a declaration stating that an emergency exists and describing it in clear and specific terms;

3. Introduced with or without the provision of copies three days in advance;

4. Adopted after reading in entirety, with or without amendment, or rejected, at the meeting at which it is introduced;

5. Adopted only by a four fifths affirmative vote of the City Council if the Council consists of five members, three Councilmembers if the Council consists of only four members, and all three members if the Council consists of only three members;

6. Effective upon adoption or at such later time as stated in the ordinance;

7. Published and printed as prescribed for other adopted ordinances;

C. Manner of Repeal. Emergency ordinances automatically shall be repealed as of the 61st day following the date on which it was adopted, but such automatic repeal shall not prevent reenactment of the ordinance in the manner specified in this Charter if the emergency still exists, or:

1. Repealed or replaced by adoption of another ordinance in the manner specified in this Charter; or

2. Repealed by adoption of a repealing ordinance in the same manner specified in this Section for adoption of emergency ordinances.

**Section 3.11 Ordinance Authentication, Recording and Codes.**

A. Recordation. The City Clerk shall authenticate by signing and shall record in full in properly indexed books kept for the purpose, each ordinance and resolution adopted by the City Council.

B. Codification. Within three years after adoption of this Charter, and at least every ten years thereafter, the City Council shall provide for and the City Clerk shall prepare or have prepared a general codification of all City Ordinances having the force and effect of law.

C. Codification Adoption. The general codification shall be adopted by the Council by ordinance and shall be reproduced promptly in bound or loose-leaf form, together with this Charter and any amendments thereto, and such Codes adopted by reference and such other rules, regulations and resolutions of the City as the Council may specify.

D. Code Name and Availability. The codification shall be cited officially as the Lindsay City Code. Copies of the Code shall be furnished to City officers, placed in libraries and public offices for free public reference, and made available for purchase at a reasonable price as fixed by the City Council.

E. Reproduction of Ordinances. The City Clerk shall cause each ordinance and each amendment to this Charter to be reproduced promptly following its adoption, and such ordinances and charter amendments shall be distributed or sold to the public at reasonable prices as fixed by the City Council.

F. Reproduction of Code. Following reproduction and distribution of the first Lindsay City Code, and at all times thereafter, the ordinances and Charter shall be reproduced in substantially the same style as the Code currently in effect, and shall be suitable in form for integration therein.

G. Distribution. The Council shall make such arrangements as it deems desirable with respect to reproduction and distribution of any current changes in or additions to the provisions of the City standard codes adopted by reference.

**Section 3.12 Mayor.**

A. Office of Mayor. The office of Mayor is hereby created. The City Council shall elect from among its members a Mayor who shall serve at the pleasure of the City Council.

B. Duties of Mayor. The duties of the Mayor shall be assigned by the Council by ordinance, which shall include but not be limited to the duties listed in this Sub-Section:

1. Preside at meetings of the City Council;

2. Represent the City in intergovernmental relationships;

3. Be recognized as the head of the City government for all ceremonial purposes and by the Governor for purposes of military law;

C. No Administrative Duties. The Mayor shall have no administrative duties.

D. Process of Selection. The process for the selection of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem shall be included in and as set out in the rules of the Council.

**Section 3.13 Mayor Pro Tem.**

The office of Mayor Pro Tem is hereby created. The City Council shall elect from among its members a Mayor Pro Tem who shall serve at the pleasure of the City Council. The Mayor Pro Tem shall act as Mayor during the Mayor's absence or disability.

**Section 3.14 Prohibitions on City Council.**

A. Future City Employment. No former Councilmember shall hold any compensated appointive office or employment with the City of Lindsay until

## CHARTER

four years after the expiration of the term for which the Councilmember was elected to the Council.

B. Exception. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to prohibit the Council from selecting any current or former Councilmember to represent the City on the governing board of any regional or other intergovernmental agency.

C. Employee Appointments and Removals. Neither the City Council nor any of its members shall in any manner control or influence the appointment or removal of any City department head or employee whom the City Manager or any subordinate of the City Manager is empowered to appoint.

D. Expression of Views. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to limit the ability of the City Council or of Councilmembers to express its and their views and fully and freely discuss with the City Manager anything pertaining to appointment and removal of City department heads and employees.

E. Interference with Administration. The Council and Councilmembers shall deal with City department heads and employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the City Manager solely through the City Manager, and neither the Council nor any Councilmember shall give orders to any such department head or employee, either publicly or privately.

### **Section 3.15 Independent Audit.**

A. Order of Audit. The City Council shall provide for an annual independent audit of all City accounts and may provide for more frequent audits as it deems necessary.

B. Restrictions. Such audits shall be made by a certified public accountant or firm of such accountants who have no personal interest, direct or indirect, in the fiscal affairs of the City government or any of its officers. The person or firm selected by the City Council shall be experienced in the audit of California city governments.

C. Designation of Audit Firm. The City Council may, without requiring competitive bids, designate such accountants or firm to conduct the audit annually or for a period not exceeding three years, but the designation for any particular fiscal year shall be

made not later than 30 days prior to the close of the fiscal year to be audited.

## ARTICLE IV

### CITY MANAGER

#### **Section 4.01 City Manager Appointment.**

A. Office of City Manager. The office of City Manager is hereby created. The City Council by majority vote shall appoint a City Manager through the mechanism of an employment agreement.

B. Qualifications. The City Manager shall be selected and appointed solely on the basis of executive and administrative qualifications.

C. Requirements. The City Manager:

1. Shall serve at the pleasure of the City Council;

2. Shall be the chief executive and administrative officer of the City, all its agencies, authorities and corporations;

3. Shall be paid such salary, receive such benefits and have such expenses paid by the City on his/her behalf as are commensurate with and necessary to execute the responsibilities of the position and as shall be fixed by the Council;

D. Restrictions on Employment Agreement. The City Manager employment agreement shall set out the terms and conditions of employment, pay, benefits, goals and objectives, a requirement for periodic and regular performance evaluations, obligations, and termination compensation. The agreement shall be for an indefinite term, and shall be a public record.

E. Reduction of Salary and Benefits. The salary and benefits of the City Manager shall not be reduced by the City Council at any time unless the salaries and benefits of all City employees are reduced in the same percentage as proposed for the City Manager.

#### **Section 4.02 Acting City Manager.**

By letter filed with the City Clerk, the City Manager shall designate a City department head or employee to exercise the powers and perform the duties of City Manager on those occasions the City Manager will be absent from the City for longer than 48



hours. The City Council shall designate an Acting City Manager in the event of the disability of the City Manager or at the request of the City Manager.

**Section 4.03 Powers and Duties of City Manager.**

A. Chief Executive Officer. The City Manager shall be responsible to the City Council for the administration of all City affairs placed in the City Manager's charge by ordinance or this Charter.

B. Duties By Ordinance. The duties of the City Manager shall be established by ordinance, which duties shall include but not be limited to the duties assigned by this Charter.

C. Charter Duties. The City Manager shall:

1. Appoint, remove and discipline all employees of the City pursuant to requirements set out in this Charter and an ordinance establishing a merit system of appointment and employment;

2. Delegate the appointment, removal and discipline of subordinate employees to the department heads to which those employees are assigned, but shall approve, modify or disapprove all recommendations for appointment, removal and disciplinary actions taken against employees by department heads, pursuant to the terms of this Charter and the City Personnel Ordinance;

3. Direct and supervise the administration of all departments, offices, agencies, authorities, corporations, utilities and enterprises of the City;

4. Attend all City Council meetings, both public and closed, at which the City Manager shall have the right to take part in discussion but shall have no vote but, absent a directive to the contrary, the City Manager shall not be entitled to attend any closed session of the Council when suspension, dismissal or any disciplinary action against the City Manager is discussed;

5. Prepare annually, submit and administer the budget, capital improvement plan and other plans and programs of the City as required by and set out in this Charter or by ordinance;

6. Keep the Council informed of the financial condition, current and future needs of the City, and make recommendations to the Council concerning

the affairs of the City as he/she shall deem necessary or desirable;

7. Provide for enforcement and faithful execution of all laws, regulations and rules of the City, all Charter provisions, all acts of the Council, and administration of all contracts to which the City is a party;

8. Submit to the City Council and make available to the public for an appropriate fee, a complete report on the finances and administrative activities of the City and of all its agencies, authorities and corporations, utilities and enterprises as of the end of each fiscal year;

9. Make such other reports as the City Council may require concerning the needs and operations of all City departments, offices, agencies, authorities, corporations, utilities and enterprises;

10. Provide staff support to the Mayor and Councilmembers;

11. Coordinate, cooperate with, and oversee and supervise the work of the City Clerk and City Attorney;

12. Engage in no incompatible business, occupation or activity;

13. Receive notice of all meetings of the City Council and all City boards, committees, commissions, agencies, authorities, corporations, utilities and enterprises;

14. Be entitled to participate in the deliberations of any City board, committee, commission, agency, authority and corporation, but shall have no vote therein; and,

15. Perform such other duties consistent with this Charter as may be required by the City Council by ordinance, resolution, minute order or contract.

**ARTICLE V**

**CITY CLERK**

**Section 5.01 Office of City Clerk.**

The office of City Clerk is hereby created. The City Manager shall recommend the person to be appointed and the Council shall appoint and, if neces-

## CHARTER

sary, may remove the City Clerk. The City Clerk may be either full or part time.

### **Section 5.02 Duties of City Clerk.**

A. Duties. The duties of the City Clerk shall be established by ordinance, which duties shall include but not be limited to the duties assigned by this Charter.

B. Charter Duties. The City Clerk shall:

1. Act as Clerk to the City Council and all other City agencies, authorities and corporations;
2. Maintain the minute book, book of ordinances, book of resolutions, and all other documents and records of the City Council;
3. Conduct, supervise the conduct of, or oversee the contract conduct of all City elections;
4. Maintain the integrity of and provide for public access to, safety of, and inspection of all City public records;
5. Perform and fulfill all duties assigned to the City Clerk by this Charter;
6. Cooperate with and coordinate the work of the City Clerk with that of the City Manager, all City department heads, and the City Attorney; and,
7. Perform such other duties consistent with this Charter as may be required by the City Council by ordinance, resolution or motion; and,
8. May be designated as a department head, at the discretion of the City Manager.

C. Statutory Duties. Perform all duties required of a City Clerk by State law.

## ARTICLE VI

### CITY ATTORNEY

#### **Section 6.01 Office of City Attorney.**

The office of City Attorney is hereby created. The City Council shall appoint and, if necessary, may remove the City Attorney. The City Attorney may be either full or part time, or retained under contract.

#### **Section 6.02 Duties of City Attorney.**

A. Duties. The duties of the City Attorney shall be established by ordinance, which duties shall in-

clude but not be limited to the duties assigned by this Charter.

B. Charter Duties. The City Attorney shall be the chief legal officer of the City, whose duties shall include but not be limited to:

1. Advising the City Council, individual Councilmembers, the City Manager and his/her assistants, and department heads regarding the law relating to City matters, provided, however, that the City Attorney shall not be required to advise any of these officials concerning his/her liabilities relating to personal conflicts of interest;

2. Representing the City in legal proceedings;

3. Preparing, or reviewing and approving as to form, all ordinances, contracts and other needed City legal documents;

4. Select and retain specialist counsel when there is a need for such specialized legal services, subject to approval of the City Council;

5. Cooperate with and coordinate the work of the City Attorney with that of the City Manager, all City department heads, and the City Clerk;

6. Perform all duties required of a City Attorney by State law; and,

7. Perform such other duties consistent with this Charter as may be required by the City Council by ordinance, resolution, minute order or contract.

#### **Section 6.03 Special Counsel.**

The City Council may retain special counsel when representation by the City Attorney would create an impermissible conflict.

## ARTICLE VII

### DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES AND EMPLOYEES

#### **Section 7.01 Departments.**

A. Creation of Departments. The City Manager shall recommend and the City Council shall by ordinance create, reorganize and abolish City departments, divisions, offices, agencies, authorities and corporations as necessary for the effective manage-

ment of the City, in addition to those created by this Charter.

B. Functions. The functions of all City departments, divisions, offices, agencies, authorities and corporations shall be determined and assigned by ordinance.

C. Prohibition on Revision. No function assigned by this Charter to a particular department or office may be discontinued or, unless this Charter specifically so provides, assigned to any other.

D. Direction. All departments, offices, agencies, authorities and corporations of the City government shall be under the direction and supervision of the City Manager.

E. City Manager as Department Head. With consent of the Council, the City Manager may serve as the head of one or more such departments, offices, agencies, authorities or corporations, or may appoint one person as the head of two or more departments.

**Section 7.02 Department Heads.**

A. Appointment. The City Manager shall appoint a department head for each department, which person shall be qualified in the field of expertise encompassed within the assigned department.

B. Removal. All department heads shall serve at the pleasure of the City Manager and be subject to his/her direction and supervision.

C. Requirements. All department heads shall be City employees for the purposes of powers and duties, and be provided employment agreements by the City Manager setting out the terms and conditions of employment, pay, benefits, goals and objectives, a requirement for periodic and regular performance evaluations, obligations, and termination. Such agreements shall not exceed four years and shall be a public record.

D. Restrictions. No department head may engage in any incompatible business, occupation or activity.

**Section 7.03 Personnel System.**

A. By Ordinance. The City Council shall adopt a City Personnel Ordinance providing for the establishment, regulation and maintenance of a personnel

system governing those City human resource policies and procedures available to the City Manager or his/her designee for the effective administration of the employees of the City.

B. Merit System. In making appointments and promotions of City employees the appointing authority shall be guided by the requirements set out in the City Personnel Ordinance.

C. Personnel System Components. The City Personnel Ordinance shall include, but not be limited to the following:

1. An integrated classification and pay plan, force reduction procedures, working conditions, discipline and dismissal, in-service training, grievances, relationships with employee organizations, regular and periodic employee performance evaluations, and incentive plans; and,

2. Open, publicly posted and competitive employee selection processes utilizing, where and when feasible, validated examinations at entry level and objective evaluative processes for all other classifications; and,

3. Such other personnel and human resource management provisions as shall be deemed to be necessary, adopted by resolution.

D. Fair Employment Practices. The City personnel system shall in all manner and respects comply fully with all federal and State laws governing fair employment practices and prohibiting discrimination in all forms.

**Section 7.04 Boards, Commissions and Committees.**

A. How Created. The City Council by ordinance or resolution may create, modify, combine and abolish such boards, commissions and committees as it shall determine.

B. Appointments. Boards, commissions and committees established by ordinance shall consist of members nominated by the Mayor and approved by the Council. Boards, commissions and committees established by resolution shall be appointed by the Mayor from nominees presented to him/her by the Council.

CHARTER

C. Powers and Duties. The ordinance shall prescribe their powers and duties, determine the number and qualifications of the members, their method of selection, term of office and removal, and fix their compensation, if any.

D. Limitation. All boards, commissions and committees only shall be advisory to the City Council, and may not exercise any administrative or management powers.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

**Section 8.01 Financial Systems.**

A. By Ordinance. The City Council by ordinance shall provide for, assure implementation of, and enforce an integrated budgeting and financial management system for the City which shall include, but not be limited to the following:

B. Financing the Budget. The provision in the annual budget of information for each fund, agency, authority and corporation, indicating that for any fund the total of proposed expenditures shall not exceed the total of estimated income plus carried forward fund balance, plus the use of appropriated reserves;

C. Fiscal Year. The establishment of the time span of a fiscal year; and,

D. Other Matters. Such other matters as determined as necessary and appropriate to secure the financial, service and administrative goals of the City, expressed in financial terms as recommended by the City Manager and as set out in this Charter.

**Section 8.02 Submission of Budget and Budget Message.**

A. Budget Calendar. On or before the first day of the last month of each fiscal year the City Manager shall submit to the City Council a budget for the ensuing fiscal year, and an accompanying message.

B. Budget Message. The City Manager’s budget message shall explain the budget both in fiscal terms and in terms of the work program. Additionally, it shall:

1. Outline the proposed financial policies of the City for the ensuing fiscal year;
2. Describe the important features of the budget;
3. Indicate any major changes from the current year in financial policies, expenditures and revenues, together with the reasons for such changes;
4. Summarize the City’s debt position; and,
5. Include such other material as the City Manager deems desirable.

**Section 8.03 Annual Budget.**

A. Contents. The annual budget presented by the City Manager shall contain but not be restricted to the following:

B. Comprehensive Financial Plan. A complete financial plan for all City funds, offices, departments, agencies, authorities, corporations, utilities, enterprises and activities for the ensuing fiscal year;

C. Summaries. Summaries and totals adequate to provide a comprehensive and consolidated view of the City’s financial condition;

D. Contents of Budget. Sections of the budget shall provide for and contain:

1. The goals and objectives proposed to be achieved by appropriations during the ensuing fiscal year, detailed for each fund by organization unit, program, purpose or activity, and the method of financing such proposed appropriations;
2. Comparative amounts for actual and estimated revenues and expenditures for the current fiscal year and actual revenues and expenditures for the preceding fiscal year;
3. Proposed capital expenditures during the ensuing fiscal year and the proposed method of financing of each such capital expenditure; and,
4. Anticipated revenues, expenses, balances and reserves, and the purpose of said reserve, for each City fund, including all utility, enterprise, reserve, and internal service funds, and for each City agency, authority, corporation, utility and enterprise.

**Section 8.04 City Council Review of Budget.**

A. City Council. Immediately on receiving the recommended budget from the City Manager the City Council shall:

B. Consideration. At either regular or special meetings receive, study and consider the City Manager’s recommended budget and budget message;

C. Notice and Hearing. Cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation or, if no such newspaper exists, to post in three established public places in the City the general summary of the budget as presented by the City Manager, and a notice stating:

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

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

D. Amendments. Amend the recommended budget as the Council shall see fit, except that no revisions shall be made contrary to the provisions of this Charter;

E. Prohibited Amendments. Amend the budget to add to or increase programs or amounts or to delete or decrease any programs or amounts, except expenditures required by law or for debt service, but no amendment to the budget shall increase the authorized expenditures for any fund to an amount greater than total estimated income and carried forward fund balances, plus appropriated reserves.

**Section 8.05 Adoption of Budget.**

The City Council shall adopt the budget on or before the last day of the last month of the fiscal year currently ending. If the Council fails to adopt the budget by the date prescribed in this Charter then the budget as recommended by the City Manager shall go into effect.

**Section 8.06 Budget Amendments After Adoption.**

A. Amount of Budget. If during the fiscal year the City Manager certifies in writing to the City Council that there are available for appropriation

revenues in excess of those contained in the adopted budget, the City Council may make supplemental appropriations for the year up to the amount of the excess.

B. Emergency Appropriations. To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or the public peace, the City Council may make emergency appropriations. Any such emergency appropriation shall be made by resolution stating the exact nature of the emergency.

C. Reduction of Appropriations. If at any time during the fiscal year it appears probable to the City Manager that the revenues or fund balances available and anticipated by the adopted budget will be insufficient to finance the expenditures for which appropriations have been made, the City Manager shall:

1. Report such a condition in writing to the City Council without delay, indicating the estimated amount of the deficit;

2. Report any remedial action taken by the City Manager; and,

3. Make recommendations to the City Council for further actions to be taken.

D. Prevention of Deficit. The City Council shall take such actions as it determines necessary to prevent any budget deficit and, for that purpose it may reduce one or more appropriations to assure that a budget deficit is prevented.

E. Budgetary Transfers. The City Manager may transfer monies between departments, divisions, programs and accounts within funds and departments, but within dollar or percentage of fund limits set by the Council annually as a part of the budget, but only the Council by resolution may transfer monies between funds and from unappropriated or fund balances or reserves to any fund or appropriations account. All budgetary transfers made by the City Manager shall be reported in writing quarterly to the City Council.

**Section 8.07 Overexpenditures Prohibited.**

A. Total of Budget. The total of proposed expenditures shall not exceed the total of estimated revenues plus carried forward fund balance and appropriated reserves, for any fund.

## CHARTER

B. **Payment Restrictions.** No payment shall be made or obligation incurred against any appropriation except in accordance with appropriations duly made by the Council and unless the City Manager or his/her designee first certifies that there is a sufficient unencumbered balance in such appropriation and that sufficient monies therefrom are or will be available to cover the claim or meet the obligation when it becomes due and payable.

C. **Illegal Payment.** Any authorization of payment or incurring of obligation in violation of the provisions of this Charter shall be void and any payment so made illegal.

D. **Securities Exception.** Nothing in this Charter shall be construed to prevent the making or authorizing of payments or making of contracts for capital improvements to be financed wholly or in part by the issuance of municipal securities, or to prevent the making of any contract or lease providing for payments beyond the end of the fiscal year provided such contract or lease is not explicitly prohibited by the provisions of the California Constitution.

E. **Constitutional Limitation.** The status of the City budget and finances shall in all respects at all times be in compliance with California Constitution Article XVI, Section 18.

### **Section 8.08 Lapse of Appropriations.**

A. **When Lapse.** Every appropriation, except as provided for herein, shall lapse at the end of the fiscal year to the extent that it has not been expended or encumbered.

B. **Capital Outlay Appropriations.** All appropriations for capital outlay items shall continue in force until expended, revised or repealed. The purpose of any such capital outlay appropriation shall be deemed abandoned after three years pass without disbursement from or encumbrance against the appropriation.

C. **Other Exemptions.** Appropriations involving trust and agency accounts and reserves shall not lapse until specifically provided either by the annual budget or separate resolution.

### **Section 8.09 Capital Program and Budget.**

A. **Five Year Program.** The City Manager annually shall prepare and submit to the City Council a five year Capital Program, which Program shall be submitted as a separate part of but be considered by the Council concurrent with the Annual Budget.

B. **Program Contents.** The Capital Program shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. A general summary of its contents;
2. A list of all capital improvements and other capital expenditures which are proposed to be undertaken during the five fiscal years next ensuing, with appropriate supporting information as to the necessity for each improvement or proposed expenditure;
3. Cost estimates and recommended time schedules for each improvement or other capital expenditure;
4. Method of financing for each improvement or other capital expenditure; and,
5. The estimated annual cost of operating and maintaining the facilities or equipment to be constructed or acquired.

C. **Capital Program Adoption.** The Capital Program shall be a part of and adopted as part of the Annual Budget.

### **Section 8.10 Public Documents.**

Copies of the annual budget and message, the annual audit, the annual financial report if it be a separate document, and all appropriate summarizing documents shall be filed with the City Clerk as permanent public records, and shall be made available to the public for inspection and review.

### **Section 8.11 Purchasing and Contracting.**

A. **By Ordinance.** The Council by ordinance shall provide for a purchasing and contracting system assuring a maximum of competition for the lowest price consistent with a stated level of quality.

B. **The Basic System.** The Purchasing and Contracting Ordinance shall provide for and comply with all provisions of this Section and of this Charter, but not be limited to:

1. Control of the system by the City Manager, who shall be empowered to make purchases and to

award contracts for amounts of \$25,000 or less, annually adjusted in amount as set out herein;

2. Delegation of responsibility by the City Manager to any appointed subordinate;

3. A requirement that should contracts or purchases in amount of \$25,000 or less be awarded to any one vendor or contractor cumulatively totalling \$75,000 in any three year period then, in that event, the competitive process set out herein shall be followed prior to the award of subsequent contracts to such vendor or contractor, should such process otherwise be required;

4. An informal bid solicitation process for purchases and contracts in amount between \$25,001 and \$74,999, which amounts shall be adjusted annually in amount as set out herein;

5. The acquisition of the services of professional service providers in such a manner that specialized abilities and knowledge shall be considered in addition to quality and price and, if appropriate as determined by the City Manager, without the competitive processes set out herein;

6. Additional procedures and requirements to fulfill the provisions of this Section and this Charter; and,

7. Such other matters as shall be determined to be required by the City Council.

C. Award of Contracts and Purchases. Award of contracts and purchases shall be made to the lowest responsible bidder or vendor meeting specifications, except as provided herein and in the Purchasing and Contracting Ordinance.

D. Sealed Competitive Bids. Sealed bids for competitive purchases involving the expenditure of \$75,000 or more shall be secured, but this amount and all dollar amounts set out in this Section shall be revised by the Council annually as part of the annual budget by a revision factor determined by utilizing published reliable indicators or indices of price changes.

E. Waiver of Bids. Waiver of competitive bidding for purchase of non-competitive items and contracting for services is permitted in emergencies, for copyrighted and patented items and services, and for professional or specialized services for which a writ-

ten finding is filed with the City Clerk regarding the reason for such non-competitive, emergency or sole source acquisition.

F. Prohibitions. Splitting contracts or purchases to avoid dollar limits is prohibited.

G. Rejections. The City Council may reject any and all bids for any good or service.

H. Bid Bonds. A bid bond or cashiers check shall be required for all sealed bids.

I. Public Notification. The City Manager shall cause full public notification of all calls for sealed bids by providing ten days notice through publications appropriate to the subject of the call for bids.

J. Public Works Determination. The Purchasing and Contracting Ordinance shall set out a procedure for determination of which public works or improvement projects are to be performed by City forces and which are to be let to contract.

K. Bidding and Wages. The City Council may by ordinance or resolution adopt prevailing wage, geographic boundaries and other guidelines and restrictions, including local bidding preference, governing public works and other City contracts.

**Section 8.12 Miscellaneous Fiscal Procedures.**

A. By Ordinance. The City Council by ordinance shall provide for the following, and other appropriate and necessary fiscal and financial procedures, which procedures shall comply with State law unless the ordinance specifies otherwise:

B. Petty Cash. The creation, administration and control of petty cash accounts;

C. Claims and Demands. The receipt and disposition of claims and demands against the City;

D. Warrants and Checks. Issuance and redemption of warrants, if any, and checks drawn on the City treasury, and;

E. Actions. Legal actions against the City.

**ARTICLE IX**

**TAXATION, REVENUES AND DEBT**

**Section 9.01 Property Taxation.**

A. Council Shall Not Levy. The City Council shall not levy an ad valorem property tax for general municipal purposes in excess of the maximum rate applicable to the City on the effective date of this Charter, provided, however, that an ad valorem property tax in excess thereof may be levied if authorized by the California Constitution, State law or this Charter.

B. Separate Taxing Areas. The City Council may establish by ordinance separate taxing areas within the City for the levy of a tax in excess of any rate, if authorized by the California Constitution or State law by the affirmative vote of the requisite number of voters within the area voting on a proposition to impose or to increase such levy.

C. Ad Valorem Levies. The City Council may seek and the voters of the City may vote on a proposition to authorize or to increase ad valorem taxes provided such vote and such tax comply with all provisions of the California Constitution, State law or this Charter.

D. Procedure for Assessment. The procedure and authority for the assessment, levy and collection of taxes and assessments may be prescribed by ordinance and, in the absence of such an ordinance, the procedure and authority applicable thereto shall be that prescribed by State law.

**Section 9.02 Tax Limit.**

A. Vote Required. No City tax shall be imposed or increased in rate by the City Council without an affirming vote of a majority of the voters, except as provided in this Section.

B. Adjustments to Tax Limit. The City Council shall have the authority to impose and to increase taxes without the affirming vote set out herein to raise revenues to the level that City revenues existed in fiscal year 1988-1989 but which, during or subsequent to such year, were removed from the City by action of the State or federal governments; provided,

however, that should the State or federal governments reinstate such previous City revenues, then, to the extent of the reinstatement, City taxes shall be reduced.

C. Adjustment for Mandates. No affirming vote as set out herein shall be required for any tax increase in amount sufficient to meet the official estimate of cost for any State or federal mandate for which no State or federal revenue or grant has been provided, for which neither of a fee nor charge may be collected in amount adequate to meet the financial requirements of the mandate.

D. Adjustment for Inflation and Deflation. For computational purposes of this Section, tax rates and revenue amounts shall be adjusted annually, starting with fiscal year 1988-1989, by the California Constitution Article XIII B and Proposition 133 annual percentage increase in appropriation limitation applicable to the City.

**Section 9.03 Balanced Revenue System.**

The City Council shall maintain a revenue structure adequate to meet City financial requirements for execution of the balanced programs determined by the City Council necessary to carry out the duties, obligations and mandates of this Charter, which revenue structure shall be balanced equitably between taxes, fees, utility and enterprise charges, and assessments insofar as the City Council is legally permitted, and comply with the judicially-determined requirements, definitions and intent of California Constitution Articles XIII A and B.

**Section 9.04 Annual Review of Rates & Fees.**

A. Annual Review of Costs. Annually and concurrently with, or at such time prior to the presentation of the annual budget as he/she shall determine, the City Manager each year shall present a report to the City Council containing a comprehensive review of the costs of all City services, utilities and enterprises.

B. Consideration of Report. As part of the annual budget consideration, the City Council shall set such fees and rates as it shall determine appropriate to recover the costs reasonably borne necessary to



provide each such service, utility and enterprise provided by the City, pursuant to the provisions of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

C. Failure to Act. If the Council shall fail to act as required in this Section, then such rates as are required to comply with this Section shall go into effect automatically at such time as is designated in the annual report of costs of services, utilities and enterprises for each individual service, utility and enterprise.

D. Repeal by Council. Prior to the adoption of the annual budget the Council may by resolution specifically repeal any such automatic fee, rate or charge increases or decreases as would be caused by its inaction, provided, however, that such resolution shall contain adequate reasoning and justification for such repeal as is necessary to explain why such City service costs reasonably borne are not being met in full or are producing excess revenues over costs reasonably borne.

**Section 9.05 Debt.**

A. By Ordinance. The City by ordinance may issue all manner of securities and incur all manner of indebtedness.

B. General Obligation Debt Limit. Indebtedness of the City as evidenced by issued general obligation bonds shall at no time exceed ten percent of the assessed valuation of all property taxable by the City.

**Section 9.06 Depositories and Investments.**

A. By Ordinance. The City Manager shall recommend and the City Council shall provide by ordinance for the receipt and accounting of all revenues, monies and assets received by the City or any of its agencies, authorities, corporations, utilities and enterprises, from any and all sources.

B. Written Investment Policy. The City Manager shall recommend and the City Council by resolution shall adopt a policy to govern the investment of all City monies, which policy shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. Provision for the investment of all monies in such a manner as to assure the preservation and safety of principal and the integrity of record keeping;

- 2. Types of allowable investments;
- 3. Safekeeping of securities.

C. Compliance With State Law. The investment of City monies at all times shall be in compliance with all provisions of State law governing the receipt, processing, deposit, accounting, security and reporting of public monies. The City investment policy may be more conservative or restrictive than State law, but in no manner shall the investment policy be less restrictive.

D. Custody of Monies. The Financial Custody and Investment Ordinance shall establish the City department which shall have custody of all City monies and investments, which department shall deposit all monies and investments in such depository or depositories as may be designated by resolution of the Council or, if no such resolution be adopted, then in such depository or depositories as may be designated in writing by the City Manager.

E. Security of Deposits. The Ordinance, resolution and depository system shall provide for the regular deposit of City monies and appropriate safeguards and systems to assure a minimum of risk, maximum safety, and a high level of collateralized or federally-insured security, without exception, for such City monies and securities held by any depository, agent or agency.

F. Audit. A review of the City investment policy, procedures and security shall be made as a part of the annual audit, and the contracted audit firm shall make appropriate observations and recommendations to the City Council.

**ARTICLE X**

**ELECTIONS**

**Section 10.01 Election Procedures.**

Unless otherwise provided by ordinance, all elections shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the California Elections Code for the holding of municipal elections, so far as the same are not in conflict with this Charter.

## CHARTER

### **Section 10.02 Special Elections.**

The City Council may call special elections for such purposes as the Council may prescribe. A special election may be held on any date specified by the Council.

### **Section 10.03 Initiative, Referendum and Recall.**

The electors of the City reserve to themselves the powers of initiative and referendum and the recall of elective officers, to be exercised in the manner prescribed by the California Constitution and State law.

## ARTICLE XI

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### **Section 11.01 Conflicts of Interest.**

A. Prohibition. The use of public office or employment for private gain is prohibited.

B. Implementation. The Council shall implement this Section by ordinance adopting and assuring compliance with the laws of the State of California and the common law principles regarding such conflicts, which ordinance also shall prohibit, but not be limited to prohibiting those activities set out in this Section.

C. Appearances For Influence. Appearances by or statements made to, or influence exercised by City officials or employees to, before or to any City officer, department or employee, or any City agency, authority or corporation on behalf of private interests are prohibited.

D. Compensated Influence. A former Councilmember or City officer or employee may not be compensated in any way for attempting to influence any action of the Council or City for two years after the end of service on the Council or with the City.

E. Application and Interpretation. In interpreting this Section the general common law conflict of interest rule shall be applied, which rule strictly requires public officers and employees to avoid placing themselves in a position in which personal interest may come into conflict with their duty to the public.

F. Violations. In addition to any fines or other punishments for violations of conflict of interest ordinance provisions or regulations issued thereunder promulgated under this Section or State law, any person convicted of a violation of this Section, or of any equivalent State law or regulation, shall be ineligible for a period of five years following such conviction to hold any City office or employment and, if currently holding office or employment, shall be deemed to have automatically forfeited his or her office or position of employment.

#### **Section 11.02 Franchises.**

A. Granting of Franchise. The City Council may grant a franchise to any person, partnership, corporation or other legal entity capable of exercising the privilege conferred, whether operating under an existing franchise or not, and may prescribe the terms, conditions and limitations of such grant, including the compensation to be paid to the City for such franchise grant.

B. Franchise Ordinance. The Council may prescribe by ordinance the method and procedure for granting franchises, together with additional terms and conditions for making such grants.

C. Franchise Procedure. No person, partnership, corporation or other legal entity shall furnish the City or its inhabitants or properties lying within the City limits, or any portion of the City, with any service which uses any portion of the public streets, ways, easements, alleys, rights-of-way or places in the City as the same may now exist or may hereafter exist, for any purpose, without a City franchise secured under the procedures set out hereunder, except insofar as he/she or it may be entitled to do so by direct authority of the California Constitution, the Constitution or laws of the United States, or final decisions of courts of competent jurisdiction.

D. Limit. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to limit the ability of the City to seek, to accept and to grant easements for specific purposes over specific parcels of public property for limited purposes.

E. Franchise Term. The term of the franchise shall be determined by the City Council by ordi-

nance. All franchises shall include a provision which reserves to the City the right to take over at any time the works, plant and property constructed under the franchise grant at their depreciated physical valuation and without compensation for franchise or goodwill.

F. Acquisition. No franchise shall in any way or to any extent impair or affect the right of the City to acquire the property of the possessor thereof by purchase or exercise of the power of eminent domain, and nothing therein shall be construed to contract away or to modify or abridge, either for a term or for perpetuity, the City's right of eminent domain with respect to the property of the possessor of any franchise.

G. Franchise Condition. Every franchise granted by the City is granted upon the condition, whether expressed in the grant or not, that such franchise shall not be given any value before any court or other public authority or agency, in any administrative or judicial proceeding, in excess of any amount actually paid by the grantee to the City at the time of the franchise grant.

H. Resolution of Intent. Before granting any franchise the City Council shall adopt a resolution declaring its intention to do so, stating the name of the proposed grantee, the character of the proposed franchise, and the terms and conditions upon which it is proposed to be granted. Such resolution shall fix the day, hour and place when and where any person having an interest in or objecting to the granting of such franchise may appear before the Council to be heard thereon. Said resolution shall be published at least once, not less than ten days prior to said hearing, in a newspaper of general circulation in the City or, if there is no newspaper of general circulation in the City, by posting in three established public places.

I. Franchise Adoption. After hearing all persons desiring to be heard, the Council may deny or, by ordinance may grant the franchise on the terms and conditions specified in the resolution.

**Section 11.03 Violations.**

A. Misdemeanor. A violation of any ordinance of the City shall constitute a misdemeanor unless, by ordinance, it is made an infraction.

B. Maximum Fine. The maximum fine or penalty for a misdemeanor or infraction shall be the same as established by the general laws, unless a contrary intention is expressed in the City ordinance.

C. Enforcement. Violations of City ordinances or of provisions of this Charter may be prosecuted in the name of the People of the State of California or redressed by civil action.

D. Charter Compliance. Compliance with any mandated duty prescribed in this Charter may be had through civil action or, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

E. Violation of Charter. Notwithstanding the criminal penalties provided for above, a Councilmember shall forfeit office pursuant to this Charter if a court of law has found that the Councilmember has violated this Charter or any provision thereof, or willfully has failed to carry out any provision of this Charter.

**Section 11.04 Definitions.**

Unless the provisions or the context otherwise requires, as used in this Charter:

A. "Shall" is mandatory and "may" is permissive;

B. "City" is the City of Lindsay and "department", "commission", "agency", "committee", "board", "authority", "corporation", "division", "program", "utility", "enterprise", "non-profit corporation", "officer", or "employee" is a department, commission, agency, committee, board, authority, corporation, division, program, utility, enterprise, non-profit corporation, officer, or employee, as the case may be, of the City of Lindsay;

C. "Council" is the City Council of the City of Lindsay;

D. "Councilmember" is a member of the City Council of the City of Lindsay;

E. "Law" includes ordinance;

F. "State" is the State of California;

G. "Federal" is the government of the United States of America;

H. "Voter" shall be as defined by State law;

I. "He/she", "his/her", "he" and "she" shall be interchangeable without regard to gender; and,

## CHARTER

J. “Ad Valorem” shall mean “according to value” as defined by State law.

### ARTICLE XII

#### CHARTER AMENDMENT

##### **Section 12.01 Charter Amendment.**

Amendments to this Charter shall be approved by a majority of the voters of the City at an election on a date as determined by the City Council.

##### **Section 12.02 How Amended.**

A. Amendments. Amendments to this Charter may be framed and proposed in any manner provided by law or by any of:

B. Council Ordinance. An ordinance of the City Council containing the full text of the proposed amendment;

C. Initiative. An initiative by the voters of the City; or

D. Charter Commission. A report with specific full text as prepared by a duly elected Charter Commission as created pursuant to State law.

##### **Section 12.03 Amendment Election.**

If a majority of the voters of the City voting on a proposed Charter amendment vote in favor of such amendment, the amendment shall become effective at the time fixed in the amendment, but if no time is therein fixed, at the time the approved amendment is filed with the California Secretary of State by the City Clerk and chaptered by the Secretary of State. The City Clerk shall file the results of a Charter amendment election with the Secretary of State within 30 days following the election.

### ARTICLE XIII

#### TRANSITION AND SEVERABILITY

##### **Section 13.01 Transition.**

All City ordinances, resolutions, orders, rules and regulations which are in force when this Charter becomes effective shall remain in effect until repealed,

except to the extent that they are inconsistent, disagree in any respect with, or interfere with the effective operation of this Charter or of ordinances adopted pursuant thereto.

##### **Section 13.02 Severability.**

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

##### **Section 13.03 Transition of Current Elected Officials.**

A. Existing City Council. At the time of the adoption of this Charter Councilmembers then serving shall serve until the end of the term for which they have been elected, and until their successors have been elected and qualified.

B. Elected City Clerk. The elected City Clerk shall have the option of remaining in the elected position until the end of the current term for which he/she has been elected or at such time as the office shall be vacated, or of resigning from such elected position and seeking the position of appointed City Clerk.

C. Elected City Treasurer. The elected City Treasurer shall remain in the elected position until the end of the current term for which he/she has been elected or at such time as the office shall be vacated.

##### **Section 13.04 Continuity of Laws, Officers and Employees.**

A. Continuation of Rights. The City shall continue to own, possess and control all rights and property of every kind and nature owned, possessed or controlled by it on the effective date of this Charter, and shall be subject to all its debts, obligations and liabilities.

B. Continuation of Acts. All lawful ordinances, resolutions, orders, rules and regulations in force on the effective date of this Charter and not in conflict or inconsistent with this Charter herewith are continued in force until repealed or amended.

C. Continuation of Officers and Employees. The present officers of the City shall retain their respective offices and employment subject to the provisions of this Charter, and an employee holding a City position at the time this Charter takes effect, who was serving in that same or a comparable position at the time of its adoption, shall not be subject to any employee selection or evaluation process as a condition of continuance in the same position, but in all other respects shall be subject to the Personnel Ordinance provided for in Section 7.03 of this Charter.

D. Non-Interference With Court Orders. Nothing herein shall be construed to interfere with or to modify any order or decision of any court of competent jurisdiction provided, however, that this Charter shall in all respects supersede any such court order or decision which does not apply specifically to home rule charter cities under the California Constitution or the United States Constitution.

E. Transfer of Powers. If a City department, office or agency is abolished by this Charter, the powers and duties given it by law shall be transferred

to the City department, office or agency designated by this Charter or, if the Charter makes no provision, designated by the City Council by ordinance.

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

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

END

PROPOSED AND SUBMITTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF LINDSAY, CALIFORNIA  
FOR VOTER APPROVAL  
on this 8th day of January, 1996

\_\_\_\_\_  
Valeriano Saucedo, Mayor  
Chair, Charter Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia Rios, Mayor Pro Tem  
Vice Chair, Charter Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ellen Hendricks, Councilmember  
Member, Charter Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Hill, Councilmember  
Member, Charter Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Stava, Councilmember  
Member, Charter Commission

CHARTER

CITY OF LINDSAY  
CITIZENS CHARTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Recommended to the Lindsay City Council and Lindsay Charter Commission for adoption and placement on the April 9, 1996 City Election ballot:

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Vahnn Blue, Member

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Tom Elson, Member

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Josie Figueroa, Member

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Janet Kliegl, Member

---

Herman Landers, Member

---

Paul Leavens, Member

---

Ed Murray, Member

---

Richard E. Pitcher, Member

---

Ben Rivas, Member

---

Derrill Roberts, Member

---

Leonor Serna, Member

---

Tom Spurlock, Member

---

Robert Tienken, Member

STAFF TO  
LINDSAY CHARTER COMMISSION  
LINDSAY CITIZENS CHARTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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William Drennen, City Manager

---

Bobbi Paul, City Clerk

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Walter McCormick, City Attorney

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Douglas W. Ayres  
Executive Director

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Pamela S. Swift  
Deputy Executive Director and Secretary

Lindsay Charter Commission  
Lindsay Citizens Charter Advisory Committee

(Resolution calling election follows, when adopted)





## CHARTER INDEX

A	CITY COUNCIL
ACTING CITY MANAGER § 4.02	See MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
AMENDMENT	CITY MANAGER
Amendment election § 12.03	Acting city manager § 4.02
Charter amendment § 12.01	City manager appointment § 4.01
How amended § 12.02	Powers and duties of city manager § 4.03
B	CITY OBLIGATIONS
BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES § 7.04	Powers, duties and obligations of the city
BOUNDARIES § 1.02	See POWERS, DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY
BUDGET	COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES § 7.04
Adoption of budget § 8.05	CONFLICTS OF INTEREST § 11.01
Annual budget § 8.03	CONTINUITY OF LAWS, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES § 13.04
Budget amendments after adoption § 8.06	D
Capital program and budget § 8.09	DEFINITIONS § 11.04
City council review of budget § 8.04	DEPARTMENT HEADS § 7.02
Financial systems § 8.01	DEPARTMENTS § 7.01
Lapse of appropriations § 8.08	E
Miscellaneous fiscal procedures § 8.12	ELECTIONS
Overexpenditures prohibited § 8.07	Election procedures § 10.01
Public documents § 8.10	Initiative, referendum and recall § 10.03
Purchasing and contracting § 8.11	Special elections § 10.02
Submission of budget and budget message § 8.02	F
C	FINANCIAL PROCEDURES
CAPITAL PROGRAM AND BUDGET § 8.09	Adoption of budget § 8.05
CITY ATTORNEY	Annual budget § 8.03
Duties of city attorney § 6.02	Budget amendments after adoption § 8.06
Office of city attorney § 6.01	
Special counsel § 6.03	
CITY CLERK	
Duties of city clerk § 5.02	
Office of city clerk § 5.01	

FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

Capital program and budget § 8.09  
City council review of budget § 8.04  
Financial systems § 8.01  
Lapse of appropriations § 8.08  
Miscellaneous fiscal procedures § 8.12  
Overexpenditures prohibited § 8.07  
Public documents § 8.10  
Purchasing and contracting § 8.11  
Submission of budget and budget message § 8.02

N  
  
NAME § 1.01  
  
P  
  
PERSONNEL SYSTEM § 7.03  
  
PURCHASING AND CONTRACTING  
Budget § 8.11

FORM OF GOVERNMENT § 1.03

FRANCHISES § 11.02

G

R  
  
REVENUE  
Taxation, revenues and debt  
See TAXATION, REVENUES AND DEBT

GENERAL MUNICIPAL POWERS

Duties and obligations of the city council § 2.06  
General law powers § 2.02  
Intergovernmental powers § 2.04  
Liberal interpretation § 2.05  
Municipal affairs § 2.03  
Powers of the city § 2.01

S  
  
SEVERABILITY § 13.02  
  
SPECIAL COUNSEL  
City attorney § 6.03

M

T

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Actions requiring an ordinance § 3.08  
City council § 3.01  
Compensation and expenses § 3.05  
Council procedure § 3.07  
Emergency ordinances § 3.10  
Filling of council vacancies § 3.04  
Independent audit § 3.15  
Judge of qualifications § 3.02  
Mayor § 3.12  
Mayor pro tem § 3.13  
Ordinance authentication, recording and codes § 3.11  
Ordinances in general § 3.09  
Powers and duties of the city council § 3.06  
Prohibitions on city council § 3.14  
Vacancies and forfeiture of office § 3.03

TAXATION, REVENUES AND DEBT  
Annual review of rates and fees § 9.04  
Balanced revenue system § 9.03  
Debt § 9.05  
Depositories and investments § 9.06  
Property taxation § 9.01  
Tax limit § 9.02  
  
TRANSITION § 13.01  
  
TRANSITION OF CURRENT ELECTED OFFICIALS  
§ 13.03

V

VIOLATIONS § 11.03

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 3**  
**INSERTION GUIDE**  
**LINDSAY MUNICIPAL CODE**

**February, 2007**

**(Covering Ordinances through 522)**

This supplement consists of reprinted pages replacing existing pages in the Lindsay Municipal Code.

Remove pages listed in the column headed "Remove Pages" and in their places insert the pages listed in the column headed "Insert Pages."

This Guide for Insertion should be retained as a permanent record of pages supplemented and should be inserted in the front of the code.

**Remove Pages**

**Insert Pages**

Preface ..... Preface  
Table of Contents ..... Table of Contents

**CHARTER**

--- ..... C-1—C-23

**CHARTER INDEX**

--- ..... CIX-1—CIX-2

**STATUTORY REFERENCES**

533—537 ..... 533—537

