

Senate Bill 570

By: Senator Bowen of the 13th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To provide a new charter for the City of Lilly; to provide for incorporation, boundaries, and  
2 powers of the city; to provide for a governing authority of such city and the powers, duties,  
3 authority, election, terms, method of filling vacancies, compensation, qualifications,  
4 prohibitions, and removal from office relative to members of such governing authority; to  
5 provide for inquiries and investigations; to provide for organization and procedures; to  
6 provide for ordinances and codes; to provide for the office of mayor and certain duties and  
7 powers relative to the office of mayor; to provide for administrative responsibilities; to  
8 provide for boards, commissions, and authorities; to provide for a city attorney, a city clerk,  
9 a city treasurer, and other personnel; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for a  
10 municipal court and the judge or judges thereof; to provide for practices and procedures; to  
11 provide for taxation and fees; to provide for franchises, service charges, and assessments;  
12 to provide for bonded and other indebtedness; to provide for accounting and budgeting; to  
13 provide for purchases; to provide for the sale of property; to provide for bonds for officials;  
14 to provide for eminent domain; to provide for penalties; to provide for definitions and  
15 construction; to provide for other matters relative to the foregoing; to provide for the  
16 submission of this Act for approval pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act  
17 of 1975; to repeal a specific Act; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

18 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

19 **ARTICLE I**  
20 **INCORPORATION AND POWERS**

21 **SECTION 1.10.**  
22 **Incorporation.**

23 The City of Lilly in Dooly County is reincorporated by the enactment of this charter and is  
24 constituted and declared a body politic and corporate under the name of the "City of Lilly."

1 References in this charter to "the city" or "this city" refer to the City of Lilly. The city shall  
2 have perpetual existence.

3 **SECTION 1.11.**

4 Corporate boundaries.

5 The boundaries of this city shall be those existing on the effective date of the adoption of this  
6 charter with such alterations as may be made from time to time by local law or in the manner  
7 provided by general state law. The boundaries of this city at all times shall be shown on a  
8 map, a written description, or any combination thereof, to be retained permanently in the  
9 office of the city clerk of the city and to be designated, as the case may be: "Official Map or  
10 Description of the Corporate Limits of the City of Lilly, Georgia." Photographic, typed, or  
11 other copies of such map or description certified by the mayor shall be admitted as evidence  
12 in all courts and shall have the same force and effect as the original map or description.

13 **SECTION 1.12.**

14 Municipal powers.

15 (a) This city shall have all powers possible for a city to have under the present or future  
16 Constitution and laws of this state as fully and completely as though they were specifically  
17 enumerated in this charter. This city shall have all the powers of self-government not  
18 otherwise prohibited by this charter or by general law.

19 (b) The powers of this city shall be construed liberally in favor of the city. The specific  
20 mention or failure to mention particular powers shall not be construed as limiting in any way  
21 the powers of this city. Said powers shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

22 (1) Air and water pollution. To regulate the emission of smoke or other exhaust which  
23 pollutes the air and to prevent the pollution of natural streams which flow within the  
24 corporate limits of the city;

25 (2) Animal regulations. To regulate and license or to prohibit the keeping or running at  
26 large of animals and fowl and to provide for the impoundment of same if in violation of  
27 any ordinance or lawful order; to provide for the disposition by sale, gift, or humane  
28 destruction of animals and fowl when not redeemed as provided by ordinance; and to  
29 provide punishment for violation of ordinances enacted under this paragraph;

30 (3) Appropriations and expenditures. To make appropriations for the support of the  
31 government of the city; to authorize the expenditure of money for any purposes  
32 authorized by this charter and for any purpose for which a municipality is authorized by  
33 the laws of the State of Georgia; and to provide for the payment of expenses of this city;

- 1 (4) Building regulations. To regulate and to license the erection and construction of  
2 buildings and all other structures not inconsistent with general law; to adopt building,  
3 housing, plumbing, electrical, gas, and heating and air-conditioning codes; and to  
4 regulate all housing and building trades except as otherwise prohibited by general law;
- 5 (5) Business regulation and taxation. To levy and to provide for the collection of license  
6 fees and taxes on privileges, occupations, trades, and professions; to license and regulate  
7 the same; to provide for the manner and method of payment of such licenses and taxes;  
8 and to revoke such licenses after due process for the failure to pay any city taxes or fees;
- 9 (6) Condemnation. To condemn property, inside or outside the corporate limits of the  
10 city, for present or future use and for any corporate purpose deemed necessary by the  
11 governing authority, utilizing procedures enumerated in Title 22 of the O.C.G.A. or such  
12 other laws as are or may hereafter be enacted;
- 13 (7) Contracts. To enter into contracts and agreements with other governments and  
14 entities and with private persons, firms, and corporations;
- 15 (8) Emergencies. To establish procedures for determining and proclaiming that an  
16 emergency situation exists inside or outside the city and to make and carry out all  
17 reasonable provisions deemed necessary to deal with or meet such an emergency for the  
18 protection, safety, health, or well-being of the citizens of the city;
- 19 (9) Fire regulations. To fix and establish fire limits and from time to time extend,  
20 enlarge, or restrict the same; to prescribe fire safety regulations, not inconsistent with  
21 general law relating to both fire prevention and detection and to fire fighting; and to  
22 prescribe penalties and punishment for violations thereof;
- 23 (10) Garbage fees. To levy, fix, assess, and collect a garbage, refuse, and trash  
24 collection and disposal and other sanitary service charge, tax, or fee for such services as  
25 may be necessary in the operation of the city from all individuals, firms, and corporations  
26 residing in or doing business within the city and benefiting from such services; to enforce  
27 the payment of such charges, taxes, or fees; and to provide for the manner and method  
28 of collecting such service charges;
- 29 (11) General health, safety, and welfare. To define, regulate, and prohibit any act,  
30 practice, conduct, or use of property which is detrimental to the health, sanitation,  
31 cleanliness, welfare, and safety of the inhabitants of the city and to provide for the  
32 enforcement of such standards;
- 33 (12) Gifts. To accept or refuse gifts, donations, bequests, or grants from any source for  
34 any purpose related to the powers and duties of the city and the general welfare of its  
35 citizens on such terms and conditions as the donor or grantor may impose;
- 36 (13) Health and sanitation. To prescribe standards of health and sanitation within the  
37 city and to provide for the enforcement of such standards;

1 (14) Jail sentences. To provide that persons given jail sentences in the municipal court  
2 may work out such sentences in any public works or on the streets, roads, drains, and  
3 squares in the city; to provide for the commitment of such persons to any jail; or to  
4 provide for the commitment of such persons to any county work camp or county jail by  
5 agreement with the appropriate county officials;

6 (15) Motor vehicles. To regulate the operation of motor vehicles and exercise control  
7 over all traffic, including parking, upon or across the streets, roads, alleys, and walkways  
8 of the city;

9 (16) Municipal agencies and delegation of power. To create, alter, or abolish  
10 departments, boards, offices, commissions, and agencies of the city and to confer upon  
11 such agencies the necessary and appropriate authority for carrying out all the powers  
12 conferred upon or delegated to the same;

13 (17) Municipal debts. To appropriate and borrow money for the payment of debts of the  
14 city and to issue bonds for the purpose of raising revenue to carry out any project,  
15 program, or venture authorized by this charter or the laws of the State of Georgia;

16 (18) Municipal property ownership. To acquire, dispose of, and hold in trust or  
17 otherwise any real, personal, or mixed property, in fee simple or lesser interest, inside or  
18 outside the property limits of the city;

19 (19) Municipal property protection. To provide for the preservation and protection of  
20 property and equipment of the city and the administration and use of same by the public;  
21 and to prescribe penalties and punishment for violations thereof;

22 (20) Municipal utilities. To acquire, lease, construct, operate, maintain, sell, and dispose  
23 of public utilities, including, but not limited to, a system of waterworks, sewers, and  
24 drains, sewage disposal, gas works, electric plants, transportation facilities, public  
25 airports, and any other public utility; and to fix the taxes, charges, rates, fares, fees,  
26 assessments, regulations, and penalties therefor; and to provide for the withdrawal of  
27 service for refusal or failure to pay the same; and to authorize the extension of water,  
28 sewerage, and electrical distribution systems, and all necessary appurtenances by which  
29 said utilities are distributed, inside and outside the corporate limits of the city; and to  
30 provide utility services to persons, firms, and corporations inside and outside the  
31 corporate limits of the city as provided by ordinance;

32 (21) Nuisances. To define a nuisance and provide for its abatement whether on public  
33 or private property;

34 (22) Penalties. To provide penalties for violation of any ordinances adopted pursuant  
35 to the authority of this charter and the laws of the State of Georgia;

- 1 (23) Planning and zoning. To provide comprehensive city planning for development by  
2 zoning and to provide subdivision regulation and the like as the city council deems  
3 necessary and reasonable to ensure a safe, healthy, and esthetically pleasing community;
- 4 (24) Police and fire protection. To exercise the power of arrest through duly appointed  
5 police officers and to establish, operate, or contract for a police and a fire-fighting  
6 agency;
- 7 (25) Public hazards; removal. To provide for the destruction and removal of any  
8 building or other structure which is or may become dangerous or detrimental to the  
9 public;
- 10 (26) Public improvements. To provide for the acquisition, construction, building,  
11 operation, and maintenance of public ways, parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities,  
12 cemeteries, markets and market houses, public buildings, libraries, public housing,  
13 airports, hospitals, terminals, docks, parking facilities, or charitable, cultural, educational,  
14 recreational, conservation, sport, curative, corrective, detentional, penal, and medical  
15 institutions, agencies, and facilities; to provide any other public improvements inside or  
16 outside the corporate limits of the city; to regulate the use of public improvements; and,  
17 for such purposes, property may be acquired by condemnation under Title 22 of the  
18 O.C.G.A. or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted;
- 19 (27) Public peace. To provide for the prevention and punishment of drunkenness, riots,  
20 and public disturbances;
- 21 (28) Public transportation. To organize and operate or contract for such public  
22 transportation systems as are deemed beneficial;
- 23 (29) Public utilities and services. To grant franchises or make contracts for public  
24 utilities and public services and to prescribe the rates, fares, regulations, and the  
25 standards and conditions of service applicable to the service to be provided by the  
26 franchise grantee or contractor, insofar as not in conflict with valid regulations of the  
27 Public Service Commission;
- 28 (30) Regulation of roadside areas. To prohibit or regulate and control the erection,  
29 removal, and maintenance of signs, billboards, trees, shrubs, fences, buildings, and any  
30 and all other structures or obstructions upon or adjacent to the rights of way of streets and  
31 roads or within view thereof, inside or abutting the corporate limits of the city and to  
32 prescribe penalties and punishment for violation of such ordinances;
- 33 (31) Retirement. To provide and maintain a retirement plan for officers and employees  
34 of the city;
- 35 (32) Roadways. To lay out, open, extend, widen, narrow, establish or change the grade  
36 of, abandon or close, construct, pave, curb, gutter, adorn with shade trees, or otherwise  
37 improve, maintain, repair, clean, prevent erosion of, and light the roads, alleys, and

1 walkways within the corporate limits of the city; and to negotiate and execute leases  
2 over, through, under, or across any city property or the right of way of any street, road,  
3 alley, and walkway or portion thereof within the corporate limits of the city for bridges,  
4 passageways, or any other purpose or use between buildings on opposite sides of the  
5 street and for other bridges, overpasses, and underpasses for private use at such location  
6 and to charge a rental therefor in such manner as may be provided by ordinance; and to  
7 authorize and control the construction of bridges, overpasses, and underpasses within the  
8 corporate limits of the city; and to grant franchises and rights of way throughout the  
9 streets and roads and over the bridges and viaducts for the use of public utilities and for  
10 private use; and to require real estate owners to repair and maintain in a safe condition  
11 the sidewalks adjoining their lots or lands and to impose penalties for failure to do so;

12 (33) Sewer fees. To levy a fee, charge, or sewer tax as necessary to assure the acquiring,  
13 constructing, equipping, operating, maintaining, and extending of a sewage disposal plant  
14 and sewerage system; to levy on those to whom sewers and sewerage systems are made  
15 available a sewer service fee, charge, or tax for the availability or use of the sewers; to  
16 provide for the manner and method of collecting such service charge; and to impose and  
17 collect a sewer connection fee or fees to those connected with the system;

18 (34) Solid waste disposal. To provide for the collection and disposal of garbage,  
19 rubbish, and refuse and to regulate the collection and disposal of garbage, rubbish, and  
20 refuse by others; and to provide for the separate collection of glass, tin, aluminum,  
21 cardboard, paper, and other recyclable materials and provide for the sale of such items;

22 (35) Special areas of public regulation. To regulate or prohibit junk dealers, pawn  
23 shops, the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors, and the use and  
24 sale of firearms; to regulate the transportation, storage, and use of combustible,  
25 explosive, and inflammable materials, the use of lighting and heating equipment, and any  
26 other business or situation which may be dangerous to persons or property; to regulate  
27 and control the conduct of peddlers and itinerant traders, theatrical performances,  
28 exhibitions, and shows of any kind, by taxing or otherwise; and to license, tax, regulate,  
29 or prohibit professional fortunetelling, palmistry, adult bookstores, and massage parlors;

30 (36) Special assessments. To levy and provide for the collection of special assessments  
31 to cover the costs of any public improvement;

32 (37) Ad valorem taxes. To levy and provide for the assessment, valuation, revaluation,  
33 and collection of taxes on all property subject to taxation;

34 (38) Other taxes. To levy and collect such other taxes as may be allowed now or in the  
35 future by law;

36 (39) Taxicabs. To regulate and license vehicles operated for hire in the city; to limit the  
37 number of such vehicles; to require the operators thereof to be licensed; to require public

1 liability insurance on such vehicles in the amounts to be prescribed by ordinance; and to  
 2 regulate the parking of such vehicles;

3 (40) Urban redevelopment. To organize and operate an urban redevelopment program;  
 4 and

5 (41) Other powers. To exercise and enjoy all other powers, functions, rights, privileges,  
 6 and immunities necessary or desirable to promote or protect the safety, health, peace,  
 7 security, good order, comfort, convenience, or general welfare of the city and its  
 8 inhabitants; to exercise all implied powers necessary to carry into execution all powers  
 9 granted in this charter as fully and completely as if such powers were fully stated in this  
 10 charter; and to exercise all powers now or in the future authorized to be exercised by  
 11 other municipal governments under other laws of the State of Georgia; and no listing of  
 12 particular powers in this charter shall be held to be exclusive of others, nor restrictive of  
 13 general words and phrases granting powers, but shall be held to be in addition to such  
 14 powers unless expressly prohibited to municipalities under the Constitution or applicable  
 15 laws of the State of Georgia.

16 **SECTION 1.13.**

17 Exercise of powers.

18 All powers, functions, rights, privileges, and immunities of the city, its officers, agencies,  
 19 or employees shall be carried into execution as provided by this charter. If this charter  
 20 makes no provision, such shall be carried into execution as provided by ordinance or as  
 21 provided by pertinent laws of the State of Georgia.

22 **ARTICLE II**

23 **GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE, ELECTIONS, AND REMOVAL**

24 **SECTION 2.10.**

25 City council creation; composition; number; election.

26 (a) The legislative authority of the government of this city, except as otherwise specifically  
 27 provided in this charter, shall be vested in a city council to be composed of a mayor and five  
 28 councilmembers.

29 (b) The mayor and councilmembers shall serve for terms of four years and until their  
 30 respective successors are elected and qualified. No person shall be eligible to serve as mayor  
 31 or councilmember unless that person shall have been a resident of this city for 12 months  
 32 immediately preceding the election of mayor or councilmembers; each such person shall

1 continue to reside within the city during said period of service and shall be registered and  
2 qualified to vote in municipal elections of this city. No person's name shall be listed as a  
3 candidate on the ballot for election for either mayor or councilmember unless such person  
4 shall file a written notice with the clerk of said city that such person desires his or her name  
5 to be placed on said ballot as a candidate either for mayor or councilmember. No person  
6 shall be eligible for the office of mayor or councilmember unless such person shall file above  
7 said notice within the time provided for in Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the  
8 "Georgia Election Code."

9 **SECTION 2.11.**

10 Elections.

11 (a) At any election, all persons who are qualified under the Constitution and laws of Georgia  
12 to vote for members of the General Assembly of Georgia and who are bona fide residents  
13 of said city shall be eligible to qualify as voters in the election.

14 (b) All primaries and elections shall be held and conducted in accordance with Chapter 2  
15 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code." Except as otherwise provided by  
16 this charter, the city council shall, by ordinance, prescribe such rules and regulations it  
17 deems appropriate to fulfill any options and duties under the "Georgia Election Code."

18 (c) The mayor and councilmembers who are in office on the effective date of this Act shall  
19 serve until the expiration of the term of office to which they were elected and until their  
20 successors are elected and qualified.

21 (d) For the purpose of electing members of the council, the City of Lilly shall consist of one  
22 election district.

23 (e) On the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2003, and on that day  
24 quadrennially thereafter, there shall be elected three councilmembers. Then, on the Tuesday  
25 next following the first Monday in November, 2005, and on that day quadrennially  
26 thereafter, there shall be elected a mayor and two councilmembers. It is the purpose of this  
27 section to provide a rotation system for the office of mayor and councilmembers. The terms  
28 of the offices shall begin on the first day of January immediately following the election of  
29 such member.

**SECTION 2.12.**

## Vacancies in office.

(a)(1) The office of mayor or councilmember shall become vacant upon the incumbent's death, resignation, forfeiture of office, or removal from office in any manner authorized by this charter or the general laws of the State of Georgia.

(2) Upon the suspension from office of mayor or councilmember in any manner authorized by the general laws of the State of Georgia, the city council or those remaining shall appoint a successor for the duration of the suspension. If the suspension becomes permanent, then the office shall become vacant and shall be filled as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) In the event that the office of mayor or councilmember shall become vacant, the city council or those remaining shall order a special election to fill the balance of the unexpired term of such official; provided, however, if such vacancy occurs within six months of the expiration of the term of that office, the city council or those members remaining shall appoint a successor for the remainder of the term. In all other respects, the special election shall be held and conducted in accordance with Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code," as now or hereafter amended.

**SECTION 2.13.**

## Nonpartisan elections.

Political parties shall not conduct primaries for city offices and all names of candidates for city offices shall be listed without party labels.

**SECTION 2.14.**

## Election by plurality.

The candidate receiving a plurality of the votes cast for any city office shall be elected.

**SECTION 2.15.**

## Compensation and expenses.

The mayor and councilmembers shall receive compensation and expenses for their services as provided by ordinance and in accordance with Chapter 35 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A.

**SECTION 2.16.**

## Prohibitions.

(a) No elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the city or any agency or political entity to which this charter applies shall knowingly:

(1) Engage in any business or transaction or have a financial or other personal interest, direct or indirect, which is incompatible with the proper discharge of official duties or which would tend to impair the independence of his or her judgment or action in the performance of official duties;

(2) Engage in or accept private employment or render services for private interests when such employment or service is incompatible with the proper discharge of official duties or would tend to impair the independence of his or her judgment or action in the performance of official duties;

(3) Disclose confidential information concerning the property, government, or affairs of the governmental body by which engaged without proper legal authorization or use such information to advance the financial or other private interest of himself or herself or others;

(4) Accept any valuable gift, whether in the form of service, loan, object, or promise, from any person, firm, or corporation which to his or her knowledge is interested, directly or indirectly, in any manner whatsoever in business dealings with the governmental body by which he or she is engaged; provided, however, that an elected official who is a candidate for public office may accept campaign contributions and services in connection with any such campaign;

(5) Represent other private interests in any action or proceeding against this city or any portion of its government; or

(6) Vote or otherwise participate in the negotiation or in the making of any contract with any business or entity in which he or she has a financial interest.

(b) Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee who has any private financial interest, directly or indirectly, in any contract or matter pending before or within any department of the city shall disclose such private interest to the city council. The mayor or any councilmember who has a private interest in any matter pending before the city council shall disclose such private interest and such disclosure shall be entered on the records of the city council, and he or she shall disqualify himself or herself from participating in any decision or vote relating thereto. Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee of any agency or political entity to which this charter applies who shall have any private financial interest, directly or indirectly, in any contract or matter pending before or within such entity shall disclose such private interest to the governing body of such agency or entity.

1 (c) No elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the city or any agency or entity to  
 2 which this charter applies shall use property owned by such governmental entity for personal  
 3 benefit, convenience, or profit, except in accordance with policies promulgated by the city  
 4 council or the governing body of such agency or entity.

5 (d) Any violation of this section which occurs with the knowledge, express or implied, of  
 6 a party to a contract or sale shall render said contract or sale voidable at the option of the city  
 7 council.

8 (e) Except as authorized by law, no member of the council shall hold any other elective city  
 9 office. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any person holding employment  
 10 on the effective date of this Act.

11 **SECTION 2.17.**

12 Removal of officers.

13 (a) The mayor, a councilmember, or other appointed officers provided for in this charter  
 14 shall be removed from office for any one or more of the following causes:

15 (1) Incompetence, misfeasance, or malfeasance in office;

16 (2) Conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude;

17 (3) Failure at any time to possess any qualifications of office as provided by this charter  
 18 or by law;

19 (4) Knowingly violating Section 2.16 or any other express prohibition of this charter;

20 (5) Abandonment of office or neglect to perform the duties thereof; or

21 (6) Failure for any other cause to perform the duties of office as required by this charter  
 22 or by state law.

23 (b) Removal of any officer pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be accomplished  
 24 by an order of the Superior Court of Dooly County following a hearing on a complaint  
 25 seeking such removal brought by any resident of the City of Lilly.

26 **ARTICLE III**

27 **ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT, GENERAL**

28 **AUTHORITY, AND ORDINANCES**

29 **SECTION 3.10.**

30 General power and authority.

31 Except as otherwise provided by this charter, the city council shall be vested with all the  
 32 powers of government of this city as provided by Article I of this charter.



1 meeting shall also constitute a waiver of notice on any business transacted in such  
2 councilmember's presence. Only the business stated in the call may be transacted at the  
3 special meeting.

4 (c) All meetings of the city council shall be public to the extent required by law and notice  
5 to the public of special meetings shall be given as required by law.

#### 6 **SECTION 3.14.**

##### 7 Procedures.

8 (a) The city council shall adopt its rules of procedure and order of business consistent with  
9 the provisions of this charter and shall provide for keeping a journal of its proceedings which  
10 shall be a public record.

11 (b) All committees and committee chairpersons and officers of the city council shall be  
12 appointed by the mayor and shall serve at the pleasure of the mayor. The mayor shall have  
13 the power to appoint new members to any committee at any time.

#### 14 **SECTION 3.15.**

##### 15 Voting.

16 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, three councilmembers  
17 shall constitute a quorum and shall be authorized to transact the business of the city council.  
18 Voting on the adoption of ordinances shall be by voice vote and the vote shall be recorded  
19 in the journal, but any member of the city council shall have the right to request a roll-call  
20 vote and such vote shall be recorded in the journal. Except as otherwise provided in this  
21 charter, the affirmative vote of three councilmembers shall be required for the adoption of  
22 any ordinance, resolution, or motion.

23 (b) In the event vacancies in office result in less than a quorum of councilmembers holding  
24 office, then the remaining councilmembers in office shall constitute a quorum and shall be  
25 authorized to transact business of the city council. A vote of a majority of the remaining  
26 councilmembers shall be required for the adoption of any ordinance, resolution, or motion.

#### 27 **SECTION 3.16.**

##### 28 Ordinances.

29 (a) Every proposed ordinance shall be introduced in writing and in the form required for  
30 final adoption. No ordinance shall contain a subject which is not expressed in its title. The

1 enacting clause shall be "The Council of the City of Lilly hereby ordains..." and every  
2 ordinance shall so begin.

3 (b) An ordinance may be introduced by any councilmember and be read at a regular or  
4 special meeting of the city council. Ordinances shall be considered and adopted or rejected  
5 by the city council in accordance with the rules which it shall establish; provided, however,  
6 an ordinance shall not be adopted the same day it is introduced, except for emergency  
7 ordinances provided for in Section 3.18. Upon introduction of any ordinance, the clerk shall,  
8 as soon as possible, distribute a copy to the mayor and to each councilmember and shall file  
9 a reasonable number of copies in the office of the clerk and at such other public places as the  
10 city council may designate.

11 **SECTION 3.17.**

12 Effect of ordinances.

13 Acts of the city council which have the force and effect of law shall be enacted by ordinance.

14 **SECTION 3.18.**

15 Emergencies.

16 To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property, or public peace, the city council  
17 may convene on call of the mayor or three councilmembers and may promptly adopt an  
18 emergency ordinance, but such ordinance shall not levy taxes; grant, renew, or extend a  
19 franchise; regulate the rate charged by any public utility for its services; or authorize the  
20 borrowing of money except for loans to be repaid within 30 days. An emergency ordinance  
21 shall be introduced in the form prescribed for ordinances generally, except that it shall be  
22 plainly designated as an emergency ordinance and shall contain, after the enacting clause,  
23 a declaration stating that an emergency exists and describing the emergency in clear and  
24 specific terms. An emergency ordinance may be adopted, with or without amendment, or  
25 rejected at the meeting at which it is introduced, but the affirmative vote of at least three  
26 councilmembers shall be required for adoption. It shall become effective upon adoption or  
27 at such later time as it may specify. Every emergency ordinance shall automatically stand  
28 repealed 30 days following the date upon which it was adopted, but this shall not prevent  
29 reenactment of the ordinance in the manner specified in this section if the emergency  
30 continues to exist. An emergency ordinance shall also be repealed by adoption of a  
31 repealing ordinance in the same manner specified in this section for adoption of emergency  
32 ordinances.

**SECTION 3.19.**

## Codes.

(a) The city council may adopt any standard code of technical regulations by reference thereto in an adopting ordinance. The procedure and requirements governing such adopting ordinance shall be as prescribed for ordinances generally except that: (1) the requirements of subsection (b) of Section 3.16 of this charter for distribution and filing of copies of the ordinance shall be construed to include copies of any code of technical regulations, as well as the adopting ordinance; and (2) a copy of each adopted code of technical regulations, as well as the adopting ordinance, shall be authenticated and recorded by the clerk pursuant to Section 3.20 of this charter.

(b) Copies of any adopted code of technical regulations shall be made available by the clerk for distribution or for purchase at a reasonable price.

**SECTION 3.20.**

## Codification of ordinances.

(a) The clerk shall authenticate by the clerk's signature and record in full in a properly indexed book kept for that purpose all ordinances adopted by the council.

(b) The city shall provide for the preparation of a general codification of all the ordinances of the city having the force and effect of law. The general codification shall be adopted by the city council by ordinance and shall be published promptly together with all amendments thereto and shall contain such codes of technical regulations and other rules and regulations as the city council may specify. This compilation shall be known and cited officially as "The Code of the City of Lilly, Georgia." Copies of the code shall be furnished to all officers, departments, and agencies of the city and shall be made available for purchase by the public at a reasonable price as fixed by the city council.

(c) The city council shall cause each ordinance and each amendment to this charter to be printed promptly following its adoption, and the printed ordinances and charter amendments shall be made available for purchase by the public at reasonable prices to be fixed by the city council. Following publication of the first code under this charter and at all times thereafter, the ordinances and charter amendments shall be printed in substantially the same style as the code then in effect and shall be suitable in form for incorporation within the code. The city council shall make such further arrangements as deemed desirable with reproduction and distribution of any changes in or additions to codes of technical regulations and other rules and regulations included in the code.



1 (12) Perform such other duties as may be required by general state law, this charter, or  
2 ordinance.

3 **SECTION 3.23.**

4 Submission of ordinances to the mayor; veto power.

5 (a) Every ordinance adopted by the city council shall be presented by the city clerk to the  
6 mayor within three days after its adoption.

7 (b) The mayor shall within ten days of receipt of an ordinance return it to the city clerk with  
8 or without the mayor's approval, or with the mayor's disapproval. If the ordinance has been  
9 approved by the mayor, it shall become law upon its return to the city clerk; if the ordinance  
10 is neither approved nor disapproved, it shall become law on the fifteenth day after its  
11 adoption; if the ordinance is disapproved, the mayor shall submit to the city council through  
12 the city clerk a written statement of the reasons for the veto. The city clerk shall record upon  
13 the ordinance the date of its delivery to and receipt from the mayor.

14 (c) Ordinances vetoed by the mayor shall be presented by the city clerk to the city council  
15 at its next meeting and should the city council then or at its next general meeting adopt the  
16 ordinance by an affirmative vote of the entire council, it shall become law.

17 (d) The mayor may disapprove or reduce any item or items of appropriation in any  
18 ordinance. The approved part or parts of any ordinance making appropriations shall become  
19 law, and the part or parts disapproved shall not become law unless subsequently passed by  
20 the city council over the mayor's veto as provided in this section. The reduced part or parts  
21 shall be presented to the city council as though disapproved and shall not become law unless  
22 overridden by the council as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

23 **ARTICLE IV**

24 **ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS**

25 **SECTION 4.10.**

26 Department heads.

27 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this charter, the city council by ordinance shall prescribe  
28 the functions or duties and establish, abolish, or alter all nonelective offices, positions of  
29 employment, departments, and agencies of the city as necessary for the proper administration  
30 of the affairs and government of this city.

1 (b) Except as otherwise provided by this charter or by law, the directors of departments and  
2 other officers of the city shall be appointed solely on the basis of their respective  
3 administrative and professional qualifications.

4 (c) All appointed officers and directors of departments shall receive such compensation as  
5 prescribed by ordinance.

6 (d) There shall be a director of each department or agency who shall be its principal officer.  
7 Each director shall, subject to the direction and supervision of the mayor, be responsible for  
8 the administration and direction of the affairs and operations of the director's department or  
9 agency.

10 (e) All directors under the supervision of the mayor shall be nominated by the mayor with  
11 confirmation of appointment by the city council. The mayor may suspend or remove  
12 directors under the mayor's supervision but such suspension or removal shall not be effective  
13 for ten calendar days following the mayor's giving written notice of such action and the  
14 reason therefor to the director involved and to the city council. The director involved may  
15 appeal to the city council which, after a hearing, may override the mayor's action by a vote  
16 of five councilmembers.

#### 17 **SECTION 4.11.**

#### 18 **Boards.**

19 (a) The city council shall create by ordinance such boards, commissions, and authorities to  
20 fulfill any investigative, quasi-judicial, or quasi-legislative function the city council deems  
21 necessary and shall by ordinance establish the composition, period of existence, duties, and  
22 powers thereof.

23 (b) All members of boards, commissions, and authorities of the city shall be appointed by  
24 the city council for such terms of office and in such manner as shall be provided by  
25 ordinance, except where other appointing authority, terms of office, or manner of  
26 appointment is prescribed by this charter or by law.

27 (c) The city council, by ordinance, may provide for the compensation and reimbursement  
28 for actual and necessary expenses of the members of any board, commission, or authority.

29 (d) Except as otherwise provided by charter or by law, no member of any board,  
30 commission, or authority shall hold any elective office in the city.

31 (e) Any vacancy on a board, commission, or authority of the city shall be filled for the  
32 unexpired term in the manner prescribed for the original appointment, except as otherwise  
33 provided by this charter or by law.

34 (f) No member of a board, commission, or authority shall assume office until he or she has  
35 executed and filed with the clerk of the city an oath obligating himself or herself to perform

1 faithfully and impartially the duties of the office, such oath to be prescribed by ordinance  
2 and administered by the mayor.

3 (g) Any member of a board, commission, or authority may be removed from office for cause  
4 by a vote of three members of the city council.

5 (h) Except as otherwise provided by this charter or by law, each board, commission, or  
6 authority of the city shall elect one of its members as chairperson and one member as  
7 vice-chairperson, and may elect as its secretary one of its members or may appoint as  
8 secretary an employee of the city. Each board, commission, or authority of the city  
9 government may establish such bylaws, rules, and regulations, not inconsistent with this  
10 charter, an ordinance of the city, or law, as it deems appropriate and necessary for the  
11 fulfillment of its duties or the conduct of its affairs. Copies of such bylaws, rules, and  
12 regulations shall be filed with the clerk of the city.

13 **SECTION 4.12.**

14 City attorney.

15 The city council shall appoint a city attorney who shall be a member of the State Bar of  
16 Georgia and shall have actively practiced law for at least one year. The city attorney shall  
17 serve at the pleasure of the city council. The city attorney shall be responsible for  
18 representing and defending the city in all litigation in which the city is a party, may be the  
19 prosecuting officer in the municipal court, shall attend the meetings of the council as  
20 directed, shall advise the city council, mayor, and other officers and employees of the city  
21 concerning legal aspects of the city's affairs, and shall perform such other duties as may be  
22 required by virtue of the position of city attorney. The city council shall provide for the  
23 compensation of the city attorney.

24 **SECTION 4.13.**

25 City clerk.

26 The city council shall appoint a city clerk who shall not be a councilmember. The city clerk  
27 shall be custodian of the official city seal, maintain city council records required by this  
28 charter, and perform such other duties as may be required by the city council. The city  
29 council shall provide for the compensation of the city clerk.

1                                   **SECTION 4.14.**

2                                   Treasurer.

3 The city council shall appoint a city treasurer to collect all taxes, licenses, fees, and other  
4 moneys belonging to the city subject to the provisions of this charter and the ordinances of  
5 the city and to enforce all laws of Georgia relating to the collection of delinquent taxes and  
6 sale or foreclosure for nonpayment of taxes to the city. The city treasurer shall also be  
7 responsible for the general duties of a treasurer and fiscal officer. The city council shall  
8 provide for the compensation of the treasurer.

9                                   **SECTION 4.15.**

10                                  Rules and regulations.

11 The city council shall adopt rules and regulations consistent with this charter concerning:

- 12       (1) The method of employee selection and probationary periods of employment;  
13       (2) The administration of a position classification and pay plan, methods of promotion  
14       and applications of service ratings thereto, and transfer of employees within the  
15       classification plan;  
16       (3) Hours of work, vacation, sick leave, and other leaves of absence, overtime pay, and  
17       the order and manner in which layoffs shall be effected;  
18       (4) Such dismissal hearings as due process may require; and  
19       (5) Such other personnel notices as may be necessary to provide for adequate and  
20       systematic handling of personnel affairs.

21                                  **ARTICLE V**

22                                  **JUDICIAL BRANCH**

23                                  **SECTION 5.10.**

24                                  Municipal court.

25 There shall be a court to be known as the Municipal Court of the City of Lilly.

**SECTION 5.11.**

## Judges.

(a) The municipal court shall be presided over by a chief judge and such part-time, full-time, or stand-by judges as shall be provided by ordinance. The method of selection and terms of such judges shall be provided by ordinance.

(b) No person shall be qualified or eligible to serve as a judge on the municipal court unless that person shall have attained the age of 21 years and shall be a member of the State Bar of Georgia. All judges shall be appointed by the city council.

(c) Compensation of the judge or judges shall be fixed by ordinance.

(d) Judges may be removed for cause by a vote of three members of the city council.

(e) Before assuming office, each judge shall take an oath, given by the mayor, that the judge will honestly and faithfully discharge the duties of the office to the best of his or her ability and without fear, favor, or partiality. The oath shall be entered upon the minutes of the city council journal required in Section 3.14 of this charter.

**SECTION 5.12.**

## Convening of court.

The municipal court shall be convened at regular intervals as provided by ordinance.

**SECTION 5.13.**

## Powers.

(a) The municipal court shall try and punish violations of this charter, all city ordinances, and such other violations as provided by law.

(b) The municipal court shall have the authority to punish those in its presence for contempt, provided that such punishment shall not exceed a fine of \$200.00 or ten days in jail.

(c) The municipal court may fix punishment for offenses within its jurisdiction not exceeding a fine of \$500.00 or imprisonment for 90 days or both such fine and imprisonment or may fix punishment by fine, imprisonment, or alternative sentencing as now or hereafter provided by law.

(d) The municipal court shall have the authority to establish a schedule of fees to defray the cost of operation and shall be entitled to reimbursement of the actual cost of meals, transportation, and caretaking of prisoners bound over to superior courts for violation of state law.

1 (e) The municipal court shall have authority to establish bail and recognizances to ensure  
 2 the presence of those charged with violations before said court and shall have discretionary  
 3 authority to accept cash or personal or real property as surety bond for the appearance of  
 4 persons charged with violations. Whenever any person shall give bail for appearance and  
 5 shall fail to appear at the time fixed for trial, the bond shall be forfeited by the judge  
 6 presiding at such time and an execution shall be issued thereon by serving the defendant and  
 7 his or her sureties with a rule nisi at least two days before a hearing on the rule nisi.

8 (f) The municipal court shall have the same authority as superior courts to compel the  
 9 production of evidence in the possession of any party; to enforce obedience to its orders,  
 10 judgments, and sentences; and to administer such oaths as are necessary.

11 (g) The municipal court shall have the authority to bind prisoners over to the appropriate  
 12 court when it appears by probable cause that state law has been violated.

13 (h) Each judge of the municipal court may compel the presence of all parties necessary to  
 14 a proper disposal of each case by the issuance of summonses, subpoenas, and warrants which  
 15 may be served as executed by any officer as authorized by this charter or by law.

16 (i) Each judge of the municipal court shall be authorized to issue warrants for the arrest of  
 17 persons charged with offenses against any ordinance of the city, and each judge of the  
 18 municipal court shall have the same authority as a magistrate of the state to issue warrants  
 19 for offenses against state laws committed within the city.

20 (j) The municipal court is specifically vested with all the jurisdiction and powers throughout  
 21 the geographic area of this city granted by law to municipal courts and particularly by such  
 22 laws as authorize the abatement of nuisances and prosecution of traffic violations.

#### 23 **SECTION 5.14.**

##### 24 Certiorari.

25 The right of certiorari from the decision and judgment of the municipal court shall exist in  
 26 all criminal cases and ordinance violation cases, and such certiorari shall be obtained under  
 27 the sanction of a judge of the Superior Court of Dooly County, under the laws of the State  
 28 of Georgia regulating the granting and issuance of writs of certiorari.

#### 29 **SECTION 5.15.**

##### 30 Rules.

31 With the approval of the city council, the judge shall have full power and authority to make  
 32 reasonable rules and regulations necessary and proper to secure the efficient and successful  
 33 administration of the municipal court; provided, however, that the city council may adopt

1 in part or in toto the rules and regulations applicable to superior courts. The rules and  
2 regulations made or adopted shall be filed with the city clerk, shall be available for public  
3 inspection, and, upon request, shall be furnished to all defendants in municipal court  
4 proceedings at least 48 hours prior to said proceedings.

5 **ARTICLE VI**

6 **FINANCE**

7 **SECTION 6.10.**

8 **Property tax.**

9 The city council may assess, levy, and collect an ad valorem tax on all real and personal  
10 property within the corporate limits of the city that is subject to such taxation by the state and  
11 county. This tax is for the purpose of raising revenues to defray the costs of operating the  
12 city government, of providing governmental services, for the repayment of principal and  
13 interest on general obligations, and for any other public purpose as determined by the city  
14 council in its discretion.

15 **SECTION 6.11.**

16 **Millage.**

17 The city council by ordinance shall establish a millage rate for the city property tax, a due  
18 date, and the time period within which these taxes must be paid. The city council by  
19 ordinance may provide for the payment of these taxes by installments or in one lump sum,  
20 as well as authorize the voluntary payment of taxes prior to the time when due.

21 **SECTION 6.12.**

22 **Occupation taxes and business license fees.**

23 The city council by ordinance shall have the power to levy such occupation or business taxes  
24 as are not denied by law. Such taxes may be levied on both individuals and corporations  
25 who transact business in this city or who practice or offer to practice any profession or  
26 calling within the city to the extent such persons have a constitutionally sufficient nexus to  
27 this city to be so taxed. The city council may classify businesses, occupations, professions,  
28 or callings for the purpose of such taxation in any way which may be lawful and may compel  
29 the payment of such taxes as provided in Section 6.18 of this charter.

**SECTION 6.13.**

## Licenses.

1  
2  
3 The city council by ordinance shall have the power to require any individual or corporation  
4 who transacts business in this city or who practices or offers to practice any profession or  
5 calling within the city to obtain a license or permit for such activity from the city and pay  
6 a reasonable fee for such license or permit where such activities are not now regulated by  
7 general law in such a way as to preclude city regulations. Such fees may reflect the total cost  
8 to the city of regulating the activity and, if unpaid, shall be collected as provided in Section  
9 6.18 of this charter. The city council by ordinance may establish reasonable requirements  
10 for obtaining or keeping such licenses as the public health, safety, and welfare necessitate.

**SECTION 6.14.**

## Franchises.

11  
12  
13 The city council shall have the power to grant franchises for the use of this city's streets and  
14 alleys for the purposes of railroads, street railways, telephone companies, electric companies,  
15 cable television companies, gas companies, transportation companies, and other similar  
16 organizations. The city council shall determine the duration, terms, whether the same shall  
17 be exclusive or nonexclusive, and the consideration for such franchises; provided, however,  
18 that no franchise shall be granted for a period in excess of 35 years and no franchise shall  
19 be granted unless the city receives just and adequate compensation therefor. The city council  
20 shall provide for the registration of all franchises with the city clerk in a registration book  
21 kept by the clerk. The city council may provide by ordinance for the registration within a  
22 reasonable time of all franchises previously granted.

**SECTION 6.15.**

## Sewer fees.

23  
24  
25 The city council by ordinance shall have the power to assess and collect fees, charges, and  
26 tolls for sewers, sanitary and health services, or any other services provided or made  
27 available inside or outside the corporate limits of the city for the total cost to the city of  
28 providing or making available such services. If unpaid, such charges shall be collected as  
29 provided in Section 6.18 of this charter.

**SECTION 6.16.**

## Roads.

The city council by ordinance shall have the power to assess, charge, and collect the costs of constructing, reconstructing, widening, or improving any public way, street, sidewalk, curbing, gutters, sewers, or other utility mains and appurtenances from the abutting property owners under such terms and conditions as are reasonable. If unpaid, such charges shall be collected as provided in Section 6.18 of this charter.

**SECTION 6.17.**

## Other taxes.

This city shall be empowered to levy any other tax allowed now or hereafter by law, and the specific mention of any right, power, or authority in this article shall not be construed as limiting in any way the general powers of this city to govern its local affairs.

**SECTION 6.18.**

## Collection of delinquent taxes.

The city council by ordinance may provide generally for the collection of delinquent taxes, fees, or other revenue due the city under Sections 6.10 through 6.17 of this charter by whatever reasonable means as are not precluded by law. This shall include providing for the dates when the taxes or fees are due, late penalties or interest, issuance and execution of fi. fas., creation and priority of liens, making delinquent taxes and fees personal debts of the persons required to pay the taxes or fees imposed, revoking city licenses for failure to pay any city taxes or fees, and providing for the assignment or transfer of tax executions.

**SECTION 6.19.**

## Borrowing.

The city council shall have the power to issue bonds for the purpose of raising revenue to carry out any project, program, or venture authorized under this charter or the laws of the state. Such bonding authority shall be exercised in accordance with the laws governing bond issuance by municipalities in effect at the time said issue is undertaken.

**SECTION 6.20.**

## Revenue bonds.

Revenue bonds may be issued by the city council as state law now or hereafter provides. Such bonds are to be paid out of any revenue produced by the project, program, or venture for which they were issued.

**SECTION 6.21.**

## Loans.

The city may obtain short-term loans and must repay such loans not later than December 31 of each year, unless otherwise provided by law.

**SECTION 6.22.**

## Accounting and budgeting.

The city council shall set the fiscal year by ordinance. This fiscal year shall constitute the budget year and the year for financial accounting and reporting of each and every office, department, agency, and activity of the city government.

**SECTION 6.23.**

## Budget ordinance.

The city council shall provide an ordinance on the procedures and requirements for the preparation and execution of an annual operating budget, a capital improvement program, and a capital budget, including requirements as to the scope, content, and form of such budgets and programs. The city council shall comply with the provisions of Chapter 81 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A.

**SECTION 6.24.**

## Operating budget.

On or before a date fixed by the city council but not later than 60 days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the mayor shall submit to the city council a proposed operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The budget shall be accompanied by a message from the mayor containing a statement of the general fiscal policies of the city, the important features of the budget, explanations of major changes recommended for the next fiscal year, a general

1 summary of the budget, and such other comments and information as the mayor may deem  
2 pertinent. The operating budget, the capital improvements budget, the budget message, and  
3 all supporting documents shall be filed in the office of the city clerk and shall be open to  
4 public inspection.

5 **SECTION 6.25.**

6 Adoption.

7 (a) The city council may amend the operating budget proposed by the mayor, except that  
8 the budget as finally amended and adopted must provide for all expenditures required by  
9 state law or by other provisions of this charter and for all debt service requirements for the  
10 ensuing fiscal year. The total appropriations from any fund shall not exceed the estimated  
11 fund balance, reserves, and revenues.

12 (b) After the conducting of a budget hearing, the city council shall adopt the final operating  
13 budget for the ensuing fiscal year not later than the second Tuesday in November of each  
14 year. If the city council fails to adopt the budget by said date, the amounts appropriated for  
15 operation for the then current fiscal year shall be deemed adopted for the ensuing fiscal year  
16 on a month-to-month basis, with all items prorated accordingly, until such time as the city  
17 council adopts a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. Adoption of the budget shall take the  
18 form of an appropriations ordinance setting out the estimated revenues in detail by sources  
19 and making appropriations according to fund and by organizational unit, purpose, or activity  
20 as set out in the budget preparation ordinance adopted pursuant to Section 6.23 of this  
21 charter.

22 (c) The amount set out in the adopted operating budget for each organizational unit shall  
23 constitute the annual appropriation for such, and no expenditure shall be made or  
24 encumbrance created in excess of the otherwise unencumbered balance of the appropriations  
25 or allotments thereof to which it is chargeable.

26 **SECTION 6.26.**

27 Levy of taxes.

28 Following adoption of the operating budget, the city council shall levy by ordinance such  
29 taxes as are necessary. The taxes and tax rates set by such ordinance shall be such that  
30 reasonable estimates of revenues from such levy shall at least be sufficient, together with  
31 other anticipated revenues, fund balances, and applicable reserves, to equal the total amount  
32 appropriated for each of the several funds set forth in the annual operating budget for  
33 defraying the expense of the general government of this city.

**SECTION 6.27.**

## Changes in budget.

The city council by majority vote may make changes in the appropriations contained in the current operating budget at any regular meeting or special or emergency meeting called for such purposes.

**SECTION 6.28.**

## Capital improvements.

(a) On or before the date fixed by the city council, but not later than 60 days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the mayor shall submit to the city council a proposed capital improvements budget with any recommendations as to the means of financing the improvements proposed for the ensuing year. The city council shall have the power to accept, with or without amendments, or reject the proposed program and proposed means of financing. The city council shall not authorize an expenditure for the construction of any building, structure, work, or improvement, unless the appropriations for such project are included in the capital improvements budget, except to meet a public emergency as provided in Section 3.17 of this charter.

(b) After the conducting of a public hearing, the city council shall adopt by ordinance the final capital improvements budget for the ensuing fiscal year not later than the second Tuesday in November of each year. No appropriations provided for in a prior capital improvements budget shall lapse until the purpose for which the appropriations were made shall have been accomplished or abandoned; provided, however, the mayor may submit amendments to the capital improvements budget at any time during the fiscal year, accompanied by any recommendations. Any such amendments to the capital improvements budget shall become effective only upon adoption by majority vote of the city council.

**SECTION 6.29.**

## Audits.

There shall be an annual independent audit of all city accounts, funds, and financial transactions by a certified public accountant selected by the city council. The audit shall be conducted according to generally accepted accounting principles. Any audit of any funds by the state or federal government may be accepted as satisfying the requirements of this charter. Copies of all audit reports shall be available at printing costs to the public.



**ARTICLE VII****GENERAL PROVISIONS****SECTION 7.10.**

Bonds for officials.

The officers and employees of this city, both elected and appointed, shall execute such surety or fidelity bonds in such amounts and upon such terms and conditions as the city council shall from time to time require by ordinance or as may be provided by law.

**SECTION 7.11.**

Rules and regulations.

All ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations now in force in the city not inconsistent with this charter are declared valid and of full effect and force until amended or repealed by the city council.

**SECTION 7.12.**

Charter language on other general matters.

Except as specifically provided otherwise by this charter, all rights, claims, actions, orders, contracts, and legal or administrative proceedings shall continue and any such ongoing work or cases shall be completed by such city agencies, personnel, or offices as may be provided by the city council.

**SECTION 7.13.**

Definitions and construction.

(a) Section captions in this charter are informative only and shall not be considered as a part thereof.

(b) The word "shall" is mandatory and the word "may" is permissive.

(c) The singular shall include the plural, the masculine shall include the feminine, and vice versa.

**SECTION 7.14.**

Submission for approval.

It shall be the duty of the attorney for the City of Lilly to submit this Act for approval pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1975, as amended.

**SECTION 7.15.**

Specific repealer.

An Act entitled "An Act to amend, consolidate and supersede the Act incorporating the city of Lilly, in the county of Dooly, State of Georgia," approved August 21, 1911 (Ga. L. 1911, p. 1323), and all amendatory Acts thereto, are repealed.

**SECTION 7.16.**

General repealer.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.