

House Bill 1604

By: Representative Borders of the 142<sup>nd</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To provide a new charter for the City of Remerton; to provide for incorporation, boundaries,  
2 and powers of the city; to provide for a governing authority of such city and the powers,  
3 duties, authority, election, terms, vacancies, compensation, expenses, qualifications,  
4 prohibitions, conflicts of interest, and suspension and removal from office relative to  
5 members of such governing authority; to provide for inquiries and investigations; to provide  
6 for oaths, organization, meetings, quorum, voting, rules, and procedures; to provide for  
7 ordinances and codes; to provide for a mayor and mayor pro tempore and certain duties,  
8 powers, and other matters relative thereto; to provide for administrative affairs and  
9 responsibilities; to provide for boards, commissions, and authorities; to provide for a city  
10 attorney, a city clerk, and other personnel and matters relating thereto; to provide for rules  
11 and regulations; to provide for a municipal court and the judge or judges thereof and other  
12 matters relative to those judges; to provide for the court's jurisdiction, powers, practices, and  
13 procedures; to provide for the right of certiorari; to provide for elections; to provide for  
14 taxation, licenses, and fees; to provide for franchises, service charges, and assessments; to  
15 provide for bonded and other indebtedness; to provide for auditing, accounting, budgeting,  
16 and appropriations; to provide for city contracts and purchasing; to provide for the  
17 conveyance of property and interests therein; to provide for bonds for officials; to provide  
18 for prior ordinances, rules and regulations, pending matters, and existing personnel; to  
19 provide for penalties; to provide for definitions and construction; to provide for other matters  
20 relative to the foregoing; to repeal a specific Act; to provide an effective date; to repeal  
21 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

# ARTICLE I

## INCORPORATION AND POWERS

### SECTION 1.10.

Name.

5 This city and the inhabitants thereof are constituted and declared a body politic and corporate  
6 under the name and style City of Remerton, Georgia, and by that name shall have perpetual  
7 succession.

## SECTION 1.11.

## Corporate boundaries.

10 (a) The boundaries of this city shall be those established by the Act incorporating the Town  
11 of Remerton, Georgia, approved April 19, 2000 (Ga. L. 2000, p. 4220), with such alterations  
12 as may be made from time to time, after this charter becomes effective, in the manner  
13 provided by law. The boundaries of this city at all times shall be shown on a map, a written  
14 description, or any combination thereof, to be retained permanently in the office of the city  
15 clerk and to be designated, as the case may be: "Official Map or Description of the corporate  
16 limits of the City of Remerton, Georgia." Photographic, typed, or other copies of such map  
17 or description certified by the city clerk shall be admitted as evidence in all courts and shall  
18 have the same force and effect as with the original map or description.

19 (b) The city council may provide for the redrawing of any such map by ordinance to reflect  
20 lawful changes in the corporate boundaries. A redrawn map shall supersede for all purposes  
21 the entire map or maps which it is designated to replace.

## SECTION 1.12.

## Powers and construction.

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

28 (b) The powers of this city shall be construed liberally in favor of the city. The specific  
29 mention or failure to mention particular powers shall not be construed as limiting in any way  
30 the powers of this city. These powers shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

31 (1) Animal regulations. To regulate and license or to prohibit the keeping or running at  
32 large of animals and fowl and to provide for the impoundment of same if in violation of

any ordinance or lawful order; to provide for the disposition by sale, gift, or humane destruction of animals and fowl when not redeemed as provided by ordinance; and to provide punishment for violation of ordinances enacted under this charter;

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

(3) Building regulation. To regulate and to license the erection and construction of buildings and all other structures; to adopt building, housing, plumbing, electrical, gas, and heating and air-conditioning codes; and to regulate all housing and building trades;

(4) Business regulation and taxation. To levy and to provide for collection of regulatory fees and taxes on privileges, occupations, trades, and professions as authorized by Title 48 of the O.C.G.A. or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted; to permit and regulate the same; to provide for the manner and method of payment of such regulatory fees and taxes; and to revoke such permits after due process for failure to pay any city taxes or fees;

(5) Condemnation. To condemn property, inside or outside the corporate limits of the city, for present or future use and for any corporate purpose deemed necessary by the governing authority, utilizing procedures enumerated in Title 22 of the O.C.G.A. or such other applicable laws as are now or may hereafter be enacted;

(6) Contracts. To enter into contracts and agreements with other governmental entities and with private persons, firms, and corporations;

(7) Emergencies. To establish procedures for determining and proclaiming that an emergency situation exists within or outside the city and to make and carry out all reasonable provisions deemed necessary to deal with or meet such an emergency for the protection, safety, health, or well-being of the citizens of the city;

(8) Environmental protection. To protect and preserve the natural resources, environment, and vital areas of the state through the preservation and improvement of air quality, the restoration and maintenance of water resources, the control of erosion and sedimentation, the management of solid and hazardous waste, and other necessary actions for the protection of the environment;

(9) Fire regulations. To fix and establish fire limits and from time to time to extend, enlarge, or restrict the same; to prescribe fire safety regulations not inconsistent with general law, relating to both fire prevention and detection and to fire fighting; and to prescribe penalties and punishment for violations thereof;

(10) Garbage fees. To levy, fix, assess, and collect a garbage, refuse, and trash collection and disposal and other sanitary service charge, tax, or fee for such services as may be

1 necessary in the operation of the city from all individuals, firms, and corporations  
2 residing in or doing business in the city benefiting from such services; to enforce the  
3 payment of such charges, taxes, or fees; and to provide for the manner and method of  
4 collecting such service charges;

5 (11) General health, safety, and welfare. To define, regulate, and prohibit any act,  
6 practice, conduct, or use of property which is detrimental to health, sanitation,  
7 cleanliness, welfare, and safety of the inhabitants of the city and to provide for the  
8 enforcement of such standards;

9 (12) Gifts. To accept or refuse gifts, donations, bequests, or grants from any source for  
10 any purpose related to powers and duties of the city and the general welfare of its  
11 citizens, on such terms and conditions as the donor or grantor may impose;

12 (13) Health and sanitation. To prescribe standards of health and sanitation and to provide  
13 for the enforcement of such standards;

14 (14) Jail sentences. To provide that persons given jail sentences in the municipal court  
15 may work out such sentences in any public works or on the streets, roads, drains, and  
16 other public property in the city; to provide for commitment of such persons to any jail;  
17 or to provide for commitment of such persons to any county work camp or county jail by  
18 agreement with the appropriate county officials;

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

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

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

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

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

35 (20) Municipal utilities. To acquire, lease, construct, operate, maintain, sell, and dispose  
36 of public utilities, including but not limited to a system of waterworks, sewers and drains,  
37 sewage disposal, gas works, electric light plants, cable television and other

1       telecommunications, transportation facilities, public airports, and any other public utility;  
2       and to fix the taxes, charges, rates, fares, fees, assessments, regulations, and penalties and  
3       to provide for the withdrawal of service for refusal or failure to pay the same;

4       (21) Nuisance. To define a nuisance and provide for its abatement whether on public or  
5       private property;

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

8       (23) Planning and zoning. To provide comprehensive city planning for development by  
9       zoning; and to provide subdivision regulation and the like as the city council deems  
10      necessary and reasonable to ensure a safe, healthy, and esthetically pleasing community;

11      (24) Police and fire protection. To exercise the power of arrest through duly appointed  
12      police officers and to establish, operate, or contract for a police and a fire-fighting  
13      agency;

14      (25) Public hazards; removal. To provide for the destruction and removal of any building  
15      or other structure which is or may become dangerous or detrimental to the public;

16      (26) Public improvements. To provide for the acquisition, construction, building,  
17      operation, and maintenance of public ways, parks and playgrounds, public grounds,  
18      recreational facilities, cemeteries, markets and market houses, public buildings, libraries,  
19      sewers, drains, sewage treatment, waterworks, electrical systems, gas systems, other  
20      public utilities, public housing, airports, hospitals, terminals, docks, parking facilities, and  
21      charitable, cultural, educational, recreational, conservation, sport, curative, corrective,  
22      detention, penal, and medical institutions, agencies, and facilities; and to provide any  
23      other public improvements, inside or outside the corporate limits of the city; to regulate  
24      the use of public improvements; and, for such purposes, property may be acquired by  
25      condemnation under Title 22 of the O.C.G.A. or such other applicable laws as are now  
26      or may hereafter be enacted;

27      (27) Public peace. To provide for the prevention and punishment of drunkenness, riots,  
28      and public disturbances;

29      (28) Public transportation. To organize and operate or contract for such public  
30      transportation systems as are deemed beneficial;

31      (29) Public utilities and services. To grant franchises or make contracts for or impose  
32      taxes on public utilities and public service companies and to prescribe the rates, fares,  
33      regulations, and standards and conditions of service applicable to the service to be  
34      provided by the franchise grantee or contractor, insofar as not in conflict with valid  
35      regulations of the Georgia Public Service Commission;

36      (30) Regulation of roadside areas. To prohibit or regulate and control the erection,  
37      removal, and maintenance of signs, billboards, trees, shrubs, fences, buildings, and any

1 and all other structures or obstructions upon or adjacent to the rights of way of streets and  
2 roads or within view thereof, within or abutting the corporate limits of the city; and to  
3 prescribe penalties and punishment for violation of such ordinances;

4 (31) Retirement. To provide and maintain a retirement plan for officers and employees  
5 of the city;

6 (32) Roadways. To lay out, open, extend, widen, narrow, establish or change the grade  
7 of, abandon or close, construct, pave, curb, gutter, adorn with shade trees, or otherwise  
8 improve, maintain, repair, clean, prevent erosion of, and light the roads, alleys, and  
9 walkways within the corporate limits of the city; and to grant franchises and rights of way  
10 throughout the streets and roads and over the bridges and viaducts for the use of public  
11 utilities; and to require real estate owners to repair and maintain in a safe condition the  
12 sidewalks adjoining their lots or lands and to impose penalties for failure to do so;

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

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

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

32 (36) Special assessments. To levy and provide for the collection of special assessments  
33 to cover the costs for any public improvements;

34 (37) Taxes: ad valorem. To levy and provide for the assessment, valuation, revaluation,  
35 and collection of taxes on all property subject to taxation;

36 (38) Taxes: other. To levy and collect such other taxes as may be allowed now or in the  
37 future by law;

(39) Taxicabs. To regulate and license vehicles operated for hire in the city; to limit the number of such vehicles; to require the operators thereof to be licensed; to require public liability insurance on such vehicles in the amounts to be prescribed by ordinance; and to regulate the parking of such vehicles;

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

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

## SECTION 1.13.

## Exercise of powers.

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

## ARTICLE II

## GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

## SECTION 2.10.

## **City council; creation; number; election.**

28 The legislative authority of the government of this city, except as otherwise specifically  
29 provided in this charter, shall be vested in a city council to be composed of a mayor and five  
30 councilmembers. The city council established in this charter shall in all respects be a  
31 successor to and continuation of the city governing authority under prior law. The mayor and  
32 councilmembers shall be elected in the manner provided by this charter.

**SECTION 2.11.**

City councilmembers;  
terms and qualifications for office.

The members of the city council shall serve for terms of four years and until their respective successors are elected and qualified. The term of office of each member of the city council shall begin on the first day of January immediately following the election of such member unless general law authorizes or requires the term to begin at the first organizational meeting in January or upon some other date. No person shall be eligible to serve as mayor or councilmember unless that person shall have been a resident of the city for 12 months prior to the date of the election of mayor or members of the city council. Each shall continue to reside therein during that person's period of service and to be registered and qualified to vote in municipal elections of this city. For purposes of the municipal general election in 2007, and each succeeding municipal election, the five councilmembers shall, without being required to reside in any particular area in the city, serve at large.

**SECTION 2.12.**

Vacancy; filling of vacancies; suspensions.

(a) Vacancies – The office of mayor or councilmember shall become vacant upon such person's failing or ceasing to reside in the city or upon the occurrence of any event specified by the Constitution, Title 45 of the O.C.G.A., or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.

(b) Filling of vacancies – A vacancy in the office of mayor or councilmember shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term, if any, by appointment if less than 12 months remain in the unexpired term, otherwise by an election as provided for in Section 5.14 of this charter and Titles 21 and 45 of the O.C.G.A. or such other laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.

(c) Suspension – 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 for the remainder of the unexpired term, if any, as provided for in this charter.

**SECTION 2.13.**

## Compensation and expenses.

The mayor and councilmembers shall receive compensation and expenses for their services as provided by ordinance.

**SECTION 2.14.**

## Conflicts of interest; holding other offices.

(a) Elected and appointed officers of the city are trustees and servants of the residents of the city and shall act in a fiduciary capacity for the benefit of such residents.

(b) Conflict of interest – 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 that person's official duties or which would tend to impair the independence of that person's judgment or action in the performance of that person's 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 that person's official duties or would tend to impair the independence of that person's judgment or action in the performance of that person's official duties;

(3) Disclose confidential information, including information obtained at meetings which are closed pursuant to Chapter 14 of Title 50 of the O.C.G.A., concerning the property, government, or affairs of the governmental body by which that person is engaged without proper legal authorization or use such information to advance the financial or other private interest of that person or others;

(4) Accept any valuable gift, whether in the form of service, loan, thing, or promise, from any person, firm, or corporation which to that person's knowledge is interested, directly or indirectly, in any manner whatsoever, in business dealings with the governmental body by which that person 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 that person has a financial interest.

1       (c) Disclosure – Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee who shall have any  
2 financial interest, directly or indirectly, in any contract or matter pending before or within  
3 any department of the city shall disclose such interest to the city council. The mayor or any  
4 councilmember who has a financial interest in any matter pending before the city council  
5 shall disclose such interest and such disclosure shall be entered on the records of the city  
6 council, and that person shall disqualify himself or herself from participating in any decision  
7 or vote relating thereto. Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee of any agency  
8 or political entity to which this charter applies who shall have any financial interest, directly  
9 or indirectly, in any contract or matter pending before or within such entity shall disclose  
10 such interest to the governing body of such agency or entity.

11     (d) Use of public property – No elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the city  
12 or any agency or entity to which this charter applies shall use property owned by such  
13 governmental entity for personal benefit, convenience, or profit except in accordance with  
14 policies promulgated by the city council or the governing body of such agency or entity.

15     (e) Contracts voidable and rescindable – Any violation of this section which occurs with the  
16 knowledge, express or implied, of a party to a contract or sale shall render such contract or  
17 sale voidable at the option of the city council.

18     (f) Ineligibility of elected official – Except where authorized by law, neither the mayor nor  
19 any councilmember shall hold any other elective or compensated appointive office in the city  
20 or otherwise be employed by said government or any agency thereof during the term for  
21 which that person was elected. No former councilmember and no former mayor shall hold  
22 any compensated appointive office in the city until one year after the expiration of the term  
23 for which that person was elected.

24     (g) Political activities of certain officers and employees – No appointed officer and no  
25 employee of the city shall continue in such employment upon qualifying as a candidate for  
26 nomination or election to any City of Remerton public office. No employee of the city shall  
27 continue in such employment upon election to any public office in this city or any other  
28 public office which is inconsistent, incompatible, or in conflict with the duties of the city  
29 employee. Such determination shall be made by the mayor and city council either  
30 immediately upon election or at any time such conflict may arise.

31     (h) Penalties for violation –

32       (1) Any city officer or employee who knowingly conceals such financial interest or  
33 knowingly violates any of the requirements of this section shall be guilty of malfeasance  
34 in office or position and shall be deemed to have forfeited that person's office or position.  
35       (2) Any officer or employee of the city who shall forfeit that person's office or position  
36 as described in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be ineligible for appointment or

1 election to or employment in a position in the city government for a period of three years  
2 thereafter.

## **SECTION 2.15.**

## Inquiries and investigations.

5 Following the adoption of an authorizing resolution, the city council may make inquiries and  
6 investigations into the affairs of the city and conduct of any department, office, or agency  
7 thereof and for this purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony, and  
8 require the production of evidence. Any person who fails or refuses to obey a lawful order  
9 issued in the exercise of these powers by the city council shall be punished as may be  
10 provided by ordinance.

## SECTION 2.16.

General power and authority of the city council.

13 Except as otherwise provided by law or this charter, the city council shall be vested with all  
14 powers of government of this city.

## **SECTION 2.17.**

## Organizational meetings.

17 The city council shall hold an organizational meeting on the first Tuesday in January  
18 following the election of city officials. The meeting shall be called to order by the city  
19 attorney and the oath of office shall be administered by the city attorney to the newly elected  
20 members as follows:

21 "I do solemnly (swear) (affirm) that I will faithfully perform the duties of (mayor)  
22 (councilmember) of this city and that I will support and defend the charter thereof as well  
23 as the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia and the United States of America."

## **SECTION 2.18.**

## Meetings.

26 (a) The city council shall hold regular meetings at such times and places as shall be  
27 prescribed by ordinance.

28 (b) Special meetings of the city council may be held on call of the mayor or three members  
29 of the city council. Notice of such special meeting shall be served on all other members

1 personally, or by telephone personally, at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Such  
2 notice to councilmembers shall not be required if the mayor and all councilmembers are  
3 present when the special meeting is called. Such notice of any special meeting may be  
4 waived by a councilmember in writing before or after such a meeting and attendance at the  
5 meeting shall also constitute a waiver of notice on any business transacted in such  
6 councilmember's presence. Only the business stated in the call may be transacted at the  
7 special meeting.

8 (c) All meetings of the city council shall be public to the extent required by law, and notice  
9 to the public of special meetings shall be made as fully as is reasonably possible as provided  
10 by Code Section 50-14-1 of the O.C.G.A. or other such applicable laws as are or may  
11 hereafter be enacted.

## **SECTION 2.19.**

## Rules of procedure.

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

17 (b) All committees and committee chairpersons and officers of the city council shall be  
18 appointed by the city council and shall serve at the pleasure of the city council, all  
19 determined by majority vote of the city council.

## **SECTION 2.20.**

## Quorum; voting.

22 Three councilmembers shall constitute a quorum and shall be authorized to transact business  
23 of the city council. Voting on the adoption of ordinances shall be by voice vote and the vote  
24 shall be recorded in the journal, but any councilmember shall have the right to request a  
25 roll-call vote and such vote shall be recorded in the journal. Except as otherwise provided  
26 in this charter, the affirmative vote of three councilmembers shall be required for the  
27 adoption of any ordinance, resolution, or motion.

## SECTION 2.21.

## Ordinance form; procedures.

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

1 enacting clause shall be "It is hereby ordained by the governing authority of the City of  
2 Remerton..." and every ordinance shall so begin.  
3 (b) An ordinance may be introduced by any councilmember and be read at a regular, special,  
4 or work meeting of the city council where an agenda applies. Ordinances shall be considered  
5 and adopted or rejected by the city council in accordance with the rules which it shall  
6 establish; provided, however, an ordinance shall not be adopted the same day it is introduced,  
7 except for emergency ordinances provided for in Section 2.23 of this charter. Upon  
8 introduction of any ordinance, the clerk shall as soon as possible distribute a copy to the  
9 mayor and to each councilmember and shall file a reasonable number of copies in the office  
10 of the clerk and at such other public places as the city council may designate.

## SECTION 2.22.

## **Actions requiring an ordinance.**

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

## **SECTION 2.23.**

## Emergencies.

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

1       (b) Such meetings shall be open to the public to the extent required by law and notice to the  
2       public of emergency meetings shall be made as fully as is reasonably possible in accordance  
3       with Code Section 50-14-1 of the O.C.G.A. or such other applicable laws as are or may  
4       hereafter be enacted.

## SECTION 2.24.

## Codes of technical regulations.

7 (a) The city council may adopt any standard code of technical regulations by reference  
8 thereto in an adopting ordinance. The procedure and requirements governing such adopting  
9 ordinance shall be as prescribed for ordinances generally except that:

10 (1) The requirements of subsection (b) of Section 2.21 of this charter for distribution and  
11 filing of copies of the ordinance shall be construed to include copies of any code of  
12 technical regulations, as well as the adopting ordinance; and

13       (2) A copy of each adopted code of technical regulations, as well as the adopting  
14       ordinance, shall be authenticated and recorded by the clerk pursuant to Section 2.25 of  
15       this charter.

16 (b) Copies of any adopted code of technical regulations shall be made available by the clerk  
17 for inspection by the public.

## SECTION 2.25.

Signing; authenticating;  
recording; codification; printing.

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

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

31 (c) The city council shall cause each ordinance and each amendment to this charter to be  
32 printed promptly following its adoption, and the printed ordinances and charter amendments  
33 shall be made available for purchase by the public at reasonable prices to be fixed by the city

1 council. Following publication of the first code under this charter and at all times thereafter,  
2 the ordinances and charter amendments shall be printed in substantially the same style as the  
3 code currently in effect and shall be suitable in form for incorporation therein. The city  
4 council shall make such further arrangements as deemed desirable with reproduction and  
5 distribution of any current changes in or additions to codes of technical regulations and other  
6 rules and regulations included in the code.

## **SECTION 2.26.**

## Election of mayor; forfeiture; compensation.

9 The mayor shall be elected and serve for a term of four years and until the mayor's successor  
10 is elected and qualified. The mayor shall be a qualified elector of this city and shall have  
11 been a resident of this city for 12 months immediately preceding the mayor's election. The  
12 mayor shall continue to reside in this city during the period of the mayor's service. The  
13 mayor shall forfeit that office on the same grounds and under the same procedure as for  
14 councilmembers. The compensation of the mayor shall be established in the same manner  
15 as for councilmembers.

## SECTION 2.27.

#### **Chief executive officer; delegation of powers.**

18 The mayor shall be the chief executive of this city. The mayor shall possess all of the  
19 executive and administrative powers granted to the city under the Constitution and laws of  
20 the State of Georgia and all of the executive and administrative powers contained in this  
21 charter.

## SECTION 2.28.

## Powers and duties of mayor.

24 As the chief executive of this city, the mayor shall:

- 25 (1) See that all laws and ordinances of the city are faithfully executed;

26 (2) Exercise supervision over all executive and administrative work of the city and

27 provide for the coordination of administrative activities;

28 (3) Recommend to the councilmembers such measures relative to the affairs of the city,

29 improvement of the government, and promotion of the welfare of its inhabitants as the

30 mayor may deem expedient;

- (4) Call special meetings of the councilmembers as provided for in subsection (b) of Section 2.18 of this charter;
- (5) Provide for an annual audit of all accounts of the city;
- (6) Perform such other duties as may be required by law, this charter, or ordinance;
- (7) Participate in the discussion of all matters brought before the councilmembers; and
- (8) Sign as a matter of course all written contracts, ordinances, and other instruments executed by the city which by law are required to be in writing.

## SECTION 2.29.

Mayor pro tempore; selection; duties.

By a majority vote, the councilmembers shall elect a councilmember to serve as mayor pro tempore. The mayor pro tempore shall preside at all meetings of the councilmembers and shall assume the duties and powers of the mayor upon the mayor's physical or mental disability or absence. The councilmembers by a majority vote shall elect a new presiding officer from among its members for any period in which the mayor pro tempore is disabled, absent, or acting as mayor. Any such absence or disability shall be declared by majority vote of all councilmembers.

## ARTICLE III

### ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS

#### SECTION 3.10.

Administrative and service departments.

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

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

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

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

**SECTION 3.11.**

## Boards, commissions, and authorities.

- 3 (a) The city council shall create by ordinance such boards, commissions, and authorities to  
4 fulfill any investigative, quasi-judicial, or quasi-legislative function the city council deems  
5 necessary and shall by ordinance establish the composition, period of existence, duties, and  
6 powers thereof.
- 7 (b) All members of boards, commissions, and authorities of the city shall be appointed by  
8 the city council for such terms of office and in such manner as shall be provided by  
9 ordinance, except where other appointing authority, terms of office, or manner of  
10 appointment is prescribed by this charter or by law.
- 11 (c) The city council by ordinance may provide for the compensation and reimbursement for  
12 actual and necessary expenses of the members of any board, commission, or authority.
- 13 (d) Except as otherwise provided by charter or by law, no member of any board,  
14 commission, or authority shall hold any elective office in the city.
- 15 (e) Any vacancy on a board, commission, or authority of the city shall be filled for the  
16 unexpired term in the manner prescribed in this charter for original appointment, except as  
17 otherwise provided by this charter or by law.
- 18 (f) No member of a board, commission, or authority shall assume office until that person has  
19 executed and filed with the clerk of the city an oath obligating that person to perform  
20 faithfully and impartially the duties of that person's office; such oath shall be prescribed by  
21 ordinance and administered by the mayor.
- 22 (g) All members of boards, commissions, or authorities of the city serve at will and may be  
23 removed at any time by the city council unless otherwise provided by law.
- 24 (h) Except as otherwise provided by this charter or by law, each board, commission, or  
25 authority of the city shall elect one of its members as chairperson and one member as vice  
26 chairperson and may elect as its secretary one of its own members or may appoint as  
27 secretary an employee of the city. Each board, commission, or authority of the city  
28 government may establish such bylaws, rules, and regulations, not inconsistent with this  
29 charter, ordinances of the city, or law, as it deems appropriate and necessary for the  
30 fulfillment of its duties or the conduct of its affairs. Copies of such bylaws, rules, and  
31 regulations shall be filed with the clerk of the city.

**SECTION 3.12.**

2 City attorney.

3 The city council shall appoint a city attorney, together with such assistant city attorneys as  
4 may be authorized, and shall provide for the payment of such attorney or attorneys for  
5 services rendered to the city. The city attorney shall be responsible for providing for the  
6 representation and defense of the city in all litigation in which the city is a party; may be the  
7 judge of the municipal court or may be the prosecuting officer in the municipal court, but  
8 may not be both; shall attend the meetings of the city council as directed; shall advise the  
9 councilmembers, mayor, and other officers and employees of the city concerning legal  
10 aspects of the city's affairs; and shall perform such other duties as may be required by virtue  
11 of such person's position as city attorney.

**SECTION 3.13.**

12 City clerk.

13 The city council shall appoint a city clerk who shall not be a councilmember. The city clerk  
14 shall be custodian of the official city seal and city records; maintain city council records  
15 required by this charter; and perform such other duties as may be required by the city  
16 council.

**SECTION 3.14.**

17 Position classification and pay plans.

18 The city council shall be responsible for the preparation and approval of a position  
19 classification and pay plan. Such plan may apply to all employees of the city and any of its  
20 agencies, departments, boards, commissions, or authorities. When a pay plan has been  
21 adopted, the city council shall not increase or decrease the salary range applicable to any  
22 position except by amendment of such pay plan. For purposes of this section, all elected and  
23 appointed city officials are not city employees.

**SECTION 3.15.**

24 Personnel policies.

25 All employees serve at will and may be removed from office at any time unless otherwise  
26 provided by ordinance.

## 1                   ARTICLE IV

## 2                   JUDICIAL BRANCH

3                   **SECTION 4.10.**

4                   Creation; name.

5   There shall be a court to be known as the Municipal Court of the City of Remerton.

6                   **SECTION 4.11.**

7                   Chief judge; associate judge.

8   (a) The municipal court shall be presided over by a chief judge and such part-time, full-time,  
9   or stand-by judges as shall be provided by ordinance.10   (b) No person shall be qualified or eligible to serve as a judge on the municipal court unless  
11   that person shall have attained the age of 21 years and shall be a member of the State Bar of  
12   Georgia and shall possess all qualifications required by law. All judges shall be appointed  
13   by the city council and shall serve until a successor is appointed and qualified.

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

15   (d) Judges serve at will and may be removed from office at any time by the city council  
16   unless otherwise provided by ordinance.17   (e) Before assuming office, each judge shall take an oath, given by the city clerk, that such  
18   judge will honestly and faithfully discharge the duties of the judge's office to the best of the  
19   judge's ability and without fear, favor, or partiality. The oath shall be entered upon the  
20   minutes of the city council journal required in Section 2.19 of this charter.21                   **SECTION 4.12.**

22                   Convening.

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

24                   **SECTION 4.13.**

25                   Jurisdiction; powers.

26   (a) The municipal court shall try and punish violations of this charter, all city ordinances,  
27   and such other violations as provided by law.28   (b) The municipal court shall have authority to punish those in its presence for contempt,  
29   provided that such punishment shall not exceed \$300.00 or ten days in jail.

1   (c) The municipal court may fix punishment for offenses within its jurisdiction not  
2 exceeding a fine of \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for six months or both, or may fix punishment  
3 by fine, imprisonment, or alternative sentencing, in the maximum amount as is now or  
4 hereafter provided by law.

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

8 (e) The municipal court shall have authority to establish bail and recognizances to ensure  
9 the presence of those charged with violations before such court and shall have discretionary  
10 authority to accept cash or personal or real property as surety for the appearance of persons  
11 charged with violations. Whenever any person shall give bail for that person's appearance  
12 and shall fail to appear at the time fixed for trial, that person's bond shall be forfeited by the  
13 judge presiding at such time and an execution issued thereon by serving the defendant and  
14 the defendant's sureties with a rule nisi at least two days before a hearing on the rule nisi.  
15 In the event that cash or property is accepted in lieu of bond for security for the appearance  
16 of a defendant at trial, and if such defendant fails to appear at the time and place fixed for  
17 trial, the cash so deposited shall be on order of the judge declared forfeited to the city, or the  
18 property so deposited shall have a lien against it for the value forfeited which lien shall be  
19 enforceable in the same manner and to the same extent as a lien for city property taxes.

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

23 (g) The municipal court may compel the presence of all parties necessary to a proper  
24 disposal of each case by the issuance of summonses, subpoenas, and warrants which may be  
25 served as executed by any officer as authorized by this charter or by law.

26 (h) Each judge of the municipal court shall be authorized to issue warrants for the arrest of  
27 persons charged with offenses against any ordinance of the city, and each judge of the  
28 municipal court shall have the same authority as a magistrate of the state to issue warrants  
29 for offenses against state laws committed within the city.

## SECTION 4.14.

## Certiorari.

32 The right of certiorari from the decision and judgment of the municipal court shall exist in  
33 all criminal cases and ordinance violation cases, and such certiorari shall be obtained under  
34 the sanction of a judge of the Superior Court of Lowndes County under the laws of the State  
35 of Georgia regulating the granting and issuance of writs of certiorari.

**SECTION 4.15.**

Rules for court.

With the approval of the city council, the judge shall have full power and authority to make reasonable rules and regulations necessary and proper to secure the efficient and successful administration of the municipal court; provided, however, that the city council may adopt in part or in toto the rules and regulations applicable to municipal courts. The rules and regulations made or adopted shall be filed with the city clerk, shall be available for public inspection, and, upon request, a copy shall be furnished to all defendants in municipal court proceedings at least 48 hours prior to such proceedings.

**ARTICLE V****ELECTIONS AND REMOVAL****SECTION 5.10.**

Applicability of general law.

All primaries and elections 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 5.11.**

Regular elections; time for holding.

In the year 2007, and every fourth year thereafter, on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November there shall be an election for the mayor and the councilmembers.

**SECTION 5.12.**

Nonpartisan elections.

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

**SECTION 5.13.**

Election by majority vote.

The mayor and councilmembers shall be elected by a majority vote of the votes cast for each position.

**SECTION 5.14.**

Special elections; vacancies.

In the event that the office of the mayor or councilmember shall become vacant as provided in Section 2.12 of this charter, the city council or those remaining shall order a special election to fill the balance of the expired term of such official; provided, however, if such vacancy occurs within 12 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 aspects, the special election shall be held in accordance with Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code," as now or hereafter amended.

**SECTION 5.15**

Other provisions.

Except as otherwise provided by this charter, the city council shall, by ordinance, prescribe such rules and regulations as it deems appropriate to fulfill any options and duties under Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code."

**SECTION 5.16.**

Removal of officers.

(a) A councilmember, the mayor, or other appointed officers provided for in this charter shall be removed from office for any one or more of the causes provided in Title 45 of the O.C.G.A. or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.

(b) Removal of an officer pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be accomplished by one of the following methods:

(1) Following a hearing at which an impartial panel shall render a decision. In the event an elected officer is sought to be removed by the action of the city council, such officer shall be entitled to a written notice specifying the ground or grounds for removal and to a public hearing which shall be held not less than ten days after the service of such written notice. The city council shall provide by ordinance for the manner in which such hearings shall be held. Any elected officer sought to be removed from office as provided in this section shall have the right of appeal from the decision of the city council to the Superior Court of Lowndes County. Such appeal shall be governed by the same rules as govern appeals to the superior court from the probate court; or

(2) By an order of the Superior Court of Lowndes County following a hearing on a complaint seeking such removal brought by any resident of the City of Remerton.

## 1                   ARTICLE VI

## 2                   FINANCE

3                   **SECTION 6.10.**

## 4                   Property tax.

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

11                  **SECTION 6.11.**

## 12                  Millage rate; due dates; payment methods.

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

17                  **SECTION 6.12.**

## 18                  Occupation and business taxes.

19    The city council by ordinance shall have the power to levy such occupation or business taxes  
20   as are not denied by law. The city council may classify businesses, occupations, or  
21   professions for the purpose of such taxation in any way which may be lawful and may  
22   compel the payment of such taxes as provided in Section 6.18 of this charter.

23                  **SECTION 6.13.**

## 24                  Licenses; permits; fees.

25    The city council by ordinance shall have the power to require businesses or practitioners  
26   doing business in this city to obtain a permit for such activity from the city and pay a  
27   regulatory fee for such permit as provided by general law. Such fees shall reflect the total  
28   cost to the City of Remerton of regulating the activity and, if unpaid, shall be collected as  
29   provided in Section 6.18 of this charter.

## SECTION 6.14.

## Franchises.

3     (a) The city council shall have the power to grant franchises for the use of this city's streets  
4 and alleys for the purposes of railroads, street railways, telephone companies, electric  
5 companies, electric membership corporations, cable television and other telecommunications  
6 companies, gas companies, transportation companies, and other similar organizations. The  
7 city council shall determine the duration, terms, whether the same shall be exclusive or  
8 nonexclusive, and the consideration for such franchises; provided, however, no franchise  
9 shall be granted for a period in excess of 35 years and no franchise shall be granted unless  
10 the city receives just and adequate compensation therefor. The city council shall provide for  
11 the registration of all franchises with the city clerk in a registration book kept by the city  
12 clerk. The city council may provide by ordinance for the registration within a reasonable  
13 time of all franchises previously granted.

14 (b) If no franchise agreement is in effect, the city council has the authority to impose a tax  
15 on gross receipts for the use of this city's streets and alleys for the purposes of railroads,  
16 street railways, telephone companies, electric companies, electric membership corporations,  
17 cable television and other telecommunications companies, gas companies, transportation  
18 companies, and other similar organizations.

## SECTION 6.15.

## Service charges.

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

## SECTION 6.16.

## Special assessments.

28 The city council by ordinance shall have the power to assess and collect the cost of  
29 constructing, reconstructing, widening, or improving any public way, street, sidewalk,  
30 curbing, gutters, sewers, or other utility mains and appurtenances from the abutting property

1 owners under such terms and conditions as are reasonable. If unpaid, such charges shall be  
2 collected as provided in Section 6.18 of this charter.

3 **SECTION 6.17.**

4 Construction; other taxes.

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

8 **SECTION 6.18.**

9 Collection of delinquent taxes and fees.

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

17 **SECTION 6.19.**

18 General obligation bonds.

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

23 **SECTION 6.20.**

24 Revenue bonds.

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

**SECTION 6.21.**

Short-term 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.**

Lease-purchase contracts.

The city may enter into multiyear lease, purchase, or lease-purchase contracts for the acquisition of goods, materials, real and personal property, services, and supplies, provided the contract terminates without further obligation on the part of the municipality at the close of the calendar year in which it was executed and at the close of each succeeding calendar year for which it may be renewed. Contracts must be executed in accordance with the requirements of Code Section 36-60-13 of the O.C.G.A., or other such applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.

**SECTION 6.23.**

Fiscal year.

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 6.24.**

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 plan, and a capital budget, including requirements as to the scope, content, and form of such budgets and plans. The city council shall also comply with the budgeting and auditing provisions of Chapter 81 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A.

**SECTION 6.25.**

Operating budget.

On or before a date fixed by the city council but not later than 15 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 summary of the budget, and other pertinent comments and information. The operating budget and the capital budget provided for in Section 6.29 of this charter, the budget message, and all supporting documents shall be filed in the office of the city clerk and shall be open to public inspection.

**SECTION 6.26.**

Action by city council on budget.

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

(b) The city council by ordinance shall adopt the final operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year not later than May 15 of each year. If the city council fails to adopt the budget by said date, the amounts appropriated for operation for the then current fiscal year shall be deemed adopted for the ensuing fiscal year on a month-to-month basis, with all items prorated accordingly, until such time as the city council adopts a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. Adoption of the budget shall take the form of an appropriations ordinance setting out the estimated revenues in detail by sources and making appropriations according to fund and by organizational unit, purpose, or activity as set out in the budget preparation ordinance adopted pursuant to Section 6.24 of this charter.

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

**SECTION 6.27.**

Levy of taxes.

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

**SECTION 6.28.**

Changes in appropriations.

The city council by ordinance may make changes in the appropriations contained in the current operating budget at any regular meeting or special or emergency meeting called for such purpose, but any additional appropriations may be made only from an existing unexpended surplus.

**SECTION 6.29.**

Capital improvements.

(a) On or before the date fixed by the city council, but not later than 30 days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the councilmembers shall consider a capital improvements plan with a recommended capital budget containing the means of financing the improvements proposed for the ensuing fiscal year.

(b) The city council shall adopt by ordinance the final capital budget for the ensuing fiscal year not later than March 15 of each year. No appropriation provided for in a prior capital budget shall lapse until the purpose for which the appropriation was made shall have been accomplished or abandoned; provided, however, the mayor may submit amendments to the capital budget at any time during the fiscal year, accompanied by recommendations. Any such amendments to the capital budget shall become effective only upon adoption by ordinance.

**SECTION 6.30.**

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

1 conducted according to generally accepted auditing principles. Any audit of any funds by  
2 the state or federal governments may be accepted as satisfying the requirements of this  
3 charter. Copies of annual audit reports shall be available at printing costs to the public.

4 **SECTION 6.31.**

5 Contracts.

6 No contract with the city shall be binding on the city unless:

- 7 (1) It is in writing;
- 8 (2) It is drawn by or submitted and reviewed by the city attorney and, as a matter of  
9 course, is signed by the city attorney to indicate such drafting or review; and
- 10 (3) It is made or authorized by the city council and such approval is entered in the city  
11 council journal of proceedings pursuant to Section 2.19 of this charter.

12 **SECTION 6.32.**

13 Purchasing.

14 The city council shall by ordinance prescribe procedures for a system of centralized  
15 purchasing for the city.

16 **SECTION 6.33.**

17 Sale and lease of property.

18 (a) The city council may sell and convey or lease any real or personal property owned or  
19 held by the city for governmental or other purposes as now or hereafter provided by law.

20 (b) The city council may quitclaim any rights it may have in property not needed for public  
21 purposes upon report by the mayor and adoption of a resolution, both finding that the  
22 property is not needed for public or other purposes and that the interest of the city has no  
23 readily ascertainable monetary value.

24 (c) Whenever in opening, extending, or widening any street, avenue, alley, or public place  
25 of the city a small parcel or tract of land is cut off or separated by such work from a larger  
26 tract or boundary of land owned by the city, the city council may sell and convey said cut-off  
27 or separated parcel or tract of land to an abutting or adjoining property owner or owners  
28 where such sale and conveyance facilitates the highest and best use of the abutting owner's  
29 property. Included in the sales contract shall be a provision for the rights of way of said  
30 street, avenue, alley, or public place. Each abutting property owner shall be notified of the  
31 availability of the property and given the opportunity to purchase said property under such

1 terms and conditions as set out by ordinance. All deeds and conveyances heretofore and  
2 hereafter so executed and delivered shall convey all title and interest the city has in such  
3 property, notwithstanding the fact that no public sale after advertisement was or is hereafter  
4 made.

## ARTICLE VII

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

## SECTION 7.10.

## Bonds for officials.

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

## **SECTION 7.11.**

## Prior ordinances.

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

## SECTION 7.12.

## Existing personnel and officers.

19 Except as specifically provided otherwise by this charter, all personnel and officers of this  
20 city and their rights, privileges, and powers shall continue beyond the time this charter takes  
21 effect for a period of 90 days before or during which time the existing city council shall pass  
22 a transition ordinance detailing the changes in personnel and appointed officers required or  
23 desired and arranging such titles, rights, privileges, and powers as may be required or desired  
24 to allow a reasonable transition.

## SECTION 7.13.

# Pending matters.

27 Except as specifically provided otherwise by this charter, all rights, claims, actions, orders,  
28 contracts, and legal or administrative proceedings shall continue and any such ongoing work

1 or cases shall be completed by such city agencies, personnel, or offices as may be provided  
2 by the city council.

3 **SECTION 7.14.**

4 Construction and definitions.

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

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

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

10 (d) Except as specifically provided otherwise by this charter, the term:

11 (1) "City council" means the members of the city council and the mayor.

12 (2) "Councilmember" means a member of the city council other than the mayor.

13 **SECTION 7.15.**

14 Specific repealer.

15 An Act incorporating the Town of Remerton, Georgia, approved April 19, 2000 (Ga. L.  
16 2000, p. 4220), is repealed in its entirety.

17 **SECTION 7.16.**

18 Effective date.

19 This Act shall become effective upon the approval of this Act by the Governor or upon its  
20 otherwise becoming law without such approval.

21 **SECTION 7.17.**

22 General repealer.

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