

House Bill 816

By: Representatives Maddox of the 172nd and Keown of the 173rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

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

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

18 ARTICLE I
19 INCORPORATION AND POWERS
20 SECTION 1.10.
21 Incorporation.

22 The City of Cairo in Grady County is reincorporated by the enactment of this charter and is
23 constituted and declared to be a body politic and corporate under the name of the "City of
24 Cairo." References in this charter to "the city" or "this city" refer to the City of Cairo. The
25 city shall have perpetual existence.

1 authorized by this charter and for any purpose for which a municipality is authorized by
2 the laws of the State of Georgia; and to provide for the payment of expenses of this city;

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

6 (5) Business regulation and taxation. To levy and to provide for the collection of license
7 fees and taxes on privileges, occupations, trades, and professions; to license and regulate
8 the same; to provide for the manner and method of payment of such licenses and taxes;
9 and to revoke such licenses after due process for the failure to pay any city taxes or fees;

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

14 (7) Contracts. To enter into contracts and agreements with other governments and
15 entities and with private persons, firms, and corporations;

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

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

24 (10) Garbage fees. To levy, fix, assess, and collect a garbage, refuse, and trash collection
25 and disposal and other sanitary service charge, tax, or fee for such services as may be
26 necessary in the operation of the city from all individuals, firms, and corporations
27 residing in or doing business within the city and benefiting from such services; to enforce
28 the payment of such charges, taxes, or fees; and to provide for the manner and method
29 of collecting such service charges;

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

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

- 1 (13) Health and sanitation. To prescribe standards of health and sanitation within the city
2 and to provide for the enforcement of such standards;
- 3 (14) Jail sentences. To provide that persons given jail sentences in the city's court may
4 work out such sentences in any public works or on the streets, roads, drains, and squares
5 in the city; to provide for the commitment of such persons to any jail; or to provide for
6 the commitment of such persons to any county work camp or county jail by agreement
7 with the appropriate county officials;
- 8 (15) Motor vehicles. To regulate the operation of motor vehicles and exercise control
9 over all traffic, including parking, upon or across the streets, roads, alleys, and walkways
10 of the city;
- 11 (16) Municipal agencies and delegation of power. To create, alter, or abolish
12 departments, boards, offices, commissions, and agencies of the city and to confer upon
13 such agencies the necessary and appropriate authority for carrying out all the powers
14 conferred upon or delegated to the same;
- 15 (17) Municipal debts. To appropriate and borrow money for the payment of debts of the
16 city and to issue bonds for the purpose of raising revenue to carry out any project,
17 program, or venture authorized by this charter or the laws of the State of Georgia;
- 18 (18) Municipal property ownership. To acquire, dispose of, and hold in trust or otherwise
19 any real, personal, or mixed property, in fee simple or lesser interest, inside or outside the
20 property limits of the city;
- 21 (19) Municipal property protection. To provide for the preservation and protection of
22 property and equipment of the city and the administration and use of same by the public;
23 and to prescribe penalties and punishment for violations thereof;
- 24 (20) Municipal utilities. To acquire, lease, construct, operate, maintain, sell, and dispose
25 of public utilities, including, but not limited to, a system of waterworks, sewers and
26 drains, sewage disposal, gas works, electric light plants, transportation facilities, public
27 airports, information/communication transmission systems, and any other public utility;
28 and to fix the taxes, charges, rates, fares, fees, assessments, regulations, and penalties,
29 and to provide for the withdrawal of service for refusal or failure to pay the same; and to
30 authorize the extension of water, sewerage, electrical, and communication distribution
31 systems, and all necessary appurtenances by which said utilities are distributed, inside
32 and outside the corporate limits of the city; and to provide utility services to persons,
33 firms, and corporations inside and outside the corporate limits of the city as provided by
34 ordinance;
- 35 (21) Nuisances. To define a nuisance and provide for its abatement whether on public
36 or private property;

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

1 improve, maintain, repair, clean, prevent erosion of, and light the roads, alleys, and
2 walkways within the corporate limits of the city; and to negotiate and execute leases over,
3 through, under, or across any city property or the right of way of any street, road, alley,
4 and walkway or portion thereof within the corporate limits of the city, for bridges,
5 passageways, or any other purpose or use between buildings on opposite sides of the
6 street and for other bridges, overpasses, and underpasses for private use at such location
7 and to charge a rental therefor in such manner as may be provided by ordinance; and to
8 authorize and control the construction of bridges, overpasses, and underpasses within the
9 corporate limits of the city; and to grant franchises and rights of way throughout the
10 streets and roads and over the bridges and viaducts for the use of public utilities and for
11 private use; and to require real estate owners to repair and maintain in a safe condition
12 the 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; to levy on those to whom sewers and sewerage systems are made
16 available a sewer service fee, charge, or tax for the availability or use of the sewers; to
17 provide for the manner and method of collecting such service charge; and to impose and
18 collect a sewer connection fee or fees to those connected with the system;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 **SECTION 1.13.**

19 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.

24 **ARTICLE II**

25 **GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE, ELECTIONS, AND REMOVAL**

26 **SECTION 2.10.**

27 City council creation; composition; number; election.

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

32 (b) The mayor and councilmembers shall serve for terms of four years and until their
 33 respective successors are elected and qualified. No person shall be eligible to serve as mayor
 34 or councilmember unless he or she shall have been a resident of this city for 12 months

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

10 **SECTION 2.11.**

11 Elections.

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

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

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

22 (d) For the purpose of electing members of the council, the City of Cairo shall consist of five
 23 city council election districts with five numbered posts. Each person seeking election shall
 24 be 21 years of age, be a qualified voter within the City of Cairo, and reside within the
 25 election district he or she represents. Each member shall be elected by a majority of the
 26 qualified electors voting within each district. Each member of the council shall, during his
 27 or her term of office, continue to meet such qualifications. The five city council election
 28 districts are described as follows:

29 City Council Election District No.1

30 Begin at the point of intersection of the centerline of the Calvary-Reno Road and the Cairo
 31 corporate limits and run thence north along the west corporation limits of the City of Cairo
 32 to the centerline of 11th Avenue, N.W., thence northeast and east along the centerline of 11th
 33 Avenue, N. W. to the midline of Parker's Mill Creek, thence south along the midline of
 34 Parker's Mill Creek to the centerline of 4th Avenue, N. W., thence east along the centerline

1 of 4th Avenue, N. W. to the centerline of 4th Street, N. W., thence north along the centerline
 2 of 4th Street, N.W. to the centerline of 6th Avenue, N.W., thence east along the centerline
 3 of 6th Avenue, N. W. to the centerline of 1st Street, N. W., thence south along the centerline
 4 of 1st Street, N. W. to the centerline of the CSX Railroad right-of-way, thence west along the
 5 centerline of the CSX Railroad right-of-way to the centerline of 4th Street, S.W., thence
 6 south along the centerline of 4th Street, S. W. to the centerline of 1st Avenue, SW and Martin
 7 Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.W., thence west along the centerline of 1st Avenue, S. W., Martin
 8 Luther King Avenue, Jr. Avenue, S. W. to the centerline of 8th Street, S.W., thence south
 9 along the centerline of 8th Street, S.W. to the centerline of 2nd Avenue, S. W., thence west
 10 along the centerline of 2nd Avenue, S. W. to the centerline of Martin Luther King, Jr.
 11 Avenue, S. W., thence southwest along the centerline of Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue,
 12 S.W. to the centerline of 13th Street, S. W., thence south along the centerline of 13th Street,
 13 S.W. to the centerline of the Calvary-Reno Road, thence southwest along the centerline of
 14 the Calvary-Reno Road to the point of beginning.

15 City Council Election District No.2

16 Begin at the point of intersection of centerline of South Broad Street and the centerline of the
 17 CSX Railroad right-of-way and run thence south along the centerline of South Broad Street
 18 to the centerline of 13th Avenue, S.W., thence west along the centerline of 13th Avenue,
 19 S.W. to the city corporation limits, thence northwest along the city corporation limits to the
 20 centerline of the Calvary-Reno Road, thence northeast along the centerline of the
 21 Calvary-Reno Road to the centerline of 13th Street, S. W., thence north along the centerline
 22 of 13th Street, S. W. to the centerline of Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.W., thence
 23 northeast along the centerline of Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.W. to the centerline of
 24 2nd Avenue, S.W., thence east along the centerline of 2nd Avenue, S.W. to the centerline of
 25 8th Street, S.W., thence north along the centerline of 8th Street, S. W. to the centerline of
 26 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.W., thence east along the centerline of Martin Luther
 27 King, Jr. Avenue, S.W. and 1st Avenue, S.W. to the centerline of 4th Street, S.W., thence
 28 north along the centerline of 4th Street, S. W. to the centerline of the CSX Railroad
 29 right-of-way, thence east along the centerline of the CSX Railroad right-of-way to the point
 30 of beginning.

31 City Council Election District No.3

32 Begin at the point of intersection of the centerline of South Broad Street and the centerline
 33 of the CSX Railroad right-of-way and run thence east along the centerline of the CSX
 34 Railroad right-of-way to the centerline of 5th Street, S.E., thence south along the centerline
 35 of 5th Street, S.E. to the centerline of Syrupmaker Drive (South), thence east along the

1 centerline of Syrupmaker Drive (South) to the centerline of 6th Street, S.E., thence south
 2 along the centerline of 6th Street, S.E. to the centerline of 7th Avenue, S.E., thence east along
 3 the centerline of 7th Avenue, S.E., extended to the midline of Little Tired Creek, thence
 4 south along the midline of Little Tired Creek to the centerline of Joyner Road which is the
 5 corporation limit of the City of Cairo, thence follow the corporation limit west-southwest,
 6 thence south, thence west, thence north, thence west, thence south, thence west, thence north
 7 and generally northwest to the centerline of 13th Avenue, S. W., thence east along the
 8 centerline of 13th Avenue, S. W. to the centerline of South Broad Street, thence north along
 9 the centerline of South Broad Street to the point of beginning.

10 City Council Election District No.4

11 Commence at the point of intersection of the centerline of 5th Street, N. E. and the centerline
 12 of the CSX Railroad right-of-way and run thence north along the centerline of 5th Street,
 13 N.E. to the corporation limits of the City of Cairo, thence generally east and northeast along
 14 the corporate limits of the City of Cairo to Georgia Highway 188, thence follow the corporate
 15 limits of the City of Cairo east-southeast, thence west to a point where the corporation limits
 16 reach the midline of Little Tired Creek in the southeast portion of the City of Cairo, thence
 17 north along the midline of Little Tired Creek to the centerline of 7th Avenue, S.E., extended,
 18 thence west along the centerline of 7th Avenue, S.E. to the centerline of 6th Street, S.E.,
 19 thence north along the centerline of 6th Street, S.E. to the centerline of Syrupmaker Drive
 20 (South), thence west along the centerline of Syrupmaker Drive (South) to the centerline of
 21 5th Street, S.E, thence north along the centerline of 5th Street, S.E. to the point of beginning.

22 City Council Election District No.5

23 Commence at the point of intersection of the CSX Railroad right-of-way and the centerline
 24 of 5th Street, N. E. and run thence north along the centerline of 5th Street, N. E. to the
 25 corporate limits of the City of Cairo, thence follow the corporate limits of the City of Cairo
 26 in a general northwest and northerly direction to the centerline of Georgia Highway 93/111,
 27 thence south along the centerline of Georgia Highway 93/111 to the centerline of 19th
 28 Avenue, N. W., thence west, south, (centerline of Crine Boulevard) west and south (centerline
 29 of Upper Hawthorn Trail) along the corporate limits of the City of Cairo to the centerline of
 30 11th Avenue, N. W. connector, thence easterly along the centerline of 11th Avenue, N. W.
 31 connector and 11th Avenue, N. W. to the midline of Parker's Mill Creek, thence south along
 32 the midline of Parker's Mill Creek to the centerline of 4th Avenue, N. W., thence east along
 33 the centerline of 4th Avenue, N.W. to the centerline of 4th Street, N. W., thence north along
 34 the centerline of 4th Street, N.W. to the centerline of 6th Avenue, N. W., thence east along
 35 the centerline of 6th Avenue, N. W. to the centerline of 1st Street, N. W., thence south along

1 the centerline of 1st Street, N. W. to the CSX Railroad right-of-way, thence east along the
2 centerline of the CSX Railroad right-of-way to the point of beginning.

3 (e) The mayor of the City of Cairo shall be 21 years of age and be elected by the registered
4 voters within the corporate limits of the city.

5 (f) The city councilmembers from Districts 1, 3, and 5 shall be elected at the general election
6 for the city to be held during 2007 for terms of four years. The city councilmembers from
7 Districts 2 and 4 and the mayor shall be elected at the general election for the city to be held
8 during 2005 for terms of four years. Future successors shall be elected at the general election
9 of the city immediately preceding the expiration of terms of office and shall take office on
10 the first day of January following their election.

11 **SECTION 2.12.**

12 Vacancies in office.

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

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

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

28 **SECTION 2.13.**

29 Nonpartisan elections.

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

SECTION 2.14.

Election by majority.

The candidate receiving a majority 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 his or her official duties or which would tend to impair the independence of his or her judgment or action in the performance of his or her 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 his or her official duties or would tend to impair the independence of his or her judgment or action in the performance of his or her official duties;

(3) Disclose confidential information concerning the property, government, or affairs of the governmental body by which he or she is 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

- 1 (6) Vote or otherwise participate in the negotiation or in the making of any contract with
 2 any business or entity in which he or she has a financial interest.
- 3 (b) Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee who has any private financial
 4 interest, directly or indirectly, in any contract or matter pending before or within any
 5 department of the city shall disclose such private interest to the city council. The mayor or
 6 any councilmember who has a private interest in any matter pending before the city council
 7 shall disclose such private interest and such disclosure shall be entered on the records of the
 8 city council, and he or she shall disqualify himself or herself from participating in any
 9 decision or vote relating thereto. Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee of any
 10 agency or political entity to which this charter applies who shall have any private financial
 11 interest, directly or indirectly, in any contract or matter pending before or within such entity
 12 shall disclose such private interest to the governing body of such agency or entity.
- 13 (c) No elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the city or any agency or entity to
 14 which this charter applies shall use property owned by such governmental entity for personal
 15 benefit, convenience, or profit, except in accordance with policies promulgated by the city
 16 council or the governing body of such agency or entity.
- 17 (d) Any violation of this section which occurs with the knowledge, express or implied, of
 18 a party to a contract or sale shall render said contract or sale voidable at the option of the city
 19 council.
- 20 (e) Except as authorized by law, no member of the council shall hold any other elective city
 21 office or other city employment during the term for which he or she was elected. The
 22 provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any person holding employment on the
 23 effective date of this Act.

24 **SECTION 2.17.**

25 Removal of officers.

- 26 (a) The mayor, a councilmember, or other appointed officers provided for in this charter
 27 shall be removed from office for any one or more of the following causes:
- 28 (1) Incompetence, misfeasance, or malfeasance in office;
 29 (2) Conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude;
 30 (3) Failure at any time to possess any qualifications of office as provided by this charter
 31 or by law;
 32 (4) Knowingly violating Section 2.16 or any other express prohibition of this charter;
 33 (5) Abandonment of office or neglect to perform the duties thereof; or
 34 (6) Failure for any other cause to perform the duties of office as required by this charter
 35 or by state law.

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

3 (1) By the vote of three councilmembers after an investigative hearing. In the event an
4 elected officer is sought to be removed by the action of the city council, such officer shall
5 be entitled to a written notice specifying the ground or grounds for removal and to a
6 public hearing which shall be held not less than ten days after the service of such written
7 notice. Any elected officer sought to be removed from office as provided in this section
8 shall have the right of appeal from the decision of the city council to the Superior Court
9 of Grady County. Such appeal shall be governed by the same rules as govern appeals to
10 the superior court from the probate court; or

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

13 **SECTION 2.18.**

14 Inquiries and investigations.

15 The city council may make inquiries and investigations into the affairs of the city and the
16 conduct of any department, office, or agency thereof and for this purpose may subpoena
17 witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony, and require the production of evidence. Any
18 person who fails or refuses to obey a lawful order issued in the exercise of these powers by
19 the council shall be punished as provided by ordinance.

20 **SECTION 2.19.**

21 General power and authority.

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

24 **ARTICLE III**

25 **ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT,**
26 **GENERAL AUTHORITY, AND ORDINANCES**

27 **SECTION 3.10.**

28 Organization.

29 (a) The city council shall hold an organizational meeting at the first regular meeting in
30 January following an election. The meeting shall be called to order by the city clerk and the
31 oath of the office shall be administered to the newly elected members as follows:

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

4 (b) By a majority vote, the city council shall elect a councilmember to serve as mayor pro
5 tempore. The mayor pro tempore shall preside at all meetings of the city council and shall
6 assume the duties and powers of the mayor during any disability or absence of the mayor.
7 Any such disability or absence shall be declared by a majority vote of the city council. The
8 city council shall by majority vote elect a presiding officer from its number for any period
9 in which the mayor pro tempore is disabled, absent, or acting as mayor following call of the
10 meeting to order by the clerk. Such absence or disability shall be declared by majority vote
11 of the city council.

12 **SECTION 3.11.**

13 Meetings.

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

16 (b) Special meetings of the city council may be held on call of the mayor or two members
17 of the city council. Notice of such special meeting shall be served on all other members
18 personally, or by telephone personally, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Such
19 notice to councilmembers shall not be required if the mayor and all councilmembers are
20 present when the special meeting is called. Such notice of any special meeting may be
21 waived by a councilmember in writing before or after such a meeting and attendance at the
22 meeting shall also constitute a waiver of notice on any business transacted in such
23 councilmember's presence. Only the business stated in the call may be transacted at the
24 special meeting.

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

27 **SECTION 3.12.**

28 Procedures.

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

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

4 **SECTION 3.13.**

5 Voting.

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

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

17 **SECTION 3.14.**

18 Ordinances.

19 (a) Every proposed ordinance shall be introduced in writing and in the form required for
20 final adoption. No ordinance shall contain a subject which is not expressed in its title. The
21 enacting clause shall be "The Council of the City of Cairo hereby ordains..." and every
22 ordinance shall so begin.

23 (b) An ordinance may be introduced by any councilmember and be read at a regular or
24 special meeting of the city council. Ordinances shall be considered and adopted or rejected
25 by the city council in accordance with the rules which it shall establish; provided, however,
26 an ordinance shall not be adopted the same day it is introduced, except for emergency
27 ordinances provided for in Section 3.16 of this charter. Upon introduction of any ordinance,
28 the clerk shall, as soon as possible, distribute a copy to the mayor and to each councilmember
29 and shall file a reasonable number of copies in the office of the clerk and at such other public
30 places as the city council may designate.

SECTION 3.15.

Action requiring an ordinance.

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

SECTION 3.16.

Emergencies.

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

SECTION 3.17.

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 3.14 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 3.18 of this charter.

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

3 **SECTION 3.18.**

4 Codification of ordinances.

5 (a) The clerk shall authenticate by his or her signature and record in full in a properly
6 indexed book kept for that purpose all ordinances adopted by the council.

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

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

24 **SECTION 3.19.**

25 City manager; appointment; qualifications; compensation.

26 The city council shall appoint a city manager for an indefinite term and shall fix his or her
27 compensation. The manager shall be appointed solely on the basis of his or her executive and
28 administrative qualifications.

SECTION 3.20.

Removal of city manager.

(a) The city council may remove the manager from office in accordance with the following procedures:

(1) The city council shall adopt by affirmative vote of a majority of all its members a preliminary resolution which must state the reasons for removal and may suspend the manager from duty for a period not to exceed 45 days. A copy of the resolution shall be delivered promptly to the manager;

(2) Within five days after a copy of the resolution is delivered to the manager, he or she may file with the city council a written request for a public hearing. This hearing shall be held within 30 days after the request is filed. The manager may file with the council a written reply not later than five days before the hearing; and

(3) If the manager has not requested a public hearing within the time specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the city council may adopt a final resolution for removal, which may be made effective immediately, by an affirmative vote of a majority of all its members. If the manager has requested a public hearing, the city council may adopt a final resolution for removal, which may be made effective immediately, by an affirmative vote of a majority of all its members at any time after the public hearing.

(b) The manager shall continue to receive his or her salary until the effective date of a final resolution of removal.

SECTION 3.21.

Acting city manager.

By letter filed with the city clerk, the manager shall designate, subject to approval of the city council, a qualified city administrative officer to exercise the powers and perform the duties of manager during his or her temporary absence or disability. During such absence or disability, the city council may revoke such designation at any time and appoint another officer of the city to serve until the manager shall return or his or her disability shall cease.

SECTION 3.22.

Powers and duties of the city manager.

The city manager shall be the chief administrative officer of the city. He or she shall be responsible to the city council for the administration of all city affairs placed in his or her charge by or under this charter. He or she shall have the following powers and duties:

1 (1) He or she shall appoint and, when he or she deems it necessary for the good of the
2 city, suspend or remove all city employees and administrative officers he or she appoints,
3 except as otherwise provided by law or personnel ordinances adopted pursuant to this
4 charter. He or she may authorize any administrative officer who is subject to his or her
5 direction and supervision to exercise these powers with respect to subordinates in that
6 officer's department, office, or agency;

7 (2) He or she shall direct and supervise the administration of all departments, offices, and
8 agencies of the city, except as otherwise provided by this charter or by law;

9 (3) He or she shall attend all city council meetings and shall have the right to take part
10 in discussion but he or she may not vote;

11 (4) He or she shall see that all laws, provisions of this charter, and acts of the city
12 council, subject to enforcement by him or her or by officers subject to his or her direction
13 and supervision, are faithfully executed;

14 (5) He or she shall prepare and submit the annual operating budget and capital budget
15 to the city council;

16 (6) He or she shall submit to the city council and make available to the public a complete
17 report on the finances and administrative activities of the city as of the end of each fiscal
18 year;

19 (7) He or she shall make such other reports as the city council may require concerning
20 the operations of city departments, offices, and agencies subject to his or her direction
21 and supervision;

22 (8) He or she shall keep the city council fully advised as to the financial condition and
23 future needs of the city and make such recommendations to the city council concerning
24 the affairs of the city as he or she deems desirable; and

25 (9) He or she shall perform other such duties as are specified in this charter or as may be
26 required by the city council.

27 **SECTION 3.23.**

28 Council interference with administration.

29 Except for the purpose of inquiries and investigations under Section 2.17 of this charter, the
30 city council or its members shall deal with city officers and employees who are subject to the
31 direction and supervision of the manager solely through the manager, and neither the city
32 council nor its members shall give orders to any such officer or employee, either publicly or
33 privately.

SECTION 4.11.**Boards.**

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

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

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

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

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

(f) No member of a board, commission, or authority shall assume office until he or she has executed and filed with the clerk of the city an oath obligating himself or herself to perform faithfully and impartially the duties of his or her office, such oath to be prescribed by ordinance and administered by the mayor.

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

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

SECTION 4.12.

City attorney.

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

SECTION 4.13.

City clerk.

The city manager shall appoint with confirmation by the city council a city clerk who shall not be a councilmember. The city clerk shall be custodian of the official city seal, maintain city council records required by this charter, and perform such other duties as may be required by the city council.

SECTION 4.14.

Treasurer.

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

SECTION 4.15.

City auditor.

The city manager shall appoint with confirmation of city council a city auditor to perform the duties of an auditor/accountant.

1 (b) No person shall be qualified or eligible to serve as a judge on the municipal court unless
 2 he or she shall have attained the age of 21 years, shall not have been convicted of a crime
 3 involving moral turpitude, and shall be a member of the State Bar of Georgia. All judges
 4 shall be appointed by the city council.

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

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

7 (e) Before assuming office, each judge shall take the following oath, given by the mayor or
 8 in his or her absence, the city clerk, "I will honestly and faithfully discharge the duties of
 9 municipal court judge to the best of my ability and without fear, favor, or partiality. I will
 10 support and defend the charter of the City of Cairo as well as the Constitution and laws of
 11 the State of Georgia and of the United States of America."

12 **SECTION 5.12.**

13 Convening of court.

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

15 **SECTION 5.13.**

16 Powers.

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

19 (b) The municipal court shall have the authority to punish those in its presence for contempt,
 20 provided that such punishment shall not exceed a fine of \$200.00 or 30 days in jail.

21 (c) The municipal court may fix punishment for offenses within its jurisdiction not
 22 exceeding a fine of \$1,000.00 or imprisonment of 60 days or both such fine and
 23 imprisonment or may fix punishment by fine, imprisonment, or alternative sentencing as now
 24 or hereafter provided by law.

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

29 (e) The municipal court shall have authority to establish bail and recognizances to ensure
 30 the presence of those charged with violations before said court and shall have discretionary
 31 authority to accept cash or personal or real property as surety bond for the appearance of
 32 persons charged with violations. Whenever any person shall give bail for his or her
 33 appearance and shall fail to appear at the time fixed for trial, his or her bond shall be forfeited

1 by the judge presiding at such time and an execution shall be issued thereon by serving the
 2 defendant and his or her sureties with a rule nisi at least two days before a hearing on the rule
 3 nisi. In the event that cash or property is accepted in lieu of bond for security for the
 4 appearance of a defendant at trial, and if such defendant fails to appear at the time and place
 5 fixed for trial, the cash so deposited shall be on order of the judge declared forfeited to the
 6 city, or the property so deposited shall have a lien against it for the value forfeited which lien
 7 shall be enforceable in the same manner and to the same extent as a lien for city property
 8 taxes.

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

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

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

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

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

24 **SECTION 5.14.**

25 Certiorari.

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

30 **SECTION 5.15.**

31 Rules.

32 With the approval of the city council, the judge shall have full power and authority to make
 33 reasonable rules and regulations necessary and proper to secure the efficient and successful

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

6 **ARTICLE VI**

7 **FINANCE**

8 **SECTION 6.10.**

9 **Property tax.**

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

16 **SECTION 6.11.**

17 **Millage.**

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

22 **SECTION 6.12.**

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

24 The city council by ordinance shall have the power to levy such occupation or business taxes
 25 as are not denied by law. Such taxes may be levied on both individuals and corporations who
 26 transact business in this city or who practice or offer to practice any profession or calling
 27 within the city to the extent such persons have a constitutionally sufficient nexus to this city
 28 to be so taxed. The city council may classify businesses, occupations, professions, or callings
 29 for the purpose of such taxation in any way which may be lawful and may compel the
 30 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 with the city to obtain a license or permit for such activity from the city and pay a
6 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 for
10 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 be
19 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.

Service charges.

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 within 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.

Special assessments.

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 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 and a capital improvement program, including requirements as to the scope, content, and form of such budgets and programs.

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 city manager 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 city manager 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 such other comments and information as he or she may deem pertinent. The operating budget, the capital improvements budget, the budget message,

1 and all supporting documents shall be filed in the office of the city clerk and shall be open
2 to public inspection.

3 **SECTION 6.25.**

4 Adoption.

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

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

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

23 **SECTION 6.26.**

24 Levy of taxes.

25 Following adoption of the operating budget, the city council shall levy by ordinance such
26 taxes as are necessary. The taxes and tax rates set by such ordinance shall be such that
27 reasonable estimates of revenues from such levy shall at least be sufficient, together with
28 other anticipated revenues, fund balances, and applicable reserves, to equal the total amount
29 appropriated for each of the several funds set forth in the annual operating budget for
30 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 city manager shall submit to the city council a proposed capital improvements budget with his or her 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 3.16 of this charter.

(b) The city council shall adopt by ordinance the final capital improvements budget for the ensuing fiscal year not later than June 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 city manager may submit amendments to the capital improvements budget at any time during the fiscal year, accompanied by his or her 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.

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.

Specific repealer.

An Act amending, consolidating, and superseding the several Acts incorporating the City of Cairo, in the County of Grady, State of Georgia, and creating a new charter and municipal

1 government for said municipal corporation, approved August 6, 1906 (Ga. L. 1906, p. 573),
2 as amended, is repealed in its entirety.

3 **SECTION 7.15.**

4 Effective date.

5 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
6 without such approval.

7 **SECTION 7.16.**

8 General repealer.

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