

Senate Bill 530

By: Senator Jeffares of the 17th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To provide a new charter for the City of Mansfield; 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, method of filling vacancies, compensation, qualifications,
4 prohibitions, and removal from office relative to members of such governing authority; to
5 provide for inquiries and investigations; to provide for organization and procedures; to
6 provide for ordinances and codes; to provide for the office of mayor and certain duties and
7 powers relative to the office of mayor; to provide for administrative responsibilities; to
8 provide for boards, commissions, and authorities; to provide for a city attorney, a city clerk,
9 a city treasurer, and other personnel; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for a
10 municipal court and the judge or judges thereof; to provide for practices and procedures; to
11 provide for taxation and fees; to provide for franchises, service charges, and assessments; to
12 provide for bonded and other indebtedness; to provide for accounting and budgeting; to
13 provide for purchases; to provide for the sale of property; to provide for bonds for officials;
14 to provide for eminent domain; to provide for penalties; to provide for definitions and
15 construction; to provide for other matters relative to the foregoing; to provide for an effective
16 date; 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; name.

22 This city, and the inhabitants thereof, are hereby reincorporated by the enactment of this
23 charter and are hereby constituted and declared a body politic and corporate under the name
24 of the "City of Mansfield" and by that name shall have perpetual succession.

SECTION 1.11.

Corporate boundaries.

(a) The boundaries of this city shall be those existing on the effective date of the adoption of this charter with such alterations as may be made from time to time in the manner provided by law. The boundaries of this city at all times shall be shown on a map, a written description or any combination thereof, to be retained permanently in the office of the city clerk and to be designated, as the case may be: "Official Map of the corporate limits of the City of Mansfield, Georgia." Photographic, typed, or other copies of such map or description certified by the mayor shall be admitted as evidence in all courts and shall have the same force and effect as with the original map or description.

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

SECTION 1.12.

Powers and construction.

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

(b) The powers of this city shall be construed liberally in favor of the city. The specific mention or failure to mention particular powers shall not be construed as limiting in any way the powers of this city.

SECTION 1.13.

Examples of Powers.

(a) Air and Water Pollution. To regulate the emission of smoke or other exhaust which pollutes the air, and to prevent the pollution of natural streams which flow within the corporate limits of the city.

(b) Animal Regulations. To regulate and license or to prohibit the keeping or running at-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 hereunder.

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

61 (d) Building Regulation. To regulate and to license the erection and construction of
62 buildings and all other structures; to adopt building, housing, plumbing, electrical, gas, and
63 heating and air conditioning codes; and to regulate all housing, and building trades;

64 (e) Business Regulation and Taxation. To levy and to provide for the collection of license
65 fees and taxes on privileges, occupations, trades and professions; to license and regulate the
66 same; to provide for the manner and method of payment of such licenses after due process
67 for failure to pay any city taxes or fees.

68 (f) Condemnation. To condemn property, inside or outside the corporate limits of the city,
69 for present or future use and for any corporate purpose deemed necessary by the governing
70 authority, utilizing procedures enumerated in Title 22 of the Official Code of Georgia
71 Annotated, or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.

72 (g) Contracts. To enter into contracts and agreements with other governmental entities and
73 with private persons, firms and corporations.

74 (h) Emergencies. To establish procedures for determining and proclaiming that an
75 emergency situation exists within or without the city, and to make and carry out all
76 reasonable provisions deemed necessary to deal with or meet such an emergency for the
77 protection, safety, health or well-being of the citizens of the city.

78 (i) Environmental Protection. To protect and preserve the natural resources, environment
79 and vital areas of the city, the region, and the state through the preservation and improvement
80 of air quality, the restoration and maintenance of water resources, the control of erosion and
81 sedimentation, the management of stormwater and establishment of a stormwater utility, the
82 management of solid and hazardous waste, and other necessary actions for the protection of
83 the environment;

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

88 (k) Garbage Fees. To levy, fix, assess, and collect a garbage, refuse and trash collection and
89 disposal, and other sanitary service charge, tax, or fee for such services as may be necessary
90 in the operation of the city from all individuals, firm, and corporations residing in or doing
91 business therein benefitting from such services; to enforce the payment of such charges, taxes
92 or fees; and to provide for the manner and method of collecting such service charges.

- 93 (l) General Health, Safety and Welfare. To define, regulate and prohibit any act, practice,
94 conduct or use of property which is detrimental to health, sanitation, cleanliness, welfare, and
95 safety of the inhabitants of the city, and to provide for the enforcement of such standards.
- 96 (m) Gifts. To accept or refuse gifts, donations, bequests or grants from any source for any
97 purpose related to powers and duties of the city and the general welfare of its citizens, on
98 such terms and conditions as the donor or granter may impose.
- 99 (n) Health and Sanitation. To prescribe standards of health and sanitation and to provide for
100 the enforcement of such standards.
- 101 (o) Jail Sentences. To provide that persons given jail sentences in the city court may work
102 out such sentences in any public works or on the streets, roads, drains and squares in the city,
103 to provide for commitment of such persons to any jail, or to provide for commitment of such
104 persons to any county work camp or county jail by agreement with the appropriate county
105 officials.
- 106 (p) Motor Vehicles. To regulate the operation of motor vehicles and exercise control over
107 all traffic, including parking upon or across the streets, roads, alleys and walkways of the
108 city.
- 109 (q) Municipal Agencies and Delegation of Power. To create, alter or abolish departments,
110 boards, offices, commissions and agencies of the city, and to confer upon such agencies the
111 necessary and appropriate authority for carrying out all the powers conferred upon or
112 delegated to the same.
- 113 (r) Municipal Debts. To appropriate and borrow money for the payment of debts of the city
114 and to issue bonds for the purpose of raising revenue to carry out any project, program or
115 venture authorized by this charter or the laws of the State of Georgia.
- 116 (s) Municipal Property Ownership. To acquire, dispose of, and hold in trust or otherwise,
117 any real, personal, or mixed property, in fee simple or lesser interest, inside or outside the
118 property limits of the city.
- 119 (t) Municipal Property Protection. To provide for the preservation and protection of
120 property and equipment of the city, and the administration and use of same by the public; and
121 to prescribe penalties and punishment for violations thereof.
- 122 (u) Municipal Utilities. To acquire, lease, construct, operate, maintain, sell, and dispose of
123 public utilities, including but not limited to a system of waterworks, sewers and drains,
124 sewage disposal, gas works, electric light plants, transportation facilities, public airports, and
125 any other public utility; and to fix the taxes, charges, rates, fares, fees, assessments,
126 regulations and penalties, and to provide for the withdrawal of service for refusal or failure
127 to pay the same; and to authorize the extension of water, sewerage, and electrical distribution
128 systems, and all necessary appurtenances by which said utilities are distributed, inside and

129 outside the corporate limits of the city; and to provide utility services to persons, firms and
130 corporations inside and outside the corporate limits of the city as provided by ordinance.

131 (v) Nuisance. To define a nuisance and provide for its abatement whether on public or
132 private property.

133 (w) Penalties. To provide penalties for violation of any ordinances adopted pursuant to the
134 authority of this charter and the laws of the State of Georgia.

135 (x) Planning and Zoning. To provide comprehensive city planning for development by
136 zoning; and to provide subdivision regulation and the like as the city council deems
137 necessary and reasonable to insure a safe, healthy, and aesthetically pleasing community.

138 (y) Police and Fire Protection. To exercise the power of arrest through duly appointed
139 policemen, and to establish, operate, or contract for a police and a fire fighting agency.

140 (z) Public Hazards: Removal. To provide for the destruction and removal of any building
141 or other structure which is or may become dangerous or detrimental to the public.

142 (aa) Public Improvements. To provide for the acquisition, construction, building, operation
143 and maintenance of public ways, parks and playgrounds, recreational facilities, cemeteries,
144 markets and market houses, public buildings, libraries, public housing, airports, hospitals,
145 terminals, docks, parking facilities, or charitable, cultural, educational, recreational,
146 conservation, sport, curative, corrective, detentional, penal and medical institutions, agencies
147 and facilities; and to provide any other public improvements, inside or outside the corporate
148 limits of the city; and to regulate the use of public improvements; and for such purposes,
149 property may be acquired by condemnation under Title 22 of the Official Code of Georgia
150 Annotated, or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.

151 (bb) Public Peace. To provide for the prevention and punishment of drunkenness, riots, and
152 public disturbances.

153 (cc) Public Transportation. To organize and operate such public transportation systems as
154 are deemed beneficial.

155 (dd) Public Utilities and Services. To grant franchises or make contracts for public utilities
156 and public services; and to prescribe the rates, fares, regulations and standards and conditions
157 of service applicable to the service to be provided by the franchise grantee or contractor,
158 insofar as not in conflict with valid regulations of the Public Service Commission.

159 (ee) Regulation of Roadside Areas. To prohibit or regulate and control the erection,
160 removal, and maintenance of signs, billboards, trees, shrubs, fences, buildings and any and
161 all other structures or obstructions upon or adjacent to the rights-of-way of streets and roads
162 or within view thereof, within or abutting the corporate limits of the city; and to prescribe
163 penalties and punishment for violation of such ordinances.

164 (ff) Retirement. To provide and maintain a retirement plan for officers and employees of
165 the city.

166 (gg) Roadways. To lay out, open, extend, widen, narrow, establish or change the grade of,
167 abandon or close, construct, pave, maintain, repair, clean, prevent erosion of, and light the
168 roads, alleys, and walkways within the corporate limits of the city; and to negotiate and
169 execute leases over, through, under or across any city property or the right-of-way of any
170 street, road, alley, and walkway or portion thereof within the corporate limits of the city, for
171 bridges, passageways, or any other purpose or use between buildings on opposite sides of the
172 street and for other bridges, overpasses and underpasses for private use at such location, and
173 to charge a rental therefor in such manner as may be provided by ordinance; and to authorize
174 and control the construction of bridges, overpasses, and underpasses within the corporate
175 limits of the city; and to grant franchises and rights-of-way throughout the streets and roads,
176 and over the bridges and viaducts for the use of public utilities and for private use; and to
177 require real estate owners to repair and maintain in a safe condition the sidewalks adjoining
178 their lots or lands, and to impose penalties for failure to do so.

179 (hh) Sewer Fees. To levy a fee, charge, or sewer tax as necessary to assure the acquiring,
180 constructing, equipping, operating, maintaining, and extending of a sewage disposal plan and
181 sewerage system, and to levy on those to whom sewers and sewerage systems are made
182 available a sewer service fee, charge or sewer tax for the availability or use of the sewers; to
183 provide for the manner and method of collecting such service charges and for enforcing
184 payment of the same; and to charge, impose and collect a sewer connection fee or fees to
185 those connected with the system.

186 (ii) Solid Waste Disposal. To provide for the collection and disposal of garbage, rubbish and
187 refuse, and to regulate the collection and disposal of garbage, rubbish and refuse by others;
188 and to provide for the separate collection of glass, tin aluminum, cardboard, paper, and other
189 recyclable materials, and to provide for the sale of such items.

190 (jj) Special Areas of Public Regulation. To regulate or prohibit junk dealers, pawn shops,
191 the manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors, and the use and sale of
192 firearms; to regulate the transportation, storage and use of combustible, explosive and
193 inflammable materials, the use of lighting and heating equipment, and any other business or
194 situation which may be dangerous to persons or property; to regulate and control the conduct
195 of peddlers and itinerant traders, theatrical performances, exhibitions, and shows of any kind,
196 by taxation or otherwise; and to license, tax, regulate or prohibit professional fortune telling,
197 palmistry, adult bookstores, and massage parlors.

198 (kk) Special Assessments. To levy and provide for the collection of special assessments to
199 cover the costs for any public improvements.

200 (ll) Taxes: Ad Valorem. To levy and provide for the assessment, valuation, revaluation, and
201 collection of taxes on all property subject to taxation.

202 (mm) Taxes: Other. To levy and collect such other taxes as may be allowed now or in the
203 future by law.

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

208 (oo) Urban Redevelopment. To organize and operate an urban redevelopment program.

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

219 **SECTION 1.14.**

220 Exercise of Powers.

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

225 **ARTICLE II. GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE**

226 **SECTION 2.10.**

227 City Council Creation; Number; Election.

228 The legislative authority of the government of this city, except as otherwise specifically
229 provided in this charter, shall be vested in a city council to be composed of a mayor and five
230 council members. The city council established shall in all respects be a successor to and
231 continuation of the governing authority under prior law. The mayor and council members
232 shall be elected in the manner provided by general law and this charter.

233

SECTION 2.11.

234

City Council Terms and Qualifications for Office.

235 The members of the city council shall serve for terms of four years and until their respective
236 successors are elected and qualified. No person shall be eligible to serve as mayor or council
237 member unless he shall have been a resident of the city for 24 months prior to the date of
238 election of the mayor or members of the council; each shall continue to reside therein during
239 that member's period of service and to be registered and qualified to vote in municipal
240 elections of this city.

241

SECTION 2.12.

242

Vacancy; Filling of Vacancies; Suspensions.

243 (a) Vacancies. The office of mayor or council member shall become vacant upon the
244 occurrence of the incumbent's death, resignation, forfeiture of office, or occurrence of any
245 event specified by the Constitution of the State of Georgia, Title 45 of the Official Code of
246 Georgia Annotated, or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.

247 (b) Filing of Vacancies. A vacancy in the office of mayor or council member shall be filled
248 for the remainder of the unexpired term, if any, by appointment if less than 12 months
249 remains in the unexpired term, otherwise by an election, as provided for in Section 5.14 of
250 this charter and in accordance with Titles 21 and 45 of the Official Code of Georgia
251 Annotated, or other such laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.

252 (c) Upon the suspension from office of mayor or council member in any manner authorized
253 by the general laws of the State of Georgia, the city council or those remaining shall appoint
254 a successor for the duration of the suspension. If the suspension becomes permanent, then
255 the office shall become vacant and shall be filled as provided in Section 2.12.b of this
256 section.

257

SECTION 2.13.

258

Compensation and Expenses.

259 The mayor and council members shall receive compensation and expenses for their services
260 as provided by ordinance.

261

SECTION 2.14.

262

Conflicts of Interest; Holding Other Offices.

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

265 (b) Conflict of Interest - No elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the city of any
 266 agency or political entity to which this charter applies shall knowingly:

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

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

275 (3) Disclose confidential information, including information obtained at meetings which
 276 are closed pursuant to Title 50, Chapter 14 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
 277 concerning the property, government, or affairs of the governmental body by which the
 278 official is engaged without proper legal authorization; or use such information to advance
 279 the financial or other private interest of himself or others;

280 (4) Accept any valuable gift, whether in the form of service, loan, thing, or promise, from
 281 any person, firm or corporation which the official's knowledge is interested, directly or
 282 indirectly, in any manner whatsoever, in business dealings with the governmental body by
 283 which the official is engaged; provided, however, that an elected official who is a candidate
 284 for public office may accept campaign contributions and services in connection with any
 285 such campaign;

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

288 (6) Vote or otherwise participate in the negotiation or in the making of any contract with
 289 any business or entity in which the official has financial interest.

290 (c) Disclosure. Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee who shall have any
 291 private financial interest, directly or indirectly, in any contract or matter pending before or
 292 within any department of the city shall disclose such private interest to the city council. The
 293 mayor or any council member who has a private interest in the matter pending before the city
 294 council shall disclose such private interest and such disclosure shall be entered on the records
 295 of the city council, and the official shall disqualify himself/herself from participating in any
 296 decision or vote relating thereto. Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee of any

297 agency or political entity to which this charter applies who shall have any private financial
 298 interest, directly or indirectly, in any contract or matter pending before or within such entity
 299 shall disclose such private interest to the governing body of such agency or entity.

300 (d) Use of Public Property. No elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the city
 301 or any agency or entity to which this charter applies shall use property owned by such
 302 governmental entity for personal benefit, convenience, or profit except in accordance with
 303 policies promulgated by the city council or the governing body of such agency or entity.

304 (e) Contracts Voidable and Rescindable. Any violation of this section which occurs with
 305 the knowledge, express or implied, of a party to a contract or sale shall render said contract
 306 or sale voidable at the option of the city council.

307 (f) Ineligibility of Elected Official. Except where authorized by law, neither the mayor nor
 308 any council member shall hold any other elective or compensated appointive office in the
 309 city or otherwise be employed by said government or any agency thereof during the term for
 310 which the official was elected.

311 (g) Political Activities of Certain Officers and Employees. No appointive officer and no
 312 employee of the city shall continue in such employment upon qualifying as a candidate for
 313 nomination or election to any public office.

314 (h) Penalties for Violation.

315 (1) Any city officer or employee who knowingly conceals such financial interest or
 316 knowingly violates any of the requirements of this section shall be guilty of malfeasance
 317 in office or position and shall be deemed to have forfeited his office or position.

318 (2) Any officer or employee of the city who shall forfeit an office or position as described
 319 in paragraph (1) above, shall be ineligible for appointment or election to or employment
 320 in a position in the city government for a period of three years thereafter.

321 **SECTION 2.15.**

322 **Inquiries and Investigations.**

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

329 **SECTION 2.16.**

330 General Power and Authority of the City Council.

331 Except as otherwise provided by the charter, the city council shall be vested with all the
332 powers of government of this city.

333 **SECTION 2.17.**

334 Eminent Domain.

335 The city council is hereby empowered to acquire, construct, operate and maintain public
336 ways, parks, public grounds, cemeteries, markets, market houses, public buildings, libraries,
337 sewers, drains, sewage treatment, waterworks, electrical systems, gas systems, airports,
338 hospitals, and charitable, educational, recreational, sport, curative, corrective, detentional,
339 penal and medical institutions, agencies and facilities, and any other public improvements
340 inside or outside the city, and to regulate the use thereof, and for such purposes, property
341 may be condemned under procedures established under general law applicable now or as
342 provided in the future.

343 **SECTION 2.18.**

344 Organizational Meeting.

345 The city council shall hold an organizational meeting following the adjournment of the
346 regular council meeting in December following an election. The meeting shall be called to
347 order by the city clerk and the oath of office shall be administered to the newly elected
348 members as follows:

349 "I do solemnly (swear) (affirm) that I will faithfully perform the duties of (mayor) (council
350 member) of this city and that I will support and defend the charter thereof as well as the
351 constitution and laws of the State of Georgia and of the United States of America." Newly
352 elected members' terms shall not begin until January 1 following the organizational meeting
353 and they shall hold office until the thirty-first day of December of the year in which their
354 successors are elected.

355 **SECTION 2.19.**

356 Regular and Special Meetings.

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

359 (b) Special meetings of the city council may be held on call of the mayor or three members
360 of the city council. Notice of such special meetings shall be served on all other members
361 personally, or by telephone personally, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Such
362 notice to council members shall not be required if the mayor and all council members are
363 present when the special meeting is called. Such notice of any special meeting may be
364 waived by a council member in writing before or after such a meeting, and attendance at the
365 meeting shall also constitute a waiver of notice on any business transacted in such council
366 member's presence. Only the business stated in the call may be transacted at the special
367 meeting.

368 (c) All meetings of the city council shall be public to the extent required by law and notice
369 to the public of special meetings shall be made fully as is reasonably possible as provided by
370 Section 50-14-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, or other such applicable laws as
371 are or may hereafter be enacted.

372 **SECTION 2.20.**

373 Rules of Procedure.

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

377 (b) All committees and committee chairmen and officers of the city council shall be
378 appointed by the mayor, with the advice and consent of the council, and shall serve at his/her
379 pleasure. The mayor shall have the power to appoint new members to any committee at any
380 time, with the advice and consent of the council.

381 **SECTION 2.21.**

382 Quorum: Voting.

383 (a) Three council members shall constitute a quorum and shall be authorized to transact
384 business of the city council. Voting on the adoption of ordinances shall be by voice vote and
385 the vote shall be recorded in the journal, but any member of the city council shall have the
386 right to request a roll call vote and such vote shall be recorded in the journal. Except as
387 otherwise provided in this charter, the affirmative vote of a majority of council members
388 present shall be required for the adoption of any ordinance, resolution, or motion. An
389 abstention shall be counted as a negative vote.

390 (b) No member of the city council shall abstain from voting on any matter properly brought
391 before the council for official action except when such council member has a conflict of

392 interest which is disclosed in writing prior to or at the meeting and made a part of the
 393 minutes. Any member of the city council present and eligible to vote on a matter and
 394 refusing to do so for any reason other than a properly disclosed and recorded conflict of
 395 interest shall be deemed to have acquiesced or concurred with the members of the majority
 396 who did vote on the question involved.

397 **SECTION 2.22.**

398 Ordinance Form; Procedures.

399 (a) Every proposed ordinance should be introduced in writing and in the form required for
 400 final adoption. No ordinance shall contain a subject which is not expressed in its title. The
 401 enacting clause shall be "The Council of the City of Mansfield hereby ordains . . ." and every
 402 ordinance shall so begin.

403 (b) An ordinance may be introduced by any council member and be read at a regular or
 404 special meeting of the city council. Ordinances shall be considered and adopted or rejected
 405 by the city council in accordance with the rules which it shall establish. Upon introduction
 406 of any ordinance, the clerk shall as soon as possible distribute a copy to the mayor and to
 407 each council member and shall file a reasonable number of copies in the office of the clerk
 408 and at such other public places as the city council may designate.

409 **SECTION 2.23.**

410 Action Requiring An Ordinance.

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

412 **SECTION 2.24.**

413 Emergencies.

414 (a) To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or public peace, the city
 415 council may convene on call of the mayor or three council members and promptly adopt an
 416 emergency ordinance, but such ordinance may not levy taxes; grant, renew or extend a
 417 franchise; regulate the rate charged by any public utility for its services; or authorize the
 418 borrowing of money except for loans to be repaid within 30 days. An emergency ordinance
 419 shall be introduced in the form prescribed for ordinances generally, except that it shall be
 420 plainly designated as an emergency ordinance and shall contain, after the enacting clause,
 421 a declaration stating that an emergency exists, and describing the emergency in clear and
 422 specific terms. An emergency ordinance may be adopted, with or without amendment, or

423 rejected at the meeting at which it is introduced, but the affirmative vote of at least three
 424 council members shall be required for adoption. It shall become effective upon adoption or
 425 at such later time as it may specify. Every emergency ordinance shall automatically stand
 426 repealed 30 days following the date upon which it was adopted, but this shall not prevent
 427 reenactment of the ordinance in the manner specified in this section if the emergency still
 428 exists. An emergency ordinance may also be repealed by adoption of a repealing ordinance
 429 in the same manner specified in this section for adoption of emergency ordinances.

430 (b) Such meetings shall be open to the public to the extent required by law and notice to the
 431 public of emergency meetings shall be made as fully as is reasonably possible in accordance
 432 with Section 50-14-1 of Official Code of Georgia Annotated, or such other applicable laws
 433 as are or may hereafter be enacted.

434 **SECTION 2.25.**

435 Codes of Technical Regulations.

436 (a) The city council may adopt any standard code of technical regulations by reference
 437 thereto in an adopting ordinance. The procedure and requirements governing such adopting
 438 ordinance shall be as prescribed for ordinances generally except that: (1) the requirements
 439 of Section 2.22(b) for distribution and filing of copies of the ordinance shall be construed to
 440 include copies of any code of technical regulations, as well as the adopting ordinance; and
 441 (2) a copy of each adopted code of technical regulations, as well as the adopting ordinance,
 442 shall be authenticated and recorded by the clerk pursuant to Section 2.26.

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

445 **SECTION 2.26.**

446 Signing; Authenticating; Recording; Codification; Printing.

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

449 (b) The city council shall provide for the preparation of a general codification of all the
 450 ordinances of the city having the force and effect of law. The general codification shall be
 451 adopted by the city council by ordinance and shall be published promptly, together with all
 452 amendments thereto and such codes of technical regulations and other rules and regulations
 453 as the city council may specify. This compilation shall be known and cited officially as "The
 454 Code of the City of Mansfield, Georgia." Copies of the code shall be furnished to all

455 officers, departments and agencies of the city, and made available for purchase by the public
 456 at a reasonable price as fixed by the city council.

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

466 **SECTION 2.27.**

467 Election of Mayor; Forfeiture; Compensation.

468 The mayor shall be elected and serve for a term of four years and until his/her successor is
 469 elected and qualified. The mayor shall be a qualified elector of this city and shall have been
 470 a resident of the city for 24 months immediately preceding his/her election. The mayor shall
 471 continue to reside in this city during the period of his/her service. The mayor shall forfeit
 472 his/her office on the same grounds and under the same procedure as for council members.
 473 The compensation of the mayor shall be established in the same manner as for council
 474 members.

475 **SECTION 2.28.**

476 Chief Executive Officer.

477 The mayor shall be the executive of this city. The mayor shall possess all of the executive
 478 and administrative power granted to the city under the Constitution and laws of the State of
 479 Georgia, and all the executive and administrative powers contained in this charter.

480 **SECTION 2.29.**

481 Powers and Duties of Mayor.

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

483 (a) See that all laws and ordinances of the city are faithfully executed;

- 484 (b) Appoint and remove, for cause, with confirmation of appointment or removal by the
 485 council, all officers, department heads, and employees of the city except as otherwise
 486 provided in this charter;
- 487 (c) Exercise supervision over all executive and administrative work of the city and provide
 488 for the coordination of administrative activities;
- 489 (d) Prepare and submit to the council a recommended annual operating budget and
 490 recommended capital budget;
- 491 (e) Submit to the council at least once a year a statement covering the financial conditions
 492 of the city and from time to time such other information as the city council may request;
- 493 (f) Preside over all meetings of the city council;
- 494 (g) Call special meetings of the city council as provided for in Section 2.19;
- 495 (h) Participate in the discussion of all matters brought before the city council and vote on
 496 such matters only in the case of a tie vote;
- 497 (i) Recommend to the city council such measures relative to the affairs of the city
 498 improvement of the government, and promotion of the welfare of its inhabitants as he may
 499 deem expedient;
- 500 (j) Approve or disapprove ordinances as provided in Section 2.31;
- 501 (k) Require any department or agency of the city to submit written reports whenever he/she
 502 deems it expedient;
- 503 (l) Sign as a matter of course all written contracts, ordinances, and other instruments
 504 executed by the city which by law are required to be in writing; and
- 505 (m) Perform such other duties as may be required by general state law, this charter, or
 506 ordinance.

507 **SECTION 2.30.**

508 Submission of Ordinances to the Mayor; Veto Power.

- 509 (a) Every ordinance adopted by the city council shall be presented by the city clerk to the
 510 mayor within three days after its adoption.
- 511 (b) The mayor shall, within ten calendar days of receipt of an ordinance, return it to the clerk
 512 with or without his/her approval, or with his/her disapproval. If the ordinance has been
 513 approved by the mayor, it shall become law upon its return to the clerk; if the ordinance is
 514 neither approved nor disapproved, it shall become law at twelve o'clock noon on the tenth
 515 calendar day after its adoption; if the ordinance is disapproved, the mayor shall submit to the
 516 city council through the clerk a written statement of his reasons for his/her veto. The clerk
 517 shall record upon the ordinance the date of its delivery to and receipt from the mayor.

518 (c) Ordinances vetoed by the mayor shall be presented by the clerk to the city council at its
 519 next meeting. If the city council then or at its next general meeting adopts the ordinance by
 520 an affirmative vote of the entire council members, it shall become law.

521 (d) The mayor may disapprove or reduce any item or items of appropriation in any
 522 ordinance. The approved part or parts of any ordinance making appropriations shall become
 523 law, and the part or parts disapproved shall not become law unless subsequently passed by
 524 the city council over the mayor's veto as provided herein. The reduced part or parts shall be
 525 presented to the city council as though disapproved and shall become law unless overridden
 526 by the council as provided in subsection (c) above.

527 **SECTION 2.31.**

528 Mayor Pro Tem; Selection; Duties.

529 By a majority vote, the city council shall elect a council member to serve as mayor pro tem.
 530 The mayor pro tem shall preside at all meetings of the city council and shall assume the
 531 duties and powers of the mayor upon mayor's disability or absence. The city council by a
 532 majority vote shall elect a new presiding officer from among its members for any period in
 533 which the mayor pro tem is disabled, absent or acting as mayor. Any such absence or
 534 disability shall be declared by majority vote of all council members. When serving as mayor,
 535 the mayor pro tem shall not also vote as a member of the council.

536 **ARTICLE III. ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS**

537 **SECTION 3.10.**

538 Administrative and Service Departments.

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

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

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

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

551 (e) All appointive officers and directors under the supervision of the mayor shall be
 552 nominated by the mayor with confirmation of appointment by the city council. All
 553 appointive officers and directors shall be employees at-will and subject to removal or
 554 suspension at any time by the mayor unless otherwise provided by law.

555 **SECTION 3.11.**

556 **Boards, Commissions and Authorities.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

576 (g) All board members serve at-will and may be removed at any time by a vote of three
 577 members of the city council unless otherwise provided by law.

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

586 **SECTION 3.12.**

587 City Attorney.

588 The city council shall appoint a city attorney who shall be a member of the State Bar of
 589 Georgia and shall provide for the payment of such attorney for services rendered to the city.
 590 The city attorney shall be responsible for representing and defending the city in all litigation
 591 in which the city is a party; may be prosecuting officer in the municipal court; shall attend
 592 the meetings of the council as directed; shall advise the city council, mayor, and other
 593 officers and employees of the city concerning legal aspects of the city's affairs; and shall
 594 perform such other duties as may be required of him/her by virtue of his/her position as city
 595 attorney. The city attorney is not a public official of the city and does not take an oath of
 596 office. The city attorney shall at all times be an independent contractor.

597 **Section 3.13.**

598 City Clerk.

599 The city council shall appoint a city clerk who shall not be a council member. The city clerk
 600 shall be custodian of the official city seal and city records; maintain city council records
 601 required by this charter; and perform such other duties as may be required by the city
 602 council.

603 **SECTION 3.14.**

604 City Treasurer.

605 The city council shall appoint a city treasurer, who shall not be a council member, who shall
 606 collect all taxes, licenses, fees, and other moneys belonging to the city subject to the
 607 provisions of this charter and the ordinances of the city and to enforce all laws of Georgia
 608 relating to the collection of delinquent taxes and sale or foreclosure for nonpayment of taxes
 609 to the city. The city treasurer shall also be responsible for the general duties of a treasurer
 610 and fiscal officer.

611 **SECTION 3.15.**

612 Personnel Policies.

613 All employees serve at-will and may be removed from office at any time unless otherwise
 614 provided by ordinance.

615 The city council shall adopt policies or ordinances to provide for:

616 (a) the method of employee selection, promotion and transfer;

617 (b) hours of work, vacation, sick leave, and other leaves of absence, and overtime pay; and

618 (c) other personnel policies.

619 **ARTICLE IV. JUDICIAL BRANCH**

620 **SECTION 4.10.**

621 Creation; Name.

622 There shall be a court to be known as the Municipal Court of the City of Mansfield.

623 **SECTION 4.11.**

624 Chief Judge; Associate Judge.

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

627 (b) No person shall be qualified or eligible to serve as a judge on the municipal court unless
628 he shall have attained the age of 21 years, shall be an active member in good standing of the
629 State Bar of Georgia and shall possess all qualifications required by law. All judges shall be
630 appointed by the city council and shall serve until a successor is appointed and qualified.

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

632 (d) Judges serve at-will and may be removed from office at any time by the city council
633 unless otherwise provided by ordinance.

634 (e) Before assuming office, each judge shall take an oath, given by the mayor, that he/she
635 will honestly and faithfully discharge the duties of his/her office to the best of his/her ability
636 and without fear, favor or partiality. The oath shall be entered upon the minutes of the city
637 council journal required in Section 2.20.

638 **SECTION 4.12.**

639 Convening.

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

641

SECTION 4.13.

642

Jurisdiction; Powers.

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

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

647 (c) The municipal court may fix punishment for offenses within its jurisdiction not
648 exceeding a fine of \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for 90 days or both such fine and
649 imprisonment or may fix punishment by fine, imprisonment or alternative sentencing as now,
650 or hereafter provided by law.

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

654 (e) The municipal court shall have authority to establish bail and recognizances to ensure
655 the presence of those charged with violations before said court, and shall have discretionary
656 authority to accept cash or personal or real property as surety for the appearance of persons
657 charged with violations. Whenever any person shall give bail for his appearance and shall
658 fail to appear at the time fixed for trial, his bond shall be forfeited by the judge presiding at
659 such time, and an execution issued thereon by serving the defendant and his sureties with a
660 rule nisi, at least two days before a hearing on the rule nisi. In the event that cash or property
661 is accepted in lieu of bond for security for the appearance of a defendant at trial, and if such
662 defendant fails to appear at the time and place fixed for trial, the cash so deposited shall be
663 on order of the judge declared forfeited to the city, or the property so deposited shall have
664 a lien against it for the value forfeited which lien shall be enforceable in the same manner
665 and to the same extent as a lien for city property taxes.

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

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

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

676 **SECTION 4.14.**

677 Certiorari.

678 The right of certiorari from the decision and judgment of the municipal court shall exist in
 679 all criminal cases and ordinance violations cases, and such certiorari shall be obtained under
 680 the sanction of a judge of the Superior Court of Newton County under the laws of the State
 681 of Georgia regulating the granting and issuance of writs of certiorari.

682 **SECTION 4.15.**

683 Rules for Court.

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

691 **ARTICLE V. ELECTIONS AND REMOVAL**

692 **SECTION 5.10.**

693 Applicability of General Law.

694 All primaries and elections shall be held and conducted in accordance with the Georgia
 695 Election Code (Title 21, Chapter 2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated) as now or
 696 hereafter amended.

697 **SECTION 5.11.**

698 Election Districts.

699 The City of Mansfield shall consist of one election district with five numbered posts. Each
 700 person seeking election as a council member shall designate the post for which he/she seeks
 701 election.

702 **SECTION 5.12.**

703 Election of the Mayor and City Council.

704 (a) There shall be a municipal general election biennially in the odd years on the Tuesday
705 next following the first Monday in November.

706 (b) There shall be elected the mayor and council members for posts 1 and 2 at one biennial
707 election and council members for posts 3, 4, and 5 at the next biennial election. The purpose
708 of this section is to provide a rotation system for the office of mayor and council members
709 so that a continuing body is created. Terms shall be for four years and shall commence on
710 January 1 following the November election.

711 **SECTION 5.13.**

712 Non-Partisan Elections.

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

715 **SECTION 5.14.**

716 Election by Plurality.

717 The person receiving a plurality of the votes cast for any city office shall be elected. In the
718 event of a tie, a run-off election shall be held and the candidate who receives the highest
719 number of votes cast in the run-off election shall be elected.

720 **SECTION 5.15.**

721 Special Elections; Vacancies.

722 In the event that the office of mayor or council member shall become vacant as provided in
723 Section 2.12 of this charter, the city council or those remaining shall order a special election
724 to fill the balance of the unexpired term of such official; provided, however, if such vacancy
725 occurs within 12 months of the expiration of the term of that office, the city council or those
726 remaining shall appoint a successor for the remainder of the term. In all other respects, the
727 special election shall be held and conducted in accordance with the Georgia Election Code,
728 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, as now or hereafter
729 amended.

730 **SECTION 5.16.**

731 Other Provisions.

732 Except as otherwise provided by this charter, the city council shall, by ordinance, prescribe
 733 such rules and regulations it deems appropriate to fulfill any options and duties under the
 734 Georgia Election Code.

735 **SECTION 5.17.**

736 Removal of Officers.

737 (a) The mayor, council members, or other appointed officers provided for in this charter
 738 shall be removed from office for any one or more of the causes provided in Title 45 of the
 739 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter
 740 be enacted.

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

743 (1) By a vote of three council members after an investigative hearing. In the event an
 744 elected officer is sought to be removed by the action of the city council, such officer shall
 745 be entitled to a written notice specifying the ground or grounds for removal and to a public
 746 hearing which shall be held not less than ten days after the service of such written notice.
 747 Any elected officer sought to be removed from office as herein provided shall have the
 748 right of appeal from the decision of the city council to the Superior Court of Newton
 749 County. Such appeal shall be governed by the same rules as govern appeals to the superior
 750 court from the probate court.

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

753 **ARTICLE VI. FINANCE**754 **SECTION 6.10.**

755 Property Tax.

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

762 **SECTION 6.11.**

763 Millage Rate; Due Dates; Payment Methods.

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

768 **SECTION 6.12.**

769 Occupation and Business Taxes.

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

774 **SECTION 6.13.**

775 Regulatory Fees; Permits.

776 The city council by ordinance shall have the power to require businesses or practitioners
777 doing business within this city to obtain a permit for such activity from the city and pay a
778 reasonable regulatory fee for such permit as provided by general law. Such fees shall reflect
779 the total cost to the city of regulating the activity, and if unpaid, shall be collected as
780 provided in Section 6.18.

781 **SECTION 6.14.**

782 Franchises.

783 (a) The city council shall have the power to grant franchises for the use of this city's streets
784 and alleys for the purposes of railroads, street railways, telephone companies, electric
785 companies, cable television, gas companies, transportation companies and other similar
786 organizations. The city council shall determine the duration, terms, whether the same shall
787 be exclusive or nonexclusive, and the consideration for such franchises; provided, however,
788 no franchise shall be granted unless the city receives just and adequate compensation
789 therefor. The city council shall provide for the registration of all franchises with the city
790 clerk in a registration book kept by him. The city council may provide by ordinance for the
791 registration within a reasonable time of all franchises previously granted.

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

797 **SECTION 6.15.**

798 Service Charges.

799 The city council by ordinance shall have the power to assess and collect fees, charges, and
 800 tolls for sewers, sanitary and health services, or any other services provided or made
 801 available within and without the corporate limits of the city for the total cost to the city of
 802 providing or making available such services. If unpaid, such charges shall be collected as
 803 provided in Section 6.18.

804 **SECTION 6.16.**

805 Special Assessments.

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

811 **SECTION 6.17.**

812 Construction; Other Taxes.

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

816 **SECTION 6.18.**

817 Collection of Delinquent Taxes and Fees.

818 The city council, by ordinance, may provide generally for the collection of delinquent taxes,
 819 fees, or other revenue due the city under Sections 6.10 through 6.17 by whatever reasonable
 820 means as are not precluded by law. This shall include providing for the dates when the taxes

821 or fees are due; late penalties or interest; issuance and execution of fi.fa.'s; creation and
 822 priority of liens; making delinquent taxes and fees personal debts of the persons required to
 823 pay the taxes or fees imposed; revoking city licenses for failure to pay any city taxes or fees;
 824 and providing for the assignment or transfer of tax executions.

825 **SECTION 6.19.**
 826 General Obligation Bonds.

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

831 **SECTION 6.20.**
 832 Revenue Bonds.

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

836 **SECTION 6.21.**
 837 Short-Term Loans.

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

840 **SECTION 6.22.**
 841 Lease-Purchase Contracts

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

849 **SECTION 6.23.**

850 Fiscal Year.

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

854 **SECTION 6.24.**

855 Preparation of Budgets.

856 The city council shall provide an ordinance on the procedures and requirements for the
857 preparation and execution of an annual operating budget, a capital improvement program and
858 a capital budget, including requirements as to the scope, content and form of such budgets
859 and programs.

860 **SECTION 6.25.**

861 Submission of Operating Budget to City Council.

862 On or before a date fixed by the city council but not later than 60 days prior to the beginning
863 of each fiscal year, the mayor shall submit to the city council a proposed operating budget
864 for the ensuing fiscal year. The budget shall be accompanied by a message from the mayor
865 containing a statement of the general fiscal policies of the city, the important features of the
866 budget, explanations of major changes recommended for the next fiscal year, a general
867 summary of the budget, and such other comments and information as he may deem pertinent.
868 The operating budget and the capital improvements budget hereinafter provided for, the
869 budget message, and all supporting documents shall be filed in the office of the city clerk and
870 shall be open to public inspection.

871 **SECTION 6.26.**

872 Action by City Council on Budget.

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

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

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

891 **SECTION 6.27.**

892 Tax Levies.

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

899 **SECTION 6.28.**

900 Changes in Appropriations.

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

905 **SECTION 6.29.**

906 Capital Improvements Budget.

907 (a) On or before the date fixed by the city council but no later than 60 days prior to the
 908 beginning of each fiscal year, the mayor shall submit to the city council a proposed capital

909 improvements budget with his/her recommendations as to the means of financing the
 910 improvements proposed for the ensuing fiscal year. The city council shall have power to
 911 accept, with or without amendments, or reject the proposed program and proposed means of
 912 financing. The city council shall not authorize an expenditure for the constructing of any
 913 building, structure, work or improvement, unless the appropriations for such project are
 914 included in the capital improvements budget, except to meet a public emergency as provided
 915 in Section 2.24.

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

923 **SECTION 6.30.**

924 Independent Audit.

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

930 **SECTION 6.31.**

931 Contracting Procedures.

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

933 (a) it is in writing;

934 (b) it is drawn by or submitted and reviewed by the city attorney, and as a matter of course,
 935 it is signed by him/her to indicate such drafting or review; and

936 (c) it is made or authorized by the city council and such approval is entered in the city
 937 journal of proceedings pursuant to Section 2.21.

938

SECTION 6.32.

939

Centralized Purchasing.

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

942

SECTION 6.33.

943

Sale of City Property.

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

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

950 (c) Whenever in opening, extending or widening any street, avenue, alley or public place of
 951 the city, a small parcel or tract of land is cut-off or separated by such work from a larger tract
 952 or boundary of land owned by the city, the city council may authorize the mayor to sell or
 953 convey said cut-off or separated parcel or tract of land to an abutting or adjoining property
 954 owner or owners where such sale and conveyance facilitates the enjoyment of the abutting
 955 owner's property. Included in the sales contract shall be a provision for the rights-of-way of
 956 said street, avenue, alley or public place. Each abutting property owner shall be notified of
 957 the availability of the property and given the opportunity to purchase said property under
 958 such terms and conditions as set out by ordinance. All deeds and conveyances heretofore and
 959 hereafter so executed and delivered shall convey all title and interest the city has in such
 960 property, notwithstanding the fact that no public sale after advertisement was or is hereafter
 961 made.

962

ARTICLE VII. GENERAL PROVISIONS

963

SECTION 7.10.

964

Bonds for Officials.

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

968 **SECTION 7.11.**
 969 Prior Ordinances.

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

973 **SECTION 7.12.**
 974 Pending Matters.

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

979 **SECTION 7.13.**
 980 Construction.

- 981 (a) Section captions in this charter are informative only and are not to be considered as a part
 982 thereof.
- 983 (b) The word "shall" is mandatory and the word "may" is permissive.
- 984 (c) The singular shall include the plural, the masculine shall include the feminine, and vice
 985 versa.

986 **SECTION 7.14.**
 987 Severability.

988 If any article, section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, or part thereof of this charter shall be
 989 held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect
 990 or impair other parts of this charter unless it clearly appears that such other parts are wholly
 991 and necessarily dependent upon the part held to be invalid or unconstitutional, it being the
 992 legislative intent in enacting this charter that each article, section, subsection, paragraph,
 993 sentence or part thereof be enacted separately and independent of each other.

994 **SECTION 7.15.**

995 Specific Repealer.

996 An Act to establish a new charter for the Town of Mansfield, approved March 24, 1988
997 incorporating the City of Mansfield (Ga. L. 1988, p. 4240), is hereby repealed in its entirety
998 and all amendatory acts thereto are likewise repealed in their entirety.

999 **SECTION 7.16.**

1000 Effective Date.

1001 This charter shall become effective July 1, 2012.

1002 **SECTION 7.17.**

1003 General Repealer.

1004 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.