CITY OF BLUE SPRINGS

HOME RULE CHARTER







The City of Blue Springs Missouri

www.bluespringsgov.com

Revised and Reprinted 2025

INTRODUCTION

The City of Blue Springs Home Rule Charter, much like the U.S. Constitution, contains the rules which describe how the City functions, organizes itself, and makes the decisions that affect residents' daily lives. The Charter sets parameters for what laws and rules may be adopted by City Council, what kind of services the public receives, and how tax dollars are collected and spent.

In April of 1994, the City's Home Rule Charter was established by the voters of Blue Springs, and it mandates that a Commission be convened to review and recommend changes to the Charter no less than every five years. A Charter Review Commission was convened in 1999 and 2005, both times reviewing the Charter and recommending no changes to the City Council.

In 2014, a Charter Review Commission recommended changes to the Charter and the City Council approved five Charter Amendment questions to be presented to the voters; three of the five proposed amendments were approved.

In 2018, a Charter Review Commission recommended, and City Council approved ten Charter Amendment Questions to be presented to the voters in April of 2019; nine of the ten proposed amendments were approved.

In October of 2024, a Charter Review Commission was appointed and presented recommended changes to the Charter. The City Council approved five Charter Amendment Questions to be presented to the voters in April of 2025; all five Questions were approved and are reflected in this edition of the Home Rule Charter.

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CHARTER OF THE CITY

PREAMBLE: In order to provide for the government of the City of Blue Springs, and secure the benefits and advantages of constitutional Home Rule under the Constitution of the State of Missouri, the people of Blue Springs adopt the following Charter:

ARTICLE I
Incorporation, Name And Boundaries

Section 1.1. Incorporation, Name And Boundaries. [R.O. 1996 § C-1.1]
The inhabitants of the City of Blue Springs within the corporate limits as now established or as hereafter established and on file in the office of the City Clerk in the manner provided by law, shall continue to be a body politic and corporate in perpetuity, under the name of the City of Blue Springs.

ARTICLE II
Powers

Section 2.1. Powers. [R.O. 1996 § C-2.1]
The City shall have all powers which the General Assembly of the State of Missouri has authority to confer upon any City, provided such powers are consistent with the Constitution of this State and are not limited or denied either by this Charter or by Statute. The City shall in addition to its home rule powers, have all powers conferred by law.

Section 2.2. Construction. [R.O. 1996 § C-2.2]
The powers of the City shall be liberally construed. The specific mention of a particular power in this Charter shall not be construed as limiting the powers of the City.

ARTICLE III
City Council

Section 3.1. Where Powers Vested. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.1]
Except as this Charter provides otherwise, all powers of the City shall be vested in the City Council. The City Council shall provide for the exercise of these powers and for the performance of all duties and obligations imposed on the City by law.

Section 3.2. Composition. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.2; Ord. No. 4502 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-01), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

There shall be a City Council of the Mayor and six (6) City Councilmembers, two (2) from each of the three (3) districts, elected by the registered, qualified voters of their respective districts, as provided by Section 3.4.

District boundaries shall be established by ordinance following each Federal decennial census. Districts shall be compact and contiguous and contain, as nearly as possible, an equal number of inhabitants. The City Council shall approve any new district boundaries by majority vote.

Section 3.3. Qualifications. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.3; Ord. No. 4502 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-01), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019; Ord No. 5408, 4-21-2025]

A City Councilmember shall be at least twenty-five (25) years of age prior to the election, a citizen of the United States, an inhabitant and a registered, qualified voter of the City for two (2) years next preceding election and shall be an inhabitant of the district one hundred eighty-two (182) days next preceding election and during the term.

No City Councilmember shall be delinquent in paying any County, or Blue Springs income, personal property, real property or sales taxes, nor have been removed from an elected public office, nor be a convicted felon, nor be a registered sex offender, except that a person recalled from office may again run for the office from which recalled following the expiration of the term from which they were recalled, or may at any time run for a different office.

Section 3.4. Election And Terms. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.4; Ord. No. 4502 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-01), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

City Councilmembers shall be elected to serve staggered three (3) year terms.

Section 3.5. Compensation, Allowances And Expenses. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.5; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

The City Council shall determine the annual compensation, allowances, and expenses of City Councilmembers by ordinance. Beginning in 1995, and at least every (5) years thereafter, compensation shall be reviewed by the City Council which may adjust compensation and allowances by ordinance. No ordinance increasing compensation shall become effective for a City Councilmember until the commencement of a new term of office.

Section 3.6. Mayor Pro Tempore. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.6; Ord. No. 4502 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-01), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

The City Council shall elect annually from among the City Councilmembers a Mayor Pro Tempore. The Mayor Pro Tempore shall assume the powers and duties of the Mayor during the absence or disability of the Mayor and, if a vacancy occurs, shall become Mayor until the next regular municipal election. The election shall occur in accordance with the election laws of the State of Missouri.

Section 3.7. Prohibitions. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.7; Ord. No. 4502 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-01), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

A. Holding Other Office. Except where authorized by law, or pursuant to an agreement between the City and another entity of government, no City Councilmember shall hold any other City office, City employment or other elected public office during the term for which the City Councilmember was elected to the City Council, and no former Councilmember shall hold any compensated appointive City office or City employment until two (2) years after the expiration of the term for which the City Councilmember was elected to the City Council.

B. Appointments And Removals. No City Councilmember shall in any manner dictate the appointment or removal of any City administrative officers or employees whom the City Administrator or any subordinates are empowered to appoint, but the City Council as a group may express its views and fully and freely discuss with the City Administrator anything pertaining to appointment and removal of such officers and employees.

C. Interference With Administration. Except for the purpose of inquiry, information or investigation, unless specifically otherwise provided in this Charter, the City Councilmembers shall deal with the City administrative officials and employees solely through the City Administrator or their designee, and no City Councilmember shall give orders to the subordinates of the City Administrator, either publicly or privately.

Section 3.8. Vacancy. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.8; Ord. No. 4502 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-01), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

The office of a City Councilmember shall become vacant upon the death, resignation, forfeiture, or removal from office in any manner authorized by law.

Section 3.9. Forfeiture Of Office. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.9; Ord. No. 4502 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-01), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

A City Councilmember shall forfeit office:

1. If at any time during the term of office the City Councilmember lacks any qualification for the office prescribed by this Charter or by law;

2. If the City Councilmember violates any prohibition of this Charter.

Section 3.10. Filling Of Vacancies. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.10; Ord. No. 4502 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-01), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019; Ord No. 5408, 4-21-2025]

A vacancy of a City Councilmember shall be filled by appointment by the Mayor and approval by the City Council. This shall occur at or before the second regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council after the vacancy, and shall be decided by approval of the City Council by a majority of the remaining City Council members. The person appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold the appointed position until the term expires.

Section 3.11. Judge Of Qualifications. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.11; Ord. No. 4502 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-01), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

The City Council shall be the judge of the election and qualifications of its members and of the grounds for forfeiture of their office and for that purpose shall have power to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths and require the production of evidence. A City Councilmember charged with conduct constituting grounds for forfeiture of office shall be entitled to a public hearing within thirty (30) days. Decisions made by the City Council under this Section shall be subject to review by the courts.

Section 3.12. Legislative Proceedings. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.12; Ord. No. 4502 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-01), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

A. Meetings. The City Council shall meet regularly at least once each month at such times and places as the City Council may prescribe. The Mayor upon their own motion may, or at the request of two (2) members of the City Council shall, call a special meeting of the Council for a time not earlier than twenty-four (24) hours after notice is given to all members of the City Council then in the City. Special meetings of the City Council may also be held with less than twenty-four (24) hours' notice by the consent of all the members of the City Council then in the City, and such consent may be given either prior to or during the special meeting.

B. Rules And Journals. The City Council shall determine its own rules and order of business. It shall cause a journal of its proceedings to be kept, and this journal shall be open to public inspection.

C. Quorum. A majority of members of the entire City Council shall constitute a quorum for its business, but a smaller number may meet and compel the attendance of absent members in the manner and subject to the penalties prescribed by the rules of the City Council.

D. Voting. Voting shall be by roll call for the second reading of an ordinance, for approval of minutes, for approval of a consent agenda containing items that are considered to be routine, or at the request of the Mayor or any Councilmember, and the ayes and nays shall be recorded in the journal. In each roll call vote, the names of the City Councilmembers shall be called in seating order and the name to be called first shall be advanced one position, then the name of the Mayor shall be called. Except as otherwise provided in the Charter, the affirmative vote of a majority of the entire City Council shall be necessary to adopt any ordinance or resolution.

E. Overriding Mayor's Veto. Every ordinance or resolution adopted by the City Council shall be presented to the Mayor for their approval; and if the Mayor shall sign the same, it shall be deemed approved and adopted. The Mayor may return an ordinance or resolution with objections to the City Council unsigned prior to the beginning of the next regular meeting; and such ordinance or resolution shall stand vetoed and shall not take effect without the approval of the Mayor unless adopted over their veto in the following manner:

   At the regular meeting next following receipt of a disapproved ordinance or resolution, the City Clerk shall cause the objection of the Mayor to be entered upon the journal of the City Council and the Mayor Pro Tempore shall put to the City Council the question, "Shall the

ordinance or resolution take effect, the objections of the Mayor notwithstanding?" The question may not be tabled, and after debate, the City Clerk shall proceed to call the roll. Should two-thirds (2/3) of the City Councilmembers cast their votes in favor of overriding the Mayor's veto, the ordinance or resolution shall take effect; otherwise it shall not take effect. The Mayor shall not vote on any action to override the Mayor's veto.

Should the Mayor neither sign nor return with objections any ordinance or resolution prior to the beginning of the next regular meeting of the City Council, it shall be deemed approved and adopted.

F. Form Of Ordinances. Proposed ordinances and resolutions shall be introduced in the City Council only in written or printed form. The enacting clause of all ordinances shall be:

Be it Ordained By the City Council of the City of Blue Springs. . .

The enacting clause of all ordinances submitted by initiative shall be:

Be It Ordained By the people of the City of Blue Springs . . .

No ordinance, except those making appropriations of money and those codifying or revising existing ordinances, shall contain more than one (1) subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title. Ordinances making appropriations shall be confined to the subject matter of the appropriations.

G. (Reserved)[1]

H. Procedure. Except in the case of emergency ordinances, every proposed ordinance shall be read by title in open City Council meeting two (2) times before passage. These readings may occur at the same meeting. A copy of each proposed ordinance shall be provided for each City Council member and a copy shall be provided for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk until it is adopted or fails adoption. Persons interested in a proposed ordinance shall be given an opportunity to be heard before the City Council in accordance with such rules and regulations as the City Council may adopt. If the City Council adopts an amendment to a proposed ordinance that constitutes a change in substance, any member of the City Council may require that the proposed ordinance, as amended, be placed on file for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk for an additional one (1) week before passage. In the absence of such a request, the City Council may consider the amended ordinance at the same meeting.

I. Emergency Ordinances. All emergency ordinances shall be read in full in open City Council meetings. An ordinance may be passed as an emergency measure on the day of its introduction if it contains a declaration describing in clear and specific terms the facts and reasons constituting the emergency and receives the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the City Council. An ordinance granting, reviewing or extending a franchise shall not be passed as an emergency ordinance.

J. Effective Date. Every adopted ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage, adoption and approval by the Mayor, or any later date specified therein.

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1. Editor's Note: R.O. 1996 § C-3.12(G), Execution of Documents, was repealed 4-15-2019 by Ord. No. 4812 as it duplicated the provisions of § C-4.4(D).

K. Authentication And Recording. All ordinances and resolutions adopted by the City Council shall be authenticated by the signature of the Mayor and City Clerk. The City Clerk shall record in a properly indexed book kept for the purpose all ordinances and resolutions adopted by the City Council.

Section 3.13. City Clerk. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.13; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

The City Administrator shall appoint a City Clerk with the advice and consent of the City Council. The City Clerk shall keep the journal of the City Council proceedings, authenticate by signature all ordinances and resolutions, and record them in full in a book kept for that purpose. The City Clerk shall perform such other duties as may be required by law, by this Charter, by ordinance, or by the City Administrator.

Section 3.14. City Attorney. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.14; Ord. No. 4502 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-01), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

A City Attorney shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of a majority of the entire City Council and may be removed by the Mayor with the consent of a majority of the entire City Council, or by five-sevenths (5/7) majority of the City Council. The City Attorney shall be a licensed member of the bar of this State and shall have been in active practice for at least five (5) years. The City Attorney shall receive compensation as determined by ordinance.

The City Attorney shall represent the City in all legal matters in which it is a party or is interested. The City Attorney shall advise the City Council, any committee or member thereof, the Mayor, the City Administrator, department directors, and the boards and commissions concerning any legal questions affecting the City's interest and shall perform such other legal services as may be requested by the City Council.

Section 3.15. City Prosecutor. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.15; Ord. No. 4502 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-01), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

A City Prosecutor shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of a majority of the entire City Council and may be removed by the Mayor with the consent of a majority of the entire City Council, or by five-sevenths (5/7) majority of the City Council. The City Prosecutor shall be a licensed member of the bar of this State and shall have been in active practice for at least five (5) years. The City Prosecutor shall receive compensation as determined by ordinance.

The City Prosecutor shall prosecute and defend all actions originating or pending before the Municipal Court.

Section 3.16. Municipal Judges. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.16; Ord. No. 4502 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-01), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

The Municipal Judges shall be appointed by the Mayor with consent of the majority of the entire City Council. The term of the Municipal Judge shall be for three (3) years. The Municipal Judges shall be licensed members of the bar of this State and shall have been in active practice for at least five (5) years, in addition to the other requirements imposed by State law. The Municipal Judges shall receive compensation as determined by ordinance. If a Municipal Judge is absent, sick, or disqualified from acting, the Presiding Municipal Judge may request the Presiding Judge of the Circuit Court to designate some competent, eligible person to act as Special Municipal Judge until such absence or disqualification shall cease; provided, however, that should a Municipal Judge resign from office, that vacancy shall be filled by an appointment in the same manner as a Municipal Judge is appointed, with a consent of the majority of the entire City Council. The Presiding Municipal Judge may, by written directive, designate a written procedure delegating authority by which the Municipal Court Administrator or the Municipal Court Clerk is authorized to notify and request the Presiding Judge of the Circuit Court to designate a Special Municipal Judge.

Municipal Judges shall have such powers and duties as are conferred upon such officers by the laws of the State of Missouri.

Section 3.17. Investigations. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.17]

The City Council may make investigations into the affairs of the City and the conduct of any City department, office or agency and for this purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony and require the production of evidence. Any person who fails or refuses to obey a subpoena issued in the exercise of these powers by the City Council shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punished as may be prescribed by ordinance.

Section 3.18. Independent Audit. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.18; Ord No. 5408, 4-21-2025]

The City Council shall provide for an independent audit of all City accounts and a management report at least annually in accordance with Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) accounting principles. Such audits shall be made by a certified public accountant or firm of such accountants who have no personal interest, direct or indirect, in the fiscal affairs of the City Government or any of its officers. A copy of the audit report prepared by the certified public accountant or firm of such accountants and management report shall be kept in the City Clerk's office, received and filed by the City Council, and shall be open to public inspection.

Section 3.19. Codification Of Ordinances. [R.O. 1996 § C-3.19; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

Each year, all ordinances of the City of a general and permanent nature shall be reviewed. Recodification shall be periodically supplemented and updated at the discretion of the City Clerk.

ARTICLE IV
Mayor

Section 4.1. Mayor. [R.O. 1996 § C-4.1; Ord. No. 4502 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-01), 8-18-2014]

The executive power in the City shall be vested in a Mayor who shall be recognized as the head of the City for all legal and ceremonial purposes and by the Governor of Missouri for all purposes of military law. As a member of the City Council, the Mayor shall have all powers, rights, privileges, duties, and responsibilities of a member of the City Council, including the right to vote on questions.

Section 4.2. Qualifications. [R.O. 1996 § C-4.2; Ord. No. 4502 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-01), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019; Ord No. 5408, 4-21-2025]

No person shall be elected to the office of Mayor who is not at least twenty-five (25) years of age prior to the election, a citizen of the United States, an inhabitant and a registered, qualified voter of the City for at least two (2) years next preceding election and during the term.

No Mayor shall be delinquent in paying any County or Blue Springs income, personal property, real property, or sales taxes, nor be a convicted felon, nor be a registered sex offender, nor have been removed from an elected public office, except that a person recalled from office may again run for the office from which recalled following the expiration of the term from which they were recalled, or may at any time run for a different office.

Section 4.3. Election And Term. [R.O. 1996 § C-4.3]

The Mayor shall be elected by the registered qualified voters of the City at large at the regular municipal election. The Mayor shall hold office for a term of four (4) years.

Section 4.4. Powers And Duties. [R.O. 1996 § C-4.4; Ord. No. 4502 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-01), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

A. Council Meetings. The Mayor shall preside at meetings of the City Council and shall have the right to vote. The Mayor may call meetings of the City Council as provided in Section 3.12(A).

B. Execution Of Laws, Ordinances, Rules And Regulations. The Mayor shall take care that the laws, ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations of the City be faithfully executed. The Mayor may require oral or written reports and opinions from the directors of all executive departments of the City or from the heads of other departments, boards, and commissions of the City, except the Judge of the Municipal Court.

C. Appointments. The Mayor, with the advice and consent of a majority of the City Council, shall appoint all members of committees, boards, and commissions.

D. Execution Of Documents. The Mayor or their designee shall sign all proclamations and executive orders. The Mayor or their designee shall sign on behalf of the City all instruments, contracts, agreements, leases, deeds, mortgages and other instruments binding the City or conveying an interest in property or other right of the City to any other corporation, association, legal entity or natural person, when authorized by the City Council to do so.

E. Messages To City Council. The Mayor shall, from time to time, deliver to the entire City Council orally, or in writing, messages suggesting to the entire City Council possible legislation and advising on matters that the Mayor deems should be called to the attention of the entire City Council.

F. Administrative Policy Matters. The Mayor shall have the responsibility of discussing with the City Administrator any and all policy matters; however, the Mayor shall not interfere with day-to-day administration of City affairs.

G. Remit Fines And Forfeitures And Grant Reprieves And Pardons. The Mayor shall have the power to remit fines and forfeitures and to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses arising under the ordinances of the City. Notice of such action shall be made public at the next regular City Council meeting.

H. Review City Administrator. The Mayor shall preside as Chairman of the City Council's review of the City Administrator's performance as provided in Section 5.5.

I. Other Duties. The Mayor shall exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this Charter, by ordinance, or by law.

Section 4.5. Compensation, Allowances And Expenses. [R.O. 1996 § C-4.5]

The salary of the Mayor shall be fixed by ordinance and shall not be increased or diminished during the Mayor's term of office. The Mayor may receive reasonable reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses as approved by the City Council.

Section 4.6. Prohibitions. [R.O. 1996 § C-4.6; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

Holding Other Office. Except where authorized by law, or pursuant to an agreement between the City and another entity of Government, no Mayor shall hold any other City Office, City employment, or other elected public office during the term for which the Mayor was elected to the office of Mayor, and no former Mayor shall hold any compensated appointive City Office or City employment until two (2) years after the expiration of the term for which they were elected to the office of Mayor.

Section 4.7. Vacancy. [R.O. 1996 § C-4.7; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

The office of Mayor shall become vacant upon their death, resignation, forfeiture or removal from office in any manner authorized by law.

Section 4.8. Forfeiture Of Office. [R.O. 1996 § C-4.8]

The office of Mayor shall be forfeit if:

1. At any time during the term of office, the Mayor lacks any qualifications prescribed by this Charter or by law.

2. The Mayor violates any prohibition of this Charter.

ARTICLE V
City Administrator

Section 5.1. Appointment, Qualifications, and Compensation. [R.O. 1996 § C-5.1; Ord. No. 4505 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-02), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

A. Appointment. There shall be a City Administrator appointed by the Mayor, with the approval of a majority of the entire City Council. The person appointed by the City Council shall serve for an indefinite term.

B. Qualifications. The City Administrator shall be chosen solely on the basis of executive and administrative qualifications with special reference to their actual experience and knowledge of accepted practice in respect to the duties of the office, and such further qualifications that may be required by ordinance, or by this Charter. At the time of appointment, the City Administrator need not be a resident of the City or the State. The City Administrator shall be a resident within six (6) months after appointment, unless the City Administrator is granted an extension by a majority vote of the City Council. The City Administrator must remain a resident of the City as long as the City Administrator is acting in the capacity of City Administrator. The City Administrator must be at least twenty-five (25) years of age and must devote full time to the City Administrator's duties as City Administrator.

C. Compensation. The City Administrator shall receive such compensation as the City Council shall fix from time to time by ordinance.

Section 5.2. Removal. [R.O. 1996 § C-5.2; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

The City Administrator may be removed by executive order of the Mayor after receiving the consent of a majority of the entire City Council, or by a five-sevenths (5/7) vote of the City Council on its own initiative.

Section 5.3. Acting City Administrator. [R.O. 1996 § C-5.3; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

By letter filed with the City Clerk the City Administrator shall designate, subject to approval of the City Council, a qualified City administrative officer to exercise the powers and perform the duties of City Administrator during the City Administrator's temporary absence or disability. During such absence, disability, or vacancy, the City Council may by majority vote revoke such designation at any time and appoint another officer of the City to serve until the City Administrator shall return or the disability shall cease.

Section 5.4. Powers And Duties. [R.O. 1996 § C-5.4; Ord. No. 4505 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-02), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019; Ord No. 5408, 4-21-2025]

The City Administrator shall be the chief administrative officer of the City. The City Administrator shall be responsible to the Mayor and the City Council for the administration of all City affairs placed in their charge by or under this Charter. Except as otherwise specified by ordinance, or by State law, the City Administrator shall coordinate and generally supervise the operation of all departments, both line and staff. In order to carry out these duties, the City Administrator shall have the following authority:

A. Appointment And Removal Of Department Directors. The City Administrator shall appoint and, when the City Administrator deems it necessary for the good of the City, suspend or remove all City employees, including appointed administrative officers, provided for in this Charter, except as otherwise provided by law or in this Charter. The City Administrator may authorize any administrative officer who is subject to the City Administrator's direction and supervision to exercise these powers with respect to subordinates in that officer's department, office or agency.

B. Administration Of Departments. The City Administrator shall direct and supervise the administration of all departments, offices and agencies of the City, except as otherwise provided by this Charter or by law.

C. Attend City Council Meetings. The City Administrator shall attend all meetings of the City Council unless excused by the City Council. When the City Council considers personnel matters relating to the City Administrator, they may excuse the City Administrator from attendance. The City Administrator shall have the right to take part in discussions at meetings of the City Council but shall have no power to vote. The City Administrator shall receive notice of all meetings.

D. Enforcement Of Laws. The City Administrator shall see that all laws, provisions of this Charter and acts of the City Council, subject to enforcement by the City Administrator or by officers subject to the City Administrator's direction and supervision, are faithfully enforced.

E. Budget And Capital Program. The City Administrator shall prepare and submit a recommended annual operating budget and a Capital Improvement Program of not less than five (5) years to the Mayor and City Council, and make available to the public.

F. Finance And Administrative Report. The City Administrator shall submit to the Mayor and City Council, and make available to the public, a complete report on the finances that includes all fund balances in all accounts, and administrative activities of the City as of the end of each fiscal year.

G. Other Reports. The City Administrator shall make such other reports as the Mayor and City Council may require concerning the operations of City departments, offices and agencies subject to the City Administrator's direction and supervision.

H. Report Of Financial Condition Of City. The City Administrator shall keep the Mayor and City Council fully apprised as to the financial condition and future needs of the City and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council concerning the affairs of the City as the City Administrator deems desirable.

I. Other Duties. The City Administrator shall perform such other duties as are specified in this Charter or may be required by the City Council.

Section 5.5. Performance Review. [R.O. 1996 § C-5.5]

The City Administrator shall receive a performance review from the Mayor and City Council at least once a year. Each performance review shall be made a part of the confidential personnel file of the City Administrator.

ARTICLE VI
Administrative Organization, Personnel System And City Comprehensive Plan

Section 6.1. Administrative Organization. [R.O. 1996 § C-6.1; Ord No. 5408, 4-21-2025]

A. Departments, Authorities And Offices. Existing departments, agencies, authorities and offices shall be continued as constituted on the effective date of this Charter until thereafter changed pursuant to this Charter or by ordinance.

B. The City Council may by ordinance establish a City health department.

C. Boards And Commissions. Existing Boards and Commissions shall be continued as constituted on the effective date of this Charter, until thereafter changed pursuant to this Charter or by ordinance.

Section 6.2. Personnel System. [R.O. 1996 § C-6.2]

The City Administrator shall put in place a personnel system.

Section 6.3. City Comprehensive Plan. [R.O. 1996 § C-6.3; Ord No. 5408, 4-21-2025]

The City Administrator or their designee shall prepare and submit an updated City Comprehensive Plan to the City Council, as may be amended from time to time pursuant to State law.

ARTICLE VII
Financial Procedures

Section 7.1. Fiscal Year. [R.O. 1996 § C-7.1]

The Fiscal year of the City shall be established by ordinance.

Section 7.2. Budget. [R.O. 1996 § C-7.2; Ord. No. 4505 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-02), 8-18-2014]

The budget shall provide a complete financial plan of all City funds and activities for the ensuing fiscal year and, except as required by law or this Charter, shall be in such form as the City Administrator deems desirable or the City Council may require. The budget shall indicate in separate sections:

1. Proposed expenditures for current operations during the ensuing fiscal year and the method of financing such expenditures;

2. Proposed capital expenditures during the ensuing fiscal year and the proposed method of financing each such capital expenditure; and

3. Proposed income.

The total proposed expenditure shall not exceed the total of estimated income plus any surplus anticipated to be on hand at the end of the fiscal year then in progress.

Section 7.3. Submission Of Budget. [R.O. 1996 § C-7.3]

At least sixty (60) days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the City Administrator shall submit to the City Council a budget.

Section 7.4. Capital Improvement Program. [R.O. 1996 § C-7.4]

A. Submission To City Council. The City Administrator shall prepare and submit to the City Council a minimum of a five (5) year capital improvement program at least sixty (60) days prior to the final date for submission of the budget.

B. Contents. The capital improvement program shall include:

1. A clear general summary of the contents;

2. A list of all capital improvements which are proposed to be undertaken during the five (5) fiscal years next ensuing, with appropriate supporting information as to the necessity for such improvements;

3. Cost estimates, method of financing and recommended time schedules for each such improvement; and

4. The estimated annual cost of operating and maintaining the facilities to be constructed or acquired.

The above information may be revised and extended each year with regard to capital improvements still pending or in process of construction or acquisition.

Section 7.5. City Council Action On Budget. [R.O. 1996 § C-7.5; Ord. No. 4503 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-03), 8-18-2014]

A. Notice And Hearing. The City Council shall publish in one (1) or more newspapers of general circulation in the City or display on the City of Blue Springs website a general summary of the budget and a notice stating:

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

2. The time and place, not less than two (2) weeks after such publication, for a public hearing on the budget.

B. Amendment Before Adoption. After the public hearing, the City Council may adopt the budget with or without amendment. In amending the budget the City Council may add or decrease any programs or amounts, except expenditures required by law or for debt service. No amendment to the budget shall increase the authorized expenditures to an amount greater than the total of estimated income plus any surplus anticipated to be on hand at the end of the fiscal year then in progress.

C. Adoption. The City Council by ordinance shall adopt the budget on or before the last day of the fiscal year currently ending. If it fails to adopt the budget by this date, the amounts appropriated for current operation for the current fiscal year shall be deemed adopted for the ensuing fiscal year on a month-to-month basis, with all items in it prorated accordingly, until such time as the City Council adopts a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. Adoption of the budget shall constitute appropriations of the amounts specified therein as expenditures from the funds indicated.

Section 7.6. City Council Action On Capital Improvement Program. [R.O. 1996 § C-7.6; Ord. No. 4503 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-03), 8-18-2014; Ord No. 5408, 4-21-2025]

A. Notice And Hearing. The City Council shall publish in one (1) or more newspapers of general circulation in the City or display on the City of Blue Springs website a general summary of the capital improvement program and a notice stating:

1. The times and places where copies of the capital improvement program are available for inspection by the public; and

2. The time and place, not less than two (2) weeks after such publication, for a public hearing on the capital improvement program.

B. Adoption. The City Council by ordinance shall adopt the capital improvement program with or without amendment after the public hearing and on or before the last day of the fiscal year currently ending.

Section 7.7. Public Record. [R.O. 1996 § C-7.7; Ord. No. 4503 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-03), 8-18-2014; Ord No. 5408, 4-21-2025]

Copies of the budget and the capital improvement program as adopted shall be public records and shall be made available to the public at City Hall and on the City of Blue Springs website.

Section 7.8. Amendment After Adoption. [R.O. 1996 § C-7.8; Ord. No. 4505 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-02), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

A. Supplemental Appropriations. If during the fiscal year the City Administrator certifies that there are available for appropriation revenues in excess of those estimated in the budget, the City Council by ordinance may make supplemental appropriations for the year up to the amount of such excess.

B. Reduction Of Appropriations. If at any time during the fiscal year it appears probable to the City Administrator that the revenues available will be insufficient to meet the amount appropriated, the City Administrator shall report to the City Council without delay, indicating the estimated amount of the deficit, any remedial action taken by them and their recommendations as to any other steps to be taken. The City Council shall then take such further action as it deems necessary to prevent or minimize any deficit and for that purpose it may by ordinance reduce one (1) or more appropriations.

C. Transfer Of Appropriations. At any time during the fiscal year the City Administrator with the written consent of the Mayor may transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balance among programs within a fund, and, upon written request by the City Administrator, the City Council may by ordinance transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balance from one (1) fund to another.

D. Emergency Appropriations*:* Effective Date. The supplemental appropriations and reduction or transfer of appropriations authorized by this Section may be made effective immediately upon adoption and may be made by emergency ordinance in accordance with the provisions of Section 3.12(I).

Section 7.9. Tax Rates. [R.O. 1996 § C-7.9; Ord No. 5408, 4-21-2025]

A. The City Council shall annually by ordinance set the tax rate and levy on the various classes of property. The levy so established shall be certified by the City Clerk to the appropriate official.

B. All existing taxes may remain in effect.

Section 7.10. Sale Of Bonds. [R.O. 1996 § C-7.10]

Except as otherwise required by law or this Charter, all bonds issued by the City shall be sold as prescribed by City ordinance.

ARTICLE VIII
Nomination And Election

Section 8.1. Municipal Elections. [R.O. 1996 § C-8.1; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

A. Regular Elections. The regular municipal election shall be held on the first (1st) Tuesday after the first (1st) Monday in April in each year.

B. Special Elections. The City Council may by ordinance order special elections, fix the time for such elections, and provide for holding such elections.

C. Conduct Of Elections. All City elections shall be governed by the provisions of this Charter and of applicable State law. The City Council by ordinance may further regulate elections, subject to the provisions of this Charter and applicable State law.

Section 8.2. Nominations. [R.O. 1996 § C-8.2; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

A. Declaration Of Candidacy. Nomination of candidates for election to elective City Offices shall be made by declaration of candidacy filed with the City Clerk in the form and manner prescribed by ordinance. No person who filed as a candidate for nomination or election to an office may, without withdrawing as provided by State Statutes, file as a write-in candidate for election to the same office for the same term. This shall not apply to elections wherein candidates are being elected to an office for which no candidate has filed.

B. Filing And Acceptance. The declaration of candidacy shall be filed with the City Clerk within the filing time as set forth by State Statutes. The City Clerk shall make a record of the exact date and time when each declaration of candidacy is filed.

C. Certification To Election Authority. The City Clerk shall certify to the election authority within the time required by State Statutes, the names of candidates who have filed a declaration of candidacy and shall indicate the order in which such declaration of candidacy was filed as determined according to Section C-8.3.

Section 8.3. Preparation Of Ballots. [R.O. 1996 § C-8.3; Ord. No. 4503 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-03), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

The names of candidates for elective offices shall be printed on the ballot without party designation. The City Clerk shall clearly designate where candidates shall form a line and determine the order of filings; except that, in the case of candidates who file a declaration of candidacy with the City Clerk prior to 5:00 p.m. on the first day for filing, the random drawing determines the order in which candidates' names appear on the ballot. The drawing shall be conducted so that each candidate, or candidate's representative as provided by State Statutes, shall draw a number at random at the time of filing. The City Clerk shall record the number drawn with the candidate's declaration of candidacy. The names of candidates filing on the first day of filing for each office on each ballot shall be listed in ascending order of the numbers drawn. Any candidate filing after the first day shall be placed on the ballot in the order received by the City Clerk. At least one (1) notice of election shall be published in one (1) or more newspapers of general circulation in the City or prominently displayed on the City of Blue Springs website, which notice shall contain the names of candidates to be elected.

Section 8.4. Procedures And Determination Of Election Results. [R.O. 1996 § C-8.4; Ord. No. 4502 § 1 (Charter Amendment No. 2014-01), 8-18-2014; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

A. Number Of Votes. In an election for Mayor, every registered, qualified voter shall be entitled to vote for only one (1) candidate. In an election for City Councilmember, every registered qualified voter shall be entitled to vote for only one (1) candidate to represent their district in which the voter resides, except as otherwise provided in this Charter.

B. Returns. The City Council shall declare the results of any municipal election, regular or special, at the first regular meeting to be held following such election. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes for each office in the general or special election shall be declared elected and inducted into office at that time.

C. General And Special Elections Tie Vote. If at any general or special election there shall be two (2) or more candidates receiving an equal number of votes, and if that number of votes would otherwise qualify each such tied candidate for election to office, then the City Council shall call a special election at which said candidates shall be the only candidates. The incumbent stays in office until a successor has been elected and duly qualified.

ARTICLE IX
Initiative, Referendum And Recall

Section 9.1. General Authority. [R.O. 1996 § C-9.1; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

A. Initiative. The registered voters of the City shall have power to propose ordinances to the City Council and, if the City Council fails to adopt an ordinance so proposed without any change in substance, to adopt or reject it at a City election, provided that such power shall not extend to the budget or capital program or any ordinance relating to appropriation of money, levy of taxes, zoning or salaries of City Officers or employees. No proposed initiative ordinance shall contain more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title.

B. Referendum. The registered voters of the City shall have power to require reconsideration by the City Council of any adopted ordinance and, if the City Council fails to repeal an ordinance so reconsidered, to approve or reject it at a City election, provided that such power shall not extend to the budget or capital program, any emergency ordinance, any ordinance levying a special assessment or providing for the issuance of special tax bills, or any ordinance relating to zoning, appropriation of money or levy of taxes.

C. Recall. Any official elected by popular vote may be removed by the registered voters qualified to vote for their successor except as hereinafter provided, such power to be known as the "recall." No official elected by popular vote shall be subject to recall within six (6) months from their induction into office or during the last six (6) months of their term; and if the official is retained in office upon any recall election, the official shall not be again subject to recall during the same term of office.

Section 9.2. Commencement Of Proceedings, Petitioners' Committee - Affidavit. [R.O. 1996 § C-9.2; Ord No. 5408, 4-21-2025]

Any five (5) registered qualified voters of the City may commence initiative, referendum or recall proceedings by filing with the City Clerk an affidavit stating they will constitute the petitioners' committee and be responsible for circulating the petition and filing it in proper form, stating their names and addresses and specifying a Chair for the Committee and the address to which all notices to the committee are to be sent, and setting out in full the proposed initiative ordinance or citing the ordinance sought to be reconsidered, or specifying the name of the elected official to be recalled. No person shall qualify as a petition circulator who has been convicted of, found guilty of, or pled guilty to an offense involving forgery under the laws of this state or an offense under the laws of any other jurisdiction if that offense would be considered forgery under the laws of this state. Any additional registered, qualified voter of the City may join the Petitioner’s Committee by submitting a notarized Affidavit. The Affidavit must be signed by both the Committee Chair and the additional Committee member and include the member’s name and address. The Affidavit must be received by the City Clerk’s Office prior to the new member obtaining signatures on a Petition. No more than three (3) working days after the affidavit of the petitioners' committee is filed, the City Clerk shall issue the appropriate petition blanks to the petitioners' committee.

Section 9.3. Petitions. [R.O. 1996 § C-9.3; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019; Ord No. 5408, 4-21-2025]

A. Number Of Signatures. Initiative and referendum petitions must be signed by registered qualified voters of the City equal in number to at least eight percent (8%) of the total number of registered qualified voters registered to vote at the last regular City election. A recall petition shall be signed by registered qualified voters qualified to vote for their successor equal to at least twelve percent (12%) of the total number of registered, qualified voters registered to vote at the last regular City election.

B. Form And Content. All papers of a petition shall be uniform in size and style and shall be assembled as one instrument for filing. Each signature shall be executed in ink and shall be followed by the printed name and address of the person signing. Petitions shall contain or have attached thereto throughout their circulation the full text of the ordinance proposed or reconsidered. Recall petitions shall state the name and office of the elected official sought to be recalled. No petition shall seek the recall of more than one (1) officer, but several propositions for recall may be separately submitted at the same election on the same ballot.

C. Affidavit Of Circulator. Each paper of a petition shall have attached to it when filed an affidavit executed by the circulator thereof stating that the circulator personally circulated the paper, the number of signatures thereon, that all the signatures were affixed in the circulator's presence, that the circulator believes them to be the genuine signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be and that each signer had an opportunity before signing to read the full text of the ordinance proposed or sought to be reconsidered.

Section 9.4. Time For Filing Petitions. [R.O. 1996 § C-9.4; Ord No. 5408, 4-21-2025]

Referendum petitions must be filed within ninety (90) calendar days after adoption by the City Council of the ordinance sought to be reconsidered.

Initiative and recall petitions must be filed within ninety (90) calendar days of the issuance of the appropriate petition forms to the petitioner's committee.

Section 9.5. Procedure After Filing. [R.O. 1996 § C-9.5; Ord No. 5408, 4-21-2025]

A. Certificate Of City Clerk - Amendment. Within twenty (20) calendar days after the petition is filed, the City Clerk shall complete a certificate as to its sufficiency, specifying, if it is insufficient, the particulars wherein it is defective and shall promptly send a copy of the certificate to the petitioner's committee by certified mail, return receipt requested or via in person with written acknowledgement of receipt. A petition certified insufficient for lack of the required number of valid signatures may be amended once if the petitioner's committee files a notice of intention to amend it with the City Clerk within three (3) working days after receiving the copy of this certificate and files a supplementary petition upon additional papers within ten (10) calendar days after receiving the copy of such certificate. Such supplementary petition shall comply with the requirements of Subsections (B) and (C) of Section 9.3, and within five (5) working days after it is filed, the City Clerk shall complete a certificate as to the sufficiency of the petitions as amended and promptly send a copy of such certificate to the petitioner's committee by certified mail, return receipt requested or via in person with written acknowledgement of receipt as in the case of an original petition. If a petition or amended petition is certified insufficient and the petitioners' committee does not elect to amend within the time required, the City Clerk shall promptly present this certificate to the City Council, and the certificate shall then be a final determination as to the sufficiency of the petition.

B. Court Review; New Petition. A final determination as to the sufficiency of a petition shall be subject to court review in the manner provided by law for review of administrative decisions. A final determination of insufficiency, even if sustained upon court review, shall not prejudice the filing of a new petition for the same purpose.

Section 9.6. Referendum Petitions and Suspension Of Effect Of Ordinance. [R.O. 1996 § C-9.6]

When a referendum petition is filed with the City Clerk, the ordinance sought to be reconsidered shall be suspended from taking effect. Such suspension shall terminate when:

1. There is a final determination of insufficiency of the petition; or

2. The petitioner's committee withdraws the petition; or

3. The City Council repeals the ordinance; or

4. The election results sustaining the ordinance have been certified.

Section 9.7. Action On Initiative And Referendum Petitions. [R.O. 1996 § C-9.7]

A. Action By City Council. When an initiative or referendum petition has been determined sufficient, the City Council shall promptly consider the proposed initiative ordinance in the manner provided in Article III or reconsider the referred ordinance by voting its repeal. If the City Council fails to adopt a proposed initiative ordinance without any change in substance within sixty (60) days or fails to repeal the referred ordinance within thirty (30) days after the date the petition was determined sufficient, it shall submit the proposed or referred ordinance to the voters of the City.

B. Submission To Voters. The vote of the City on a proposed or referred ordinance shall be held not less than thirty (30) days and not later than the next legally available election as prescribed by State law.

Section 9.8. Withdrawal Of Initiative, Referendum Or Recall Petitions. [R.O. 1996 § C-9.8]

An initiative, referendum or recall petition may be withdrawn at any time prior to 5:00 P.M. on the final day for withdrawal, as prescribed by State law, by filing with the City Clerk a request for withdrawal signed by at least four (4) members of the petitioners' committee.

Upon the filing of such request, the petition shall have no further force or effect and all proceedings thereon shall be terminated.

Section 9.9. Recall Election. [R.O. 1996 § C-9.9]

A. Recall Election. When a recall petition has been certified to the City Council as sufficient by the City Clerk, the City Council shall fix a date for holding the election, not less than thirty (30) days thereafter, or at the next legally available election. If such office becomes vacant prior to the election, such election shall be canceled, and the vacancy shall be filled as provided in this Charter.

B. Recall Ballot. The recall question shall be submitted to the voters in substantially the following form:

Shall Name _____ Title _____ be removed from office?

Yes_____ No_____

Section 9.10. Results Of Election. [R.O. 1996 § C-9.10]

A. Initiative. If a majority of the registered qualified voters voting on a proposed initiative ordinance vote in its favor, it shall be considered adopted upon certification of the election results and shall be treated in all respects in the same manner as ordinances of the same kind adopted by the City Council. If conflicting ordinances are approved at the same election, the one receiving the greatest number of affirmative votes shall prevail to the extent of such conflict.

B. Referendum. If a majority of the registered qualified voters on a referred ordinance vote against it, it shall be considered repealed upon certification of the election results.

C. Recall. If a majority of the registered qualified voters voting in such recall election shall vote in favor of the recall, then a vacancy shall exist, regardless of a defect in the recall petition. Such vacancy shall be filled as provided in this Charter. If a majority of the registered qualified voters voting in such election shall vote against the recall, the elected officer shall continue in office. Any such person who has been recalled shall be ineligible to serve in the City in any capacity at any time during the remainder of the term for which the official was originally elected.

Section 9.11. Conduct Of Initiative, Referendum And Recall Elections. [R.O. 1996 § C-9.11]

Notice of initiative, referendum and recall elections shall be given, the elections conducted, the returns canvassed, and the results declared, in all respects as in other City elections.

ARTICLE X
Franchises

Section 10.1. Granting Of Franchises. [R.O. 1996 § C-10.1]

All public franchises and all renewals, extensions and amendments thereof shall be granted only by ordinance. No such ordinance shall be adopted within less than thirty (30) days after application therefor has been filed with the City Council, nor until a full public hearing has been held thereon. No exclusive franchises shall be granted, and no franchise shall be granted for a longer term than twenty (20) years. No such franchise shall be transferable directly or indirectly, except with the approval of the City Council expressed by ordinance after a full public hearing.

Section 10.2. Right Of Regulation. [R.O. 1996 § C-10.2]

All franchises, whether it be so provided in the ordinance or not, shall be subject to the right of the City Council to:

1. Misuse And Nonuse. Repeal the same for misuse or nonuse, or for failure to comply;

2. Efficiency. Require proper and adequate extension of plant and service the maintenance thereof;

3. Non Discrimination. Establish highest practical standards of service and quality of products and prevent unjust discrimination in service or rates;

4. Audit Of Accounts. Make an independent audit and examination of accounts at any time, and require reports annually;

5. Service To Public. Require continuous and uninterrupted service to the public in accordance with the terms of the franchise throughout the period thereof;

6. Use Of Public Thoroughfares. Control and regulate the use of the City streets, alleys, bridges and public places, and the space above and below them;

7. Rates And Charges. Regulate rates, fares and charges, and make readjustments thereof from time to time if the same are not regulated by the State; and

8. Other Regulations. Impose such other regulations from time to time as it may determine to be conducive to the safety, welfare and accommodation of the public.

Section 10.3. Revocable Permits. [R.O. 1996 § C-10.3]

Temporary permits for the operation of public utilities or like permits for a period not to exceed two (2) years but subject to being renewed for a period not to exceed one (1) year and subject to amendment, alteration or revocation at any time at the will of the City Council may be granted only by ordinance on such terms and conditions as the City Council shall determine. Such permits shall in no event be construed to be franchises or extensions or amendments of franchises.

Section 10.4. Operation Beyond Franchise Period. [R.O. 1996 § C-10.4]

Any operation of a public utility by a franchise holder, with the tacit permission of the City, beyond the period for which the franchise was granted, shall under no circumstances be construed as a renewal or extension of such franchise. Any such operation shall at most be regarded as a mere temporary permit subject, like other permits, to amendment, alteration or revocation at any time at the will of the City Council.

ARTICLE XI
Licensing, Taxation And Regulation Of Business, Occupations, Professions, Vocations And Other Activities Or Things

Section 11.1. Objects Of Licensing, Taxation And Regulation. [R.O. 1996 § C-11.1]

The City Council shall have power by ordinance to license, tax and regulate all business, occupations, professions, vocations, activities or things whatsoever set forth and enumerated by the Statutes of this State now or hereafter applicable to constitutional Charter Cities, or Cities of the Third or Fourth Class, or of any population group, and which any such Cities are now or may hereafter be permitted by law to license, tax and regulate.

ARTICLE XII
General Provisions

Section 12.1. Personal Financial Interest. [R.O. 1996 § C-12.1]

Any elected or appointed officer, employee or member of any Board or Commission of the City who has a substantial interest, direct or by reason of ownership of stock in any corporation, in any contract with the City or in the sale or purchase of any land, material, supplies or services to or from the City or to a contractor supplying the City shall make known that interest in writing to the City Council and shall refrain from voting upon or otherwise participating in the capacity as a City Officer or employee in the making of such sale or purchase or in the making or performance of such contract. Any City Officer or employee who willfully conceals such a substantial financial interest or willfully violates the requirements of this Section shall be guilty of malfeasance in office or position and shall forfeit their office or position. Violation of this Section with the knowledge express or implied of the person or corporation contracting with or making a sale to the City shall render the contract or sale voidable by the City Administrator or the City Council.

Section 12.2. Political Activity. [R.O. 1996 § C-12.2]

No City employee shall solicit or contribute any contribution for the campaign fund of any candidate for Blue Springs City Office or take part in the political campaign of any candidate for Blue Springs City Office. All employees may exercise their rights as private citizens to express opinions and, if a registered qualified voter in Blue Springs, to vote in any City election. Political affiliation, participation or contribution shall not be considered in making any City employment decision. No City Officer, Board member, Council member, Commission member or employee shall use official authority or official influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election to Blue Springs City Office. No City Officer, Board member, Council member, Commission member or employee shall directly or indirectly coerce, attempt to coerce, command, advise or solicit a City employee to pay, lend, or contribute anything of value to a committee, organization, agency or person for the political or electoral purposes of any candidate for Blue Springs City Office.

Section 12.3. Activities Prohibited. [R.O. 1996 § C-12.3; Ord. No. 4812, 4-15-2019]

A. No person shall be appointed to or removed from or any way favored or discriminated against with respect to any City position or appointive City administrative office because of race, sex, age, disability, national origin, or political or religious opinions or affiliations.

B. No person shall willfully make any false statement, certificate, mark, rating or report in regard to any test, certification or appointment under the personnel provisions of this Charter or the rules and regulations made hereunder, or any manner commit or attempt to commit any fraud preventing the impartial execution of such provisions, rules and regulations.

C. No person who seeks appointment, promotion or retention with respect to any City position or appointive City administrative office shall directly or indirectly give, render or pay any money, service or other valuable thing to any person for or in connection with their test, appointment, proposed appointment, promotion or proposed promotion.

Section 12.4. Penalties. [R.O. 1996 § C-12.4]

Any person who by himself or herself or with others willfully violates any of the provisions of Sections 12.1, 12.2 and 12.3, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punishable as may be provided by ordinance.

Section 12.5. Notice Of Suits. [R.O. 1996 § C-12.5]

No action shall be maintained against the City for or on account of any injury growing out of alleged negligence of the City unless notice shall first have been given in writing to the City Administrator within ninety (90) days of the occurrence for which said damage is claimed, stating the place, time, character and circumstances of the injury, and that the person so injured will claim damages therefore from the City.

Section 12.6. Official Bonds. [R.O. 1996 § C-12.6]

All officers and employees of the City who receive, disburse, or are responsible for City funds and such other officers and employees as the City Council by ordinance may designate, shall, within such time after election or appointment as may be fixed by ordinance, and before entering upon the discharge of their duties, give bond to the City in such sums and with such sureties as shall be prescribed by ordinance, and subject to approval by the City Council, conditioned upon the faithful and proper performance of their duties and for the prompt accounting for and paying over to the City of all monies belonging to the City that may come into their hands. The City shall pay the premiums on all such bonds.

Section 12.7. Charter Amendments. [R.O. 1996 § C-12.7]

Amendments to this Charter may be framed and submitted to the electors by a commission in the manner provided by law and the Constitution of the State of Missouri for framing and submitting a complete Charter. Amendments may also be proposed by ordinance by the City Council, by Charter Review Commission or by petition signed by a number of registered qualified voters equal to at least twelve percent (12%) of the total number of persons registered to vote at the last regular municipal election, setting forth the proposed amendment and filed with the City Clerk, in the manner prescribed for initiative petitions in Article IX. Section 9.3, of this Charter.

Any amendment approved by a majority of the registered qualified voters voting thereon shall become a part of this Charter at the time and under the conditions fixed in the amendment; sections or articles may be submitted separately or in the alternative and determined as provided by law and the Constitution of the State of Missouri for a complete Charter.

Section 12.8. Charter Review Commission. [R.O. 1996 § C-12.8]

From time to time, but no less than every five (5) years, the City Council shall provide for a Charter Review Commission to recommend to the voters of the City proposed amendments to this Charter. The members of the Charter Review Commission shall be selected as provided by the City Council. The Charter Review Commission shall consist of at least nine (9) persons, none of whom shall be an elected official of the City. No more than forty percent (40%) of the Commission members shall reside in any one election district. The Charter Review Commission shall, within twelve (12) months of its first meeting, report to the voters as many amendments to the Charter as it shall deem advisable.

Section 12.9. Public Improvements And Special Assessments. [R.O. 1996 § C-12.9]

A. Improvements. The procedure for making, altering, vacating or abandoning a public improvement shall be governed by general ordinance, consistent with applicable State law.

B. Special Assessments. The procedure for levying, collecting and enforcing the payment of special assessments for public improvements or special tax bills evidencing such assessments shall be governed by general ordinance, consistent with applicable State law.

Section 12.10. Proof Of Ordinance. [R.O. 1996 § C-12.10]

Any ordinance may be proved by a copy thereof certified by the City Clerk under the Seal of the City; or, when printed and published by authority of the City, it shall be received in evidence in all courts, or other places, without further proof of authenticity.

Section 12.11. Separability. [R.O. 1996 § C-12.11]

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

Section 12.12. All Ordinances Effective On Municipal Land. [R.O. 1996 § C-12.12]

In addition to all other powers herein granted, the City of Blue Springs shall have the right and authority to administer and enforce all its municipal ordinances within all areas owned or occupied by the City which are outside of the corporate City limits.

ARTICLE XIII
Transitional Provisions

Section 13.1. Personnel System. [R.O. 1996 § C-13.1]

An employee holding a City position at the time this Charter takes full effect, who was serving in that same or a comparable position at the time of its adoption, shall not be subject to competitive tests as a condition of continuance in the same position, but in all other respects, shall be subject to the personnel system established pursuant to Section 6.2.

Section 13.2. Ordinances To Remain In Force. [R.O. 1996 § C-13.2]

All ordinances, regulations and resolutions in force at the time this Charter takes effect, which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter, shall remain and be in force until altered, modified or repealed by or under authority of this Charter or ordinance.

Section 13.3. Pending Actions And Proceedings. [R.O. 1996 § C-13.3]

No action or proceeding, civil or criminal, pending at the time this Charter shall take effect, brought by or against the City or any office, department, agency or officer thereof, shall be affected or abated by the adoption of this Charter or by anything herein contained.

Section 13.4. Continuance Of Contracts, Public Improvements And Taxes. [R.O. 1996 § C-13.4]

All contracts entered into by the City, or for its benefit, prior to the taking effect of this Charter, shall continue in full force and effect.

Public improvements for which legislative steps have been taken under laws existing at the time this Charter takes effect may be carried to completion as nearly as practicable in accordance with the provisions of such existing laws.

All taxes and assessments levied or assessed, all fines and penalties imposed and all other obligations owing to the City which are uncollected at the time this Charter becomes effective, shall continue in full force and effect and shall be collected as if no change had been made.[2]

2. Editor's Note: R.O. 1996 Article XIV, Schedule (§§ C-14.1 through C-14.6), was repealed 4-15-2019 by Ord. No. 4812.


The City of
Blue Springs
Missouri