

**Article X
General Provisions**

§ 1001: Oath of Office

(a) Before entering upon the duties of their offices, the mayor, council members, town manager, judges and clerks of election, chief of police, and all other persons elected or appointed to any office of profit or trust in the town government shall take and subscribe to the oath or affirmation as set forth in § 9 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the State of Maryland. [Amended 5-2-16, effective 6-21-16]

(b) The oath of office for the mayor and the council members shall be administered as the first order of business following the call to order of the regular meeting held on the first Monday in June following the election. The mayor shall take and subscribe to this oath or affirmation before the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Prince George's County or before one of the sworn deputies of the Clerk. The council members taking or subscribing to the oath shall either do so before the Clerk, or a deputy as aforesaid, or before the mayor. All other persons taking and subscribing to the oath shall do so before the mayor or one of the election judges, as the case may be.

§ 1002: Official Bonds

The town manager and such other officers or employees of the town as the council or this charter may require shall give bond in such surety as may be required by the council. The premiums on such bonds shall be paid by the town. [Amended 5-2-16, effective 6-21-16]

§ 1003: Seal

The mayor, council and town manager shall have the power to use a common seal. Only the mayor and council have the right to establish the common seal. [Amended 5-2-16, effective 6-21-16]

§ 1004: Prior Rights and Obligations

All right, title, and interest held by the town or any other person or corporation at the time this charter or any amendment thereto is adopted, in and to any lien acquired under any prior charter of the town, are hereby preserved for the holder in all respects as if this charter or portions thereof had not been adopted, together with all rights and remedies in relation thereto. This charter shall not discharge, impair, or release any contract, obligation, duty, liability, or penalty whatever existing at the time this charter becomes effective. All suits and actions, both civil and criminal, pending or that may hereafter be instituted for causes of action now existing or offenses already committed against any law or ordinance repealed by this charter shall be instituted, proceeded with, and prosecuted to

final determination and judgment as if this charter had not become effective.

§ 1005: Effect of Charter Revisions on Existing Ordinances

(a) Ordinances, etc., not in conflict with revised charter remain in effect. All ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations in effect in the town at the time this charter becomes effective that are not in conflict with the provisions of this charter shall remain in effect until changed or repealed according to the provisions of the this charter.

(b) Ordinances, etc., in conflict with charter repealed. All ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations in effect in the town at the time this charter becomes effective that are in conflict with the provisions of this charter are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

§ 1006: Separability

If any section or part of a section of this charter shall be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the remainder of this charter or the context in which such section or part of a section so held invalid may appear, except to the extent that an entire section or part of a section may be inseparably connected in meaning and effect with the section or part of a section to which such holding may directly apply.

§ 1007: Nonforfeiture

Neglect or nonuse shall not work a forfeiture on any provision of this charter.

§ 1008: Charter Amendment

This charter may be amended in accordance with the provisions of Article 23A of the Annotated Code of Maryland, provided, however, that no amendment to this charter shall be passed at the meeting at which it is introduced. At any regular or special meeting held not fewer than six (6) nor more than sixty (60) days after the meeting at which an amendment to this charter is introduced, it shall be passed, or passed as amended, or rejected, or have its consideration deferred. The amendment or a fair summary thereof shall be published at least once in a newspaper having general circulation in the town before it is acted upon by the council.

§ 1009: Transitional Provisions

(a) The mayor and council members holding office at the time this charter becomes effective shall continue to hold their respective offices for the terms for which they were elected until the succeeding mayor and council members take office under the provisions of this charter, provided, however, that no vested rights exist under this charter except as expressly provided herein.

(b) Any prior existing municipal corporation charter of the town shall be and hereby is expressly repealed upon the effective date of this charter.

(c) The effective date of this charter is July 10, 1991.

[END]