

# CITY OF PRESCOTT CHARTER



PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

AUGUST 2025

Signed by Governor Hobbs October 15, 2025

CITY CHARTER PRESCOTT, ARIZONA  
AUGUST 2025

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Framed by the Board of Freeholders elected at the Special Election held March 25, 1958, acting as a Charter Committee, and respectfully submitted to the qualified electors of the City for their adoption and approval for the government of the City of Prescott as a Home Rule City.

Original Charter adopted August 19, 1958, and  
signed by Governor Ernest W. McFarland

Charter amended on January 14, 1969, and  
signed by Governor Jack Williams

Charter amended on May 18, 1976, and  
signed by Governor Raul H. Castro

Charter amended on January 9, 1979, and  
signed by Governor Bruce Babbitt

Charter amended on December 11, 1979, and  
signed by Governor Bruce Babbitt

Charter amended on September 20, 1983, and  
signed by Governor Bruce Babbitt

Charter amended on November 10, 1987, and  
signed by Governor Evan Mecham

Charter amended on September 21, 1993, and  
signed by Governor Fife Symington

Charter amended on September 26, 1995, and  
signed by Governor Fife Symington

Charter amended on September 7, 1999, and  
signed by Governor Jane Hull

Charter amended on September 11, 2001, and  
signed by Governor Jane Hull

Charter amended on November 8, 2005, and  
signed by Governor Janet Napolitano

Charter amended on November 3, 2009, and  
signed by Governor Janice K. Brewer

Charter amended on November 2, 2010, and  
signed by Governor Janice K. Brewer

Charter amended on November 8, 2011 and  
signed by Governor Janice K. Brewer June 7, 2012

Charter amended on November 7, 2023 and  
signed by Governor Katie Hobbs on January 30, 2024

Charter amended on August 5, 2025 and  
signed by Governor Katie Hobbs on October 15, 2025

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## ARTICLE I

### INCORPORATION, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, POWERS AND BOUNDARIES

#### Section 1 - Incorporation

The inhabitants of the City of Prescott, within the corporate limits as now established or hereafter established in the manner provided by law, shall continue to be a municipal body politic and corporate in perpetuity, under the name of the "City of Prescott."

#### Section 2 - Form of Government

The municipal government provided by this charter shall be known as the COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT. Pursuant to its provisions and subject only to the limitations imposed by the state constitution and by this charter, all powers of the city shall be vested in an elective council, hereinafter referred to as "the council," which shall enact local legislation, adopt budgets, determine policies, and appoint the city manager and such other officers deemed necessary and proper for the orderly government and administration of the affairs of the city, as prescribed by the constitution and applicable laws and ordinances hereafter adopted by the city. All powers of the city shall be exercised in the manner prescribed by this charter, or if the manner not be prescribed, then in such manner as may be prescribed by ordinance. (Amended December 11, 1979)

#### Section 3 - Powers of City

The city shall have all the powers granted to municipal corporations and to cities by the constitution and laws of this state and by this charter, together with all the implied powers necessary to carry into execution all the powers granted.

The city may acquire property within or without its corporate limits for any purpose, in fee simple or any lesser interest or estate, by purchase, gift, devise, lease or condemnation, and may sell, lease, mortgage, hold, manage and control such property as its interests may require.

Except as prohibited by the constitution of this state or restricted by this charter, the city shall have and may exercise all municipal powers, functions, rights, privileges and immunities of every name and nature whatsoever, and especially to enter into contracts, cooperative and otherwise, with the government of the United States, the State of Arizona, Yavapai County, or any other municipal corporation of this state for the construction, maintenance and operation of roads, highways, parks, sewers, waterworks, public utilities and buildings (when used for public purposes), all when deemed for the best interest of the city.

The city shall have the power to require all persons, firms, or corporations responsible for new physical development within the city to provide for or furnish, or pay a fee in lieu of providing or furnishing: (1) public utility easements; (2) water production, storage and transmission; (3) sewage collection, treatment and disposal; (4) park land and development; (5) school sites; (6) dedication and improvement of public rights-of-way; (7) bike paths and

**ARTICLE I – Section 3 (Continued):**

other necessary transportation; (8) drainage; (9) flood control; and (10) other public facilities necessary to maintain satisfactory levels of service for said new development, as provided by ordinance which shall include definite standards basing the foregoing requirements on the needs of the inhabitants of said new development. (Amended December 11, 1979)

The city shall have all powers to operate a waste collection system and facilities, regulate waste collection, recycling, and the disposal of waste generated in the city, and to compel its removal, transportation or delivery to designated points. (Amended November 2, 2010)

The enumeration of particular powers by this charter shall not be deemed to be exclusive, and in addition to the powers enumerated herein or implied hereby, or appropriate to the exercise of such powers, it is intended that the city shall have and may exercise all powers which under the constitution of this state, it would be competent for this charter specifically to enumerate.

**Section 4 - Boundaries**

a. Declaration of Policy: The people of the City of Prescott believe it is in the best interest of the city to establish additional local requirements for annexation to ensure that any future expansion of the city’s boundary does not undermine the city’s efforts to attain safe-yield or otherwise threaten the water supply of city residents.

b. The boundaries of the city shall be the boundaries as established at the time this charter takes effect, or as such boundaries may be changed thereafter in the manner authorized by law, except that any increase in the corporate limits of the City of Prescott by annexation that equals or exceeds two hundred fifty (250) acres shall: 1) require an affirmative vote by three-fourths of the city council by “ayes and nays”; 2) require a public comment period of no less than sixty (60) days before a vote of the city council takes place, which shall begin at the time of a formal vote on a master plan by the planning and zoning commission;

3) require a public presentation of the public comments received To the city council by city staff; and 4) include a requirement that all effluent generated by new development in the annexed area be used for permanent recharge. The requirements of this section apply not only to single annexations of 250 acres or more, but also to multiple annexations of smaller parcels that have been owned by the same person or entity within ten (10) years from the date of the proposed annexation.

c. Severability – If any provision of this measure is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity does not affect other provisions that can be given effect without the invalid provision and to this end the provisions of this measure are declared to be severable.

(Adopted November 8, 2005)

**ARTICLE I (Continued):**

**Section 5 - Gender**

All reference to the masculine gender includes feminine, and all reference to singular includes plural and vice versa. (Adopted December 11, 1979)

## **ARTICLE II**

### **THE COUNCIL**

#### **Section 1 - Powers of the Council**

All powers of the city, not in conflict with the constitution and subject to the limitations of this charter, shall be vested in the council, who shall enact appropriate legislation and do and perform any and all acts and things which may be necessary and proper to carry out these powers or any of the provisions of this charter.

The city shall not bargain collectively with any employee, group of employees, employee organizations, or any representative of any employee organization with respect to wages, hours, or working conditions, and the council shall be the final determinant of all wages, hours, and working conditions of all employees of the city. (Amended December 11, 1979)

#### **Section 2 - Number; selection**

The council shall consist of a mayor and six (6) councilmen elected from the city at large.

#### **Section 3 - Term of Mayor**

The term of office of the mayor shall commence at the conclusion of the second regularly scheduled voting session of the council in November following a primary or general election, and shall be for two (2) years or until his or her successor is elected and qualified. (Amended January 14, 1969; September 21, 1993)

#### **Section 4 - Terms of Councilmen**

The terms of council members shall commence at the conclusion of the second regularly scheduled voting session of the council in November following a primary or general election, and shall be for four (4) years or until their successors are elected and qualified. However, the terms of the present elected council shall not be shortened, and the present incumbents or their duly appointed successors shall serve their elected terms. (Amended January 14, 1969; September 21, 1993)

#### **Section 5 - Qualifications**

The mayor and council members shall: 1) be a qualified elector; 2) have been a resident of the city three (3) years prior to the primary election; and 3) shall hold no other public office for which they receive compensation except that of a notary public or a member of the national guard, or military reserve, and shall have resided in said city for three (3) years next preceding the date of such election or appointment. If the mayor or a council member shall cease to possess any of these qualifications or shall be convicted of a felony,

**ARTICLE II, Section 5 (Continued):**

their office shall immediately become vacant. (Amended January 9, 1979; Amended November 2, 2010; Amended November 7, 2023)

**Section 6 - Duties of Mayor**

The mayor shall be the chairman of the council and preside over its deliberations. He may make and second motions and shall have a voice and vote in all its proceedings. He shall be a chief executive of the city government for all purposes and recognized by the governor for purposes of military law and civil defense and shall have executive but no regular administrative duties. (Amended January 14, 1969)

**Section 7 - Mayor pro tempore**

The council shall designate one of its members as mayor pro tempore to serve a one-year term. The designation of mayor pro tempore will be made at the second regularly scheduled meeting in November. The mayor pro tempore shall perform the duties of the mayor during their absence or disability. (Amended November 7, 2023)

**Section 8 - Stipend of Mayor and Council Members**

The stipend of the mayor shall be \$1,250.00 per month or \$15,000.00 per year and the stipend for council members shall be \$850.00 per month or \$10,200.00 per year. These stipends shall take effect on July 1, 2024. Beginning on July 1, 2025, and every year thereafter, the mayor and council member stipends will be adjusted for inflation based on the consumer price index used to adjust city of Prescott employee compensation. (Amended September 20, 1983; Amended September 7, 1999; Amended November 7, 2023)

**Section 9 - Council to be judge of qualifications of its members**

The council shall be the judge of the election and qualifications of its members and for such purpose shall have power to subpoena witnesses and require the production of records, but the decision of the council in any case shall be subject to review by the courts.

**Section 10 - Induction of Mayor and Council into office**

At the conclusion of the second regularly scheduled voting session of the council in November following a primary or general election, the council shall induct the newly elected mayor and council members, and designate a mayor pro tempore. (Amended December 11, 1979; September 21, 1993)

**Section 11 - Absence to terminate membership**

It is the expectation that members of the council shall attend all duly noticed council meetings. If a member of the council cannot attend a meeting, written notification of their

**Article II, Section 11 (Continued):**

absence must be provided to the city clerk’s office at least 24 hours in advance. Should a member of the council be absent from at least three (3) consecutive called meetings days without prior notification, they shall cease to hold office. Exceptions will be made in emergency situations.

For purposes of this section a “meeting day” shall be a publicly noticed meeting on a calendar day. “Consecutive” shall mean successively following without interruption and occurring on successive days. (Amended January 9, 1979; Amended November 7, 2023)

**Section 12 - Vacancies in Council and Office of Mayor**

The council, by a majority vote of its remaining members, shall fill the vacancies in its own members as follows:

- A. Except for the office of mayor, council shall by a majority vote of its remaining members fill a council vacancy by appointment until the next regularly scheduled election if the vacancy occurs more than ninety (90) days before the nomination petition deadline for said election, otherwise the appointment shall be for the unexpired term.

In the case of a vacancy that may occur in the office of mayor, the council shall appoint, from the remaining members, one council member to serve as mayor for the remainder of the outgoing mayor’s term. The vacancy created on the council through the appointment of mayor shall then be filled by appointing a new council member in accordance with Subsection A, above. (Amended January 14, 1969; December 11, 1979; September 20, 1983; September 21, 1993; June 7, 2012; Amended November 7, 2023)

**Section 13 - Council meetings; open to public**

The council shall meet regularly at such times and at such places as may be prescribed by the rules, but not less frequently than two times each month. All meetings of the council shall be open to the public, except as noticed and held in compliance with State law. (Amended January 9, 1979)

**Section 14 - Special meetings**

The mayor may, or at the request of three (3) members of the council shall, by giving notice thereof to all members of the council then in the city, call a special meeting of the council in accordance with State Statutes. Special meetings of the council may also be held at any time by the common consent of all the members of the council. (Amended November 2, 2010)

## **ARTICLE II (Continued):**

### **Section 15 - Rules of procedure; journal**

The council shall determine its own rules and order of business subject to the provisions of this charter. It shall keep a journal of its proceedings and the journal shall be open to public inspection during regular office hours.

### **Section 16 - Quorum; ayes and nays**

A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day or from time to time. The vote on any question shall be by ayes and nays and shall be taken simultaneously at the request of any council member and shall be entered in the journal. (Amended December 11, 1979)

### **Section 17 - Failure to vote**

No member of the council present shall be excused from voting except upon matters involving the consideration of his own official conduct or involving a conflict of interest. In all other cases a failure to vote by a present council member shall be entered on the minutes as an affirmative vote. (Amended January 9, 1979; December 11, 1979)

### **Section 18 - Consideration of petitions**

Any citizen of the city may appear before the council at any regular meeting and present a written petition; such petition shall be acted upon by the council, in the regular course of business, within sixty (60) days. (Amended November 7, 2023)

### **Section 19 - Interference in administrative service**

Except as otherwise provided in this charter, neither the council nor any of its members shall interfere with the execution by the city manager of his powers and duties, or order, directly or indirectly, the appointment by the city manager of any person to an office or employment or his removal therefrom. Except for purposes of inquiry, the council and its members shall deal with the administrative service under the city manager solely through the city manager, and neither the council nor any member thereof shall give orders to any subordinate of the city manager, either publicly or privately.

### **Section 20 - Conduct of Council as to powers authorized by charter when no procedure established by state law**

Whenever, by any provisions of this charter, it is prescribed that any power, duty or procedure shall or may be exercised, performed or adopted in the manner established by any law of this state, and there be no procedure established by law therefor, then the council shall by either ordinance or resolution prescribe the procedure. (Amended September 21, 1993)



## ARTICLE III

### THE CITY MANAGER

#### Section 1 - Appointment of City Manager

The council shall appoint an officer of the city who shall have the title of city manager and shall have the powers and perform the duties provided in this charter. No council member shall receive such appointment during the term for which they shall have been elected, nor within one year after the expiration of their term. The city manager shall serve at the pleasure of council. (Amended November 7, 2023)

#### Section 2 - City Manager; qualifications

The city manager shall be chosen by the council solely on the basis of his executive and administrative qualifications with special reference to his actual experience in or his knowledge of, accepted practice in respect to the duties of his office as hereinafter set forth. At the time of his appointment, he need not be a resident of the city or state, but during his tenure of office he shall reside within the city.

#### Section 3 - City Manager; powers and duties

The city manager shall be the head of the administrative branch of the city government. He shall be responsible for the proper administration of all affairs of the city and to that end, subject to the provisions of this charter, he shall have power and shall be required to:

- (1) Devote his entire time to the discharge of his official duties, attend all meetings of the council unless excused therefrom by the council or the mayor;
- (2) See that all ordinances are enforced and that the provisions of all franchises, leases, contracts, permits and privileges granted by the city are observed;
- (3) Appoint, and when deemed necessary for the good of the service, lay-off, suspend, transfer, demote, or remove all department heads, and employees of the city, subject to such merit system regulations as the council may adopt;
- (4) Prepare the annual budget estimates and submit them to the council and be responsible for the administration of the budget after adoption;
- (5) Keep the council advised at all times of the affairs and needs of the city and make reports annually, or more frequently if requested by the council, of all affairs of the city;
- (6) Supervise the purchasing for all departments of the city;

**ARTICLE III - Section 3 (Continued):**

- (7) Have such other powers, duties and functions as this charter may prescribe, and such powers, duties and functions consistent with this charter as the council may prescribe.
- (8) Insure that any council or council member's inquiry, which is made pursuant to the provisions of the charter, will receive a prompt and full response.  
(Adopted December 11, 1979)

**Section 4 - Right of City Manager to seat in Council**

The city manager shall be entitled to a seat in the council, but shall have no vote therein. The city manager shall have the right to take part in the discussion of all matters coming before the council.

**Section 5 - Acting City Manager**

The city manager shall designate an administrative officer to serve as acting city manager during any temporary absence or disability to the manager.

In the event of a vacancy in the office of the city manager, the council shall appoint an acting city manager, to serve at the pleasure of the council until another city manager is appointed and qualified. The initial appointment of an acting city manager shall not exceed six (6) months; provided however, that in the event that another city manager is not appointed and qualified within that period, the council may grant one (1) six month extension of said appointment. (Amended May 18, 1976; September 7, 1999)

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS OFFICES AND EMPLOYEES**

#### **Section 1 - Administrative departments and offices**

The council, by ordinance not inconsistent with this charter, shall provide for the organization, conduct and operation of the several offices and departments of the city as established by this charter for the creation of additional departments, divisions, offices and agencies for their consolidation, alteration or abolition.

The council, by ordinance not inconsistent with this charter, may assign additional functions or duties to offices, departments or agencies. Where the positions are not incompatible, the council may combine in one person the powers and duties of two or more offices created or authorized by this charter.

The council shall provide for the number, titles, qualifications, powers, duties and compensation of all officers and employees of the city.

#### **Section 2 - City Clerk**

The council shall appoint an officer of the city, who shall have the title of city clerk, and who shall give notice of all council meetings, keep the journal of the council's proceedings, authenticate by his signature and record in full all ordinances and resolutions, and shall perform such other duties as shall be required by this charter or by ordinance. He will serve at the pleasure of the council. (Amended June 7, 2012)

The city clerk department employees shall be appointed by and accountable to the city clerk. The city clerk will report to and be responsible for the operation of the city clerk department to the city council. The city clerk shall prepare the budget for the city clerk department for submission to the city council, and the city clerk budget shall be established by the city council.

(Adopted June 7, 2012)

#### **Section 3 - City Treasurer**

Deleted September 7, 1999

#### **Section 4 - City Attorney**

The council shall appoint the city attorney who shall be the chief legal adviser of all officers, departments and agencies and of all officers and employees in matters relating to their official powers and duties. He shall represent the city in all legal proceedings. It shall be his duty to perform all services incident to his position as may be required by statute, by this charter or by ordinance. He will serve at the pleasure of the council.

The legal department shall consist of a criminal and civil division with department employees appointed by and accountable to the city attorney. The city attorney will report to and be responsible for the operation of the legal department to the city council. The city

**ARTICLE IV, Section 4 (Continued):**

attorney shall prepare the budget for the legal department for submission to the city council, and the legal department budget shall be established by the city council. (Adopted June 7, 2012)

**Section 5 - Merit basis of appointment**

Appointments and promotions in the administrative services of the city shall be made in accordance to merit and fitness to be ascertained so far as practicable, by competitive examination.

**Section 6 - Merit system to be established**

The council shall, by ordinance, provide for the establishment of a merit system for the purpose of regulating and controlling the appointments, promotions, discharges and reinstatements of all officers and employees of the city except those elected by the people.

**Section 7 - Outside employment**

The city manager, city magistrate, city clerk, and city attorney shall have no other employment for which compensation is received, which might constitute a conflict of interest or interfere with their city duties. The city clerk shall maintain a public file on any outside employment of council appointees. (Adopted December 11, 1979; September 7, 1999)

**ARTICLE V**

**APPOINTIVE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**Section 1 - Appointive Boards and Commissions**

The council may, by ordinance, create boards or commissions as in its judgment are required or as are now or hereafter provided by law, and may grant to them such power and duties as are consistent with the provisions of this charter.

**Section 2 - Mayor and City Manager ex-officio members**

The mayor and city manager shall be ex-officio members without voting privileges, of all boards and commissions.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **FINANCE AND TAXATION**

#### **Section 1 - Fiscal year**

The fiscal year of the city shall commence on the first day of July each year.

#### **Section 2 - Council to provide for tax system, use of county services**

The council shall by ordinance provide a system for the assessment, levy and collection of all city taxes, not inconsistent with the provisions of this charter.

The council shall have power to avail itself by ordinance of any laws of this state, now or hereafter in force, and comply with the requirements thereof whereby assessments may be made by the assessor of the county in which the city is situated, and taxes collected by the tax collector of said county for and on behalf of the city. Other provisions of this charter concerning the assessment, levy and collection of taxes shall be subject to the provisions of any such ordinance while the same shall be in force.

#### **Section 3 - Submission of estimates to Council; scope of City Manager's estimate**

On or before such date as shall be fixed by the council, the city manager shall prepare and submit in writing to the council the estimates of each department and fund and his own personal report and recommendations and estimate as to the probable expenditures of the city for the next ensuing fiscal year, stating the amount in detail required to meet all expenditures necessary for city purposes, including interest and sinking funds, and outstanding indebtedness, if there be any; also an estimate of the amount of income expected from all sources in each department and fund, and the probable amount required to be raised by taxation to cover such expenditures, interest and sinking fund. (Adopted January 14, 1969; amended June 7, 2012)

#### **Section 4 - Preparation and tentative adoption of a budget; publication of budget and notice of meeting to fix tax levies**

The council shall meet annually prior to fixing the tax levy, and make a budget of the estimated amounts required to pay the expenses of conducting the business of the city for the ensuing fiscal year. The budget shall be prepared in such detail as to show the aggregate sum and the items thereof allowed for each and every purpose, and such budget, together with a notice that the council will meet for the purpose of making tax levies, in accordance with said budget, at the time and place set out in said notice, shall be published in accordance with state law once a week for at least two consecutive weeks following the tentative adoption of such budget. (Amended June 7, 2012)

## **ARTICLE VI (Continued):**

### **Section 5 - Public hearing and adoption of budget**

The council shall, prior to final adoption of the budget, hold a public hearing at which any taxpayer who may appear shall be heard in favor of or against any proposed expenditure or tax levy. When such hearing shall have been concluded, the council shall finally determine and adopt estimates of proposed expenditures for the various purposes as set forth in the published proposal and such adopted estimates will constitute the budget for the current fiscal year. The total amounts in the budget proposed for expenditure shall not exceed the total amounts proposed for expenditure in the published estimate. (Amended January 14, 1969)

### **Section 6 - Adoption of ordinance fixing tax rate**

On or before the day set for making tax levies as specified by state law, the council shall meet and adopt an ordinance levying upon the assessed valuation of the property within the city, subject to the provisions of this charter, a rate of taxation upon each one hundred (\$100.00) dollars of valuation, sufficient to raise the amounts estimated to be required in the annual budget, less the amounts estimated to be received from fines, licenses and other sources of revenue. (Amended January 14, 1969)

### **Section 7 - Additional taxes for special purposes**

The council shall have the power to levy and collect taxes in addition to the taxes herein authorized to be levied and collected sufficient to pay the interest and maintain the sinking fund of the bonded indebtedness of the city, and to provide for the establishment and support of free public libraries, and for advertising the advantages of the city, and an additional amount deemed to be advisable and necessary to create a reserve fund to provide for replacement of equipment for the furnishing of city services and the maintenance of all municipally owned and operated utilities.

The council shall have the power to levy a transaction privilege tax; provided that no transaction privilege tax if based on gross income, gross receipts or gross proceeds of sale, shall be levied at a rate in excess of the present 1% rate unless such rate is approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting on the question at a special or general election. (Amended December 11, 1979)

Further provided that, should a transaction privilege tax not be based on gross income, gross receipts or gross proceeds of sale, the council shall have the power to fix the amount of license taxes to be paid by any person, firm, corporation or association for carrying on of any business, game or amusement, calling, profession or occupation. (Adopted December 11, 1979)

## **ARTICLE VI (Continued):**

### **Section 8 - Taxes to be uniform and for public purposes only; property to be assessed as provided by law**

All taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of property within the corporate limits, and shall be levied and collected for public purposes only. All property shall be assessed as provided by law.

### **Section 9 - Tax exempt property**

All the property within the city shall be subject to taxation, to be ascertained as provided by ordinance, except that property which is exempt from taxes under the laws of the United States, the laws of this state, under this charter and ordinances of this city.

### **Section 10 - Transfer of appropriations**

From the effective date of the budget, the several amounts stated therein as proposed expenditures shall be and become appropriated to the several objects and purposes therein named. The transfer of funds among the various line items within a departmental budget shall require city manager approval. The transfer of funds among departments shall require city council approval. (Amended September 21, 1993)

**Section 11 – Budget Establishes Appropriations;** Method of Expenditure and Transfer of Appropriations. (Sections 10 and 11 replaced with new Section 10). (Amended September 21, 1993)

### **Section 12 - Appropriations lapse at end of year**

All appropriations shall lapse at the end of the fiscal year to the extent that they shall not have been expended or lawfully encumbered.

### **Section 13 - Claims or demands against the City**

The council shall prescribe by ordinance the manner in which claims or demands against the city shall be presented, audited and paid.

### **Section 14 - Transfer of sums from any funds to interest funds**

Whenever there shall not be sufficient moneys, in any of the interest funds for the bonded indebtedness of the city to pay the interest on such bonded indebtedness when due, the council shall direct the transfer from the general or any other fund having moneys therein to such interest funds the necessary amounts of money to pay the interest on said bonded indebtedness, and the amount so transferred shall be returned to the respective funds from which such transfer was made whenever sufficient moneys shall accrue in said bonded indebtedness funds, from the regular tax levied therefor.



**ARTICLE VI (Continued):**

**Section 15 - Independent annual audit**

The council shall designate a certified public accountant to perform an independent audit annually of the city's financial statements. The selected auditor shall be qualified and have no direct or indirect interest in the fiscal affairs of the city. The audit report shall be presented by the auditor to the council at a public meeting. The contract for the independent audit shall not exceed a term of five years. (Amended December 11, 1979; September 7, 1999; November 7, 2023)

**Section 16 – Voter approval for certain high-value projects (Taxpayer Protection Initiative)**

A. Definitions:

1. "City" is defined as the City of Prescott, Arizona.
2. "Project" is defined as a group of related activities undertaken for the purpose of performing a discrete function or set of functions or creating interrelated infrastructure, including but not limited to:
  - a. The acquisition of land and the design and construction of transportation infrastructure;
  - b. The acquisition of land and the design and construction of infrastructure to accomplish withdrawal and transportation of water from a remote location;
  - c. The transfer or sale of assets: or
  - d. The design and construction of a single physical facility or complex.
3. "Project Value" is defined as the City's share of past and estimated future expenditures, obligations, or conveyances related to said Project, regardless of when or how the expenditures, obligations or conveyances are allocated in the budget process of the City, or in any related contract or agreement, if a vote of the City Council will be required to continue the City's participation in the Project. Estimated future expenditures, obligations or conveyances shall include an allowance for possible cost over runs. The Project Value shall be calculated with respect to the total combined values of all portions or subcontracts of said Project and shall include the operating costs for the first five years of the Project and all planning and study costs for the project. For expenditures financed using borrowed funds, Project Value includes the greater of either total expenditures of borrowed funds or total amount borrowed, and will not include interest payments.

## ARTICLE VI – Section 16 (Continued):

### B. Applicability:

1. The City may not, without prior voter approval through a Proposition as described herein, enter into one or more agreements or contracts relating to a single Project that:
  - a. Authorizes expenditures of City funds; or
  - b. Imposes direct or contingent obligations on the City or its residents, including long term contractual payment obligations or guarantees of future payments; or
  - c. Conveys ownership or control of property or resources owned or controlled by the City, including any resource rights owned or assigned to the City but transported, sold or used by another party; or
  - d. Conveys rights to use property or resources owned or controlled by the City or to be a provider of any category of services currently provided by the City; and that, when combined with any previously authorized expenditures, obligations or conveyances related to the same project, would have an aggregate Project Value of Forty Million Dollars (\$40,000,000) or greater. Beginning in 2011, the value threshold will be adjusted once every year by the percentage change in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for All Urban Workers during the immediately preceding calendar year.
2. Approval by the voters shall be required irrespective of whether funds have been spent on a Project before passage of this initiative. If a future council vote is required to facilitate any furtherance of a Project, authorize participation by other parties in such a Project, or authorize City participation, then the voter approval requirements of this initiative apply.
3. Approval by the voters shall be required if at any time the Project Value reaches the value threshold in Section B.1. Where the Project Value is initially determined to be less than the threshold amount in Section B.1., the City may conduct a Proposition in accordance with this initiative to ensure that the requirement of this Section does not result in the need for a Proposition at a later date.

### C. Exceptions:

1. In order to assure the Health and Safety of the City's residents, the following Projects shall not require a public vote:
  - a. Replacement or repair of existing sewer and water lines, or
  - b. Replacement or repair of wastewater treatment systems, or
  - c. Projects mandated by state or federal law or court order.

**ARTICLE VI – Section 16 (Continued):**

2. Approval by the voters shall not be required for initial funding of feasibility studies or conceptual designs, or other expenses in aggregate less than Five Million Dollars (\$5 million). Design plans and specifications or construction of any kind shall not be included in this exception. This amount shall be adjusted annually by the same percentage rate as the threshold is adjusted in Section B.1.

**D. Proposition Content:**

1. The wording of the mandated Proposition, seeking voter approval for a Project, shall include at minimum the following:
  - a. Description of the Project;
  - b. Estimated total amount of payments or guarantees to be made by the City, entities controlled by the City, City residents, or ratepayers; and estimated amount per household;
  - c. The Project Value, and enumeration of all projected financing costs including interest; and estimated specific costs, including, but not limited to, likely and potential legal, litigation, or remedial costs;
  - d. Detailed description of the City’s possible funding mechanisms and repayment methods with each mechanism’s estimated share of total funding, or declaration that the specific funding and repayment sources are not determined; and
  - e. Specific location(s) of the subject Project.
2. There shall be printed on the official ballot immediately below the number of the measure and the official title of each measure:  
A “yes” vote shall have the effect of \_\_\_\_\_.  
  
A “no” vote shall have the effect of \_\_\_\_\_.

The blank spaces shall be filled with a brief phrase, approved by the City Attorney, stating the essential changes depending on the outcome of the vote including the estimated per household cost of the Project.

**E. Voter Information:**

1. Prior to the Proposition vote on a proposed Project, all households with a registered voter will receive an election pamphlet containing the five points in Section D.1. In addition, ballot statements both pro and con shall be published in the pamphlet. Individuals or organizations may submit statements of up to 300 words at a cost of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) per

**ARTICLE VI – Section 16 (Continued):**

statement, up until a date specified by the City Clerk. The statements shall also be posted on the City's web site, with a link from the home page. The City shall mail one copy of the publicity pamphlet to every household that contains a registered voter. This pamphlet may be combined with another voter pamphlet covering other ballot questions. The mailings may be made over a period of days but shall be mailed in order to be delivered to households before the earliest date for receipt by registered voters of any requested early ballots for the Proposition vote.

2. Prior to the Proposition vote, the City shall hold or cause to be held at minimum two public hearings on the ballot measure. The hearings shall provide an opportunity for proponents, opponents and the general public to provide testimony and request information.

**F. Sponsoring Campaign Committee:**

The sponsoring campaign committee of this initiative, the Taxpayer Protection Committee, shall have standing in all legal actions related to the initiative and future implementation of any section of this initiative.

**G. Severability:**

If any provision of this initiative is found to be unenforceable by a court of law, the remainder of the initiative shall remain in effect.

(Added November 3, 2009)

**ARTICLE VII**  
**COUNCIL ACTION**

**Section 1 - Council action (Title adopted May 18, 1976)**

The council shall act by resolution, ordinance or formal recorded action. (Amended May 18, 1976)

**Section 2 - Ayes and nays to be recorded**

The ayes and nays shall be taken upon passage of all ordinances, resolutions, or formal recorded actions and entered upon the minutes of the proceedings of the council. (Amended May 18, 1976)

**Section 3 - When majority vote required**

A majority vote of all the members of the council shall be necessary to pass any ordinance or resolution. (Amended September 7, 1999)

**Section 4 - Enacting style**

The enacting clause of all ordinances passed by the council shall be in these words: "Be it ordained by the council of the City of Prescott as follows:"

**Section 5 - Action requiring an ordinance**

In addition to other acts required by law or by specific provision of the charter to be done by ordinance, those acts of the city council shall be by ordinance which:

- (1) Levy any tax or assessment;
- (2) Acquire or sell public real property, and to sell personal property valued in excess of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00); (Amended September 21, 1993)
- (3) Establish or change fire limits or zones;
- (4) Establish or change a zoning district;
- (5) Impose or provide for imposing a fine or other penalties;
- (6) Adopt a code by reference or amend the city code;
- (7) Establish, alter or abolish any city department, office or agency;

**ARTICLE VII – Section 5 (Continued):**

- (8) Authorize the borrowing of money;
- (9) Grant, renew or extend a franchise;
- (10) Amend or repeal any ordinance;
- (11) Abandonment or vacation of streets, alleys or subdivisions. (Amended January 14, 1969; May 18, 1976)

**Section 6 - Reading and passage of ordinances and resolutions; effective date**

All proposed ordinances and resolutions shall be either read in full or posted in a public place at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting at which they are to be considered for adoption, provided that if any amendments are proposed to a posted ordinance or resolution, such amendments shall be read in full prior to their consideration for adoption. (Amended January 14, 1969; December 11, 1979; September 21, 1993)

**Section 7 - Emergency measures; effective date**

An emergency measure is one passed by the affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the council taken by "ayes" and "nays" for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety. An emergency measure shall take effect immediately upon its passage. (Amended December 11, 1979; September 21, 1993)

**Section 8 - Motions to reconsider**

When a proposed ordinance or a resolution put upon final passage fails to pass and a motion is made to reconsider, the vote on such motion shall not be taken within twenty-four (24) hours thereafter. (Amended December 11, 1979; September 21, 1993)

**Section 9 - Signing of ordinances and resolutions**

All ordinances and resolutions shall be signed by the mayor and attested by the city clerk.

**Section 10 - Publication of ordinances and resolutions**

All ordinances, except those necessary for the immediate preservation of the peace, health or safety of the city, shall be published at least two times in accordance with state law before they become effective and operative. (Amended September 7, 1999; June 7, 2012)

Emergency ordinances necessary for the immediate preservation of the peace, health or safety of the city which have been passed by the necessary three-fourths vote of the members of the council become effective and operative immediately, and shall be

**ARTICLE VII, Section 10 (Continued):**

published once in accordance with state law within ten (10) days after their passage. (Amended May 18, 1976; September 7, 1999; June 7, 2012)

**Section 11 - How ordinances to be revised, re-enacted and amended**

Ordinances shall not be revised, re-enacted or amended by reference to title only, but the ordinances to be revised or re-enacted, or the section or sections thereof to be amended, or the new section or sections to be added hereto, shall be set forth and adopted in the method provided in this charter for the adoption of ordinances.

**Section 12 - How ordinances to be repealed or suspended**

No ordinance or section thereof shall be repealed or suspended except by ordinance adopted in the manner provided in this charter.

**Section 13 - Ordinances and resolutions to be filed, recorded and certified; ordinances and resolutions as evidence**

All ordinances and resolutions shall be filed and safely kept by the city clerk and duly recorded and certified by him in books for that purpose marked "City Ordinances" and "City Resolutions" respectively; and record copies thereof certified by the city clerk, or the originals thereof shall be prima facie evidence of the contents of such ordinances or resolutions and of the due passage and publication of the same, and shall be admissible in evidence in any court of this state, or in any proceeding where the contents of such ordinance or resolution, or any of them, is in question; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent the proof of the passage and publication of any ordinance or resolution in the manner otherwise prescribed by law.

**Section 14 - Procedure for adoption by reference**

The council may enact the provisions of a code or public record theretofore in existence without setting forth such provisions, but the adopting ordinance shall be published in full. At least three (3) copies of the code or public record shall be filed in the office of the city clerk and kept available for public use and inspection. A code or public record enacted by reference may be amended in the same manner.

No penalty clause shall be enacted by reference thereto. A penalty clause contained in a code or public record adopted by reference shall be set forth in full in the adopting ordinance.

**Section 15 - Recording of certain ordinances**

All ordinances extending or changing the boundaries of the city, zoning territory or establishing or vacating of streets, alleys, or subdivisions, after publication, shall be recorded in the office of the County Recorder of Yavapai County and after being so recorded, the same shall constitute public notice to all parties of the legal import thereof.

**ARTICLE VII (Continued):**  
**Section 16 - Codification of ordinances**

Any and all ordinances of the city which have been enacted and published in the manner required at the time of their adoption, and which have not been repealed, may be compiled, consolidated, revised, indexed and arranged as a comprehensive ordinance code, and such code may be adopted by reference, with the same effect as an ordinance, by the passage of any ordinance for such purpose. Such code need not be published in the manner required for other ordinances, but not less than three (3) copies thereof shall be filed for use and examination by the public in the office of the city clerk prior to the adoption thereof. Ordinances codified shall be repealed as of the effective date of the code. Amendments to the code shall be enacted in the same manner as ordinances.



## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **CONTRACTS**

#### **Section 1 - Preparation**

All contracts shall be drawn under the supervision of the city attorney, must be in writing, executed in the name of the City of Prescott by the mayor, except as it may be otherwise provided either by this charter or by law, and must be countersigned by the city clerk, who shall number and register the same in a book kept for that purpose.

#### **Section 2 - Contracts for city improvements or materials**

Deleted September 11, 2001.

#### **Section 3 - Contracts or purchases**

The city council shall prescribe by ordinance the manner and method of purchases and entering into of contracts, the manner and method of executing change orders, and shall set forth therein the purchases and contract amounts which shall require approval of the city council. (Amended January 14, 1969; December 11, 1979; September 20, 1983; November 10, 1987; September 21, 1993)

#### **Section 4 – Contracts; Contracts or purchases \$3,000.01 to \$10,000.**

Deleted September 21, 1993

#### **Section 5 – Contracts; Contracts or purchases in excess of \$10,000.**

Deleted September 21, 1993

#### **Section 6 - Formal bidding requirements**

Advertisements for bids shall distinctly and specifically state the character of the city improvement contemplated and/or the kind of supplies, materials, equipment and services required. Such advertisement shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the city, not less than five (5) days prior to the opening of bids. Bidding will be by sealed proposals only and under such regulations as may be prescribed by the council. (Amended January 14, 1969)

#### **Section 7 - Transfer of property**

The city manager may transfer to or between offices, departments and agencies, supplies, materials and equipment, subject to such regulations as the council may prescribe. (Amended January 14, 1969)

## **ARTICLE VIII (Continued):**

### **Section 8 - Fraud and collusion**

Any member of the council or any officer or employee of the city who shall aid or assist a bidder in securing a contract to furnish labor, material, equipment, supplies or services at a higher price than that proposed by any other bidder, or who shall favor one bidder over another by giving or withholding information or who shall willfully mislead any bidder in regard to the character of the labor, material, equipment, supplies or services called for or the conditions under which the proposed work is to be done, or who shall knowingly accept materials, supplies or equipment of a quality inferior to those called for by any contract, or who shall knowingly certify to a greater amount of labor or service performed than has been actually performed, or to receipt of a greater amount or different kind of material, supplies or equipment than has been actually received, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be removed from office. (Amended January 14, 1969)

### **Section 9 - Avoidance of contracts made through fraud and collusion**

If at any time it shall be found that the person to whom a contract has been awarded has, in presenting any bid or bids, colluded with any other party or parties for the purpose of preventing any other bid being made, then the contract so awarded shall be null and void, and the city manager shall advertise for new bids for said city improvements and/or supplies, materials, equipment and services required, or the council may provide for such public work to be done by the city under the direction of the city manager. (Amended January 14, 1969)

### **Section 10 - Personal interest**

State statutes regulating conflict of interest shall apply to all members of the council, officers and employees of the city. (Amended January 14, 1969 and September 21, 1993)

### **Section 11 - Leases of city property**

The council may lease any land, building or part thereof owned by the city by public auction, sealed bids or negotiation. All such leases shall be approved by ordinance of the city council. Prior to the approval and execution of any such lease, the city shall publish a Notice of Intent to Lease City Property at least one time per week for two weeks. However, the council may, in its discretion, reject any and all offers. (Adopted January 14, 1969) (Amended December 11, 1979)

### **Section 12 - Sale of city property**

The council may sell such portions of the real and personal property of the city not needed or not likely to be needed within a reasonable future time. Each sale shall be made on such conditions as the council may prescribe to the highest responsible bidder after published notice of the sale in accordance with the following schedule:

**ARTICLE VIII, Section 12 - (Continued):**

1. Personal property valued in excess of \$3,000.00 shall be sold after published notice of the sale for at least once not less than five (5) days prior to opening of bids, proposals or auction. (Amended September 7, 1999)
2. Real property shall be sold after published notice of sale for at least one time per week for three weeks prior to opening of bids.
3. Real property of the city, the value of which exceeds four million dollars (\$4,000,000), shall not be sold unless: (1) two (2) public hearings to receive public comment shall be held on two different meeting dates within a sixty (60) day period prior to a regular council meeting at which the proposed sale is agendaized for discussion and possible action; and (2) the sale must be authorized by a super majority vote of three-fourths of the city council approving the proposed sale of the property. (Amended November 7, 2023)

The council shall have the right to reject any and all bids.

The city manager may sell or otherwise dispose of any personal property having a value of \$3,000.00 or less without published notice but with written advice of such sale or disposal to be given to the council. (Amended September 11, 2001)

The council may also in its discretion subdivide and plat city property which it determines to sell, providing restrictions relative to its use and dedicate streets and alleys as determined necessary for the use of the public. (Adopted January 14, 1969)

Notwithstanding any portion of this section, the approximately 75 acres east of Senator Highway and south of Virginia Street, given to the city by J. S. Acker, shall be retained as a park in perpetuity. No portion shall ever be sold, leased, transferred or otherwise disposed of. In order to retain the integrity of this park, no through road shall ever be constructed on the property. (Adopted September 26, 1995)

Notwithstanding any portion of this section, the properties known as Watson and Willow Lake, and adjacent property, consisting of a cumulative total of approximately eight hundred fifty (850) acres, which were acquired by the city from the Chino Valley Irrigation District from the bond proceeds, pursuant to that Special Election held on May 19, 1998, and Upper and Lower Goldwater Lake (APN #104-09-001) consisting of approximately one hundred sixty (160) acres, shall not be sold by the City, and shall be retained as a mix of open space and recreation space and/or utilized for water supply purposes in perpetuity.

The following additional properties shall also not be sold, leased (unless in conjunction with a conservation easement), transferred or otherwise encumbered (unless by conservation easements) by the city without prior voter approval by a majority of votes cast by Prescott registered voters at a primary, general or special election.

## **ARTICLE VIII – Section 12 (Continued):**

The properties listed below may only be used for the following purposes: pre-existing uses, utilities, nature preserves, utility installation and services, flagpoles, gazebos, visitor centers, bathroom facilities, trailheads and city-sanctioned trails as well as ancillary uses such as parking and similar infrastructure along with related road purposes, including all-weather road surfaces to and around the foregoing amenities and for emergency ingress or egress for adjacent public development (not to include arterial roads and throughfares except those existing prior to January 2025 and except that any of these roads may be used for evacuation of citizens in case of fire or other emergency), unless an exception is approved by a majority of votes cast by Prescott registered voters at a primary, general, or special election.

- Stricklin Park – Parcel 108-14-110b
- Thumb Butte Viewshed – Parcels 111-03-146, 111-03-161b, 111-03-161c, 111-03-161e, 111-03-161f, & 111-03-161g
- Ericksson – Parcel 106-12-001w
- Storm Ranch – Parcels 103-04-007h, 105-05-006x, 800-11-096f, & 103-04-005
- Tpl/Payne – Parcels 106-10-017g & 106-12-002a
- Fairgrounds/Petroglyphs – 4-Acre Portion – Parcel 111-11-148h
- Hisokota Trust – Parcels 106-09-002r, 106-10-023q, & 106-10-150l
- Granite Gardens – Parcels 106-10-019 & 106-10-025u
- Harold James Trust / Constellation Trails – Parcel 106-01-004
- Granite Haven – Parcels 106-10-150n & 106-10-150p
- Beurie – Parcel 106-13-001a
- Askari/Whispering Rock – Parcels 800-11-060d & 800-11-060e
- Aed South – Parcels 103-04-010d, 106-01-001b, 106-10-001b, & 106-10-001e
- Glassford Hill – Parcels 103-04-627, 105-05-267, 103-04-626, 103-19-257, & 103-19-256
- Gill Hill/Little Thumb Butte – Parcels 111-04-076d, 111-04-076g, 111-04-076j, 111-04-076k, 111-05-088, & 111-05-089
- Centennial/Westridge – Parcels 115-07-154j, 115-07-150, 115-07-151, 115-10-325, 115-07-153, 115-07-127a, 115-07-128a, 115-07-155a, 115-07-189, 115-07-190, 115-07-264, 115-07-007h, 115-07-296, 115-07-297, 115-07-319, & 115-07-320
- Boyle/Debusk – Parcels 107-04-038 & 107-04-039
- Anderson – Parcels 107-17-001x & 107-17-001z
- Watson Lake – Parcels 103-04-007e & 106-12-005
- Community Nature Center – Parcel 116-04-002c
- Green – Parcels 106-10-003d, 106-10-003b, & 106-10-001e
- Peavine Trail From Watson Lake To Sr89a - 105-07-009b, 105-04-012, 105-05-007b, 105-05-007a, 105-05-007, 103-04-801, 103-04-802, 800-11-096j, 800-11-096h, 800-11-096k, 103-04-807, 103-04-012a, 103-04-012c, 103-04-012d, 103-04-012f, 103-04-012e, 103-01-053c, 800-11-096e, & 103-01-031h
- West Granite Creek Park – Parcels 113-14-056b, 800-11-030p, 113-14-055, 113-14-058d, 113-14-052a, 113-14-052b, 113-09-046, & 800-11-029k

**ARTICLE VIII – Section 12 (Continued):**

- Watson Woods Riparian Preserve – Portions Of Parcels 105-07-001b & 105-04-011a As Described In City Contract #95-076. (Adopted September 7, 1999; amended June 7, 2012; amended August 5, 2025)

**Section 13 – Lease of city property with option to purchase**

Any lease of city-owned real property proposed to be entered into pursuant to city charter Article VIII, Section 11, that includes an option for the lessee to purchase the leased property shall comply with the sale of city property requirements in city charter Article VIII, Section 12. The real property to be leased shall be appraised within one (1) year prior to the execution of the lease with option to purchase. If the value of the property at the time of said appraisal exceeds four million dollars, all requirements set out in city charter Article VIII, Section 12 and its subsections shall apply. (Amended November 7, 2023)

**ARTICLE IX**  
**ELECTIONS**

**Section 1 - Permitted types of elections**

Elections to be held in the city shall be either primary, general or special.

- (a) Primary elections shall be held for the purposes of making nominations for the general election and electing officers as hereinafter provided, and for such other purposes as the council may prescribe.
  
- (b) General elections shall be held for the purposes of electing officers of the city and such other purposes as the council may prescribe.
  
- (c) All other municipal elections that may be held by authority of this charter, or of any law, shall be known as special elections.

**Section 2 - Application of state law**

The provisions of the laws of this state relating to and governing the nomination of elective officers and the conduct of elections, and each and every provision of said law, with all amendments thereto shall apply and shall govern the nomination of elective officers and the conduct of elections, except as otherwise provided in this charter. The council shall have the power to make any further and additional provisions relating to the nomination of officers and to the conduct of elections not repugnant nor contrary to the provisions of the laws of this state or the provisions of this charter.

**Section 3 - Qualifications of electors; registration; candidates**

- A. The qualification of electors shall be as required by the constitution and laws of this state for state and county elections. Registration of voters shall be as required by the laws of this state and the register of qualified electors may be compiled from the general county register. (Amended May 18, 1976)
  
- B. The City Clerk need only determine that the nomination petitions are substantially in regular form and contain the requisite number of signatures pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes. The Clerk shall verify that official candidates are qualified electors of the city as required by Article II Section 5 of the Prescott city charter. (Amended November 2, 2010; November 7, 2023)

## **ARTICLE IX (Continued):**

### **Section 4 - Arrangement of names not to reveal source of candidacy or support of candidates**

The names of the candidates for each office shall be arranged as provided by law and nothing on the ballot shall be indicative of the source of the candidacy or of the support of the candidate.

### **Section 5 - Time of holding primary election**

The primary election shall be held in the fall of every odd-numbered year on dates consistent with those permitted by State law. (Amended May 18, 1976; September 7, 1999; November 2, 2010)

### **Section 6 - Majority to elect in primary**

At the primary election any candidate who shall receive a majority of all the valid ballots cast at such election for that office shall be declared elected to the office for which he is a candidate, and no further election shall be held as to said candidate. (Amended September 20, 1983; November 2, 2010)

### **Section 7 - Nomination for general election**

In the event that no candidate is elected to a particular office in the primary election, a general election will be held to elect candidates for that office. The only candidates allowed to run in the general election are those candidates who received the highest number of votes in the primary election, up to twice the number of positions to be filled. Candidates who do not qualify in the primary election shall not be eligible to move up and become a candidate in the general election in the event of a qualifying candidate's withdrawal or death. A qualifying candidate who withdraws, or a legal representative of a deceased candidate, may request to have their name removed from the ballot provided that the request is made prior to the time required for printing of ballots. In the event that any withdrawal results in fewer candidates than the number of vacant offices, the council shall appoint the officer to fill the vacant position subsequent to the general election and following the installation of new councilmembers. (Amended November 2, 2010; November 7, 2023)

### **Section 8 - Time of holding general election**

The general election, if necessary, shall be held in November of every odd-numbered year. (Amended December 11, 1979; September 7, 1999)

**ARTICLE IX (Continued):**

**Section 9 - Candidates receiving most votes to be elected**

The candidates equal in number to the persons to be elected who shall receive the highest number of votes at said general election shall be declared elected to such office.

**Section 10 - Special elections**

The council shall provide the time, manner and means of holding any special election. All special elections shall be conducted in the same manner and under the same provisions as are provided for the holding of general elections.



## **ARTICLE X**

### **INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND RECALL**

#### **Section 1 - Initiative; referendum; recall**

There is hereby reserved to the electors of the city the powers of the initiative and referendum and of the recall of the elective officers. The provisions of the constitution and general laws of this state, as the same now exist or hereafter may be amended, governing the initiative and referendum and the recall of the elective officers, shall apply to the use thereof in the city so far as such provisions are not in conflict with the provisions of this charter. Any initiative or referendum matter may be voted on at the next ensuing primary or general election, or at a special election called by the city council for such purpose. (Amended September 21, 1993)

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **CITY COURT**

#### **Section 1 - Establishment**

There shall be and is hereby established in the city a municipal court, to be known and designated "The City Court of the City of Prescott, Yavapai County, State of Arizona".

#### **Section 2 - When open; transaction of certain business on non-judicial days**

The city court shall always be open, except on non-judicial days, and on such non-judicial days it may transact such business within its jurisdiction as is authorized by law to be transacted by courts of justice of peace, relative to business within their jurisdiction.

#### **Section 3 - Jurisdiction generally**

Said court shall, within the territorial limits of said city, have and exercise jurisdiction as follows:

- (a) It shall have and exercise exclusive original jurisdiction of all proceedings of a criminal nature for the violation of any ordinance of said city, and of every action of a civil nature for the enforcement of a penalty, or the recovery of a penalty or forfeiture imposed by any ordinance of the city for violation thereof, or for neglect to perform any duty by any ordinance imposed, and of every action for the collection of any license, fine or penalty due from any person to said city, and require to be paid, or which is due and collectible under the ordinance of said city.
- (b) The city court shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the justices of the peace, in the precincts where said city is established, over all violations of the laws of the state committed within the limits of said city; said concurrent jurisdiction shall be subject to the rules of criminal procedure applicable to trials before justices of the peace. (Amended September 21, 1993)

## **ARTICLE XI (Continued):**

### **Section 4 - Presiding Officer; appointment; term; Justice of Peace as City Judge**

The presiding officer of the city court shall be a city judge, who shall be appointed by the council in December of each even-numbered year. The term of office of the city judge shall commence on the first business day of the month following his or her appointment, and shall be for two (2) years, or until his or her successor is appointed and qualified. (Amended September 21, 1993; June 7, 2012)

The city court department employees shall be appointed by and accountable to the city judge. The city judge will report to and be responsible for the operation of the city court department to the city council. The city judge shall prepare the budget for the city court department for submission to the city council, and the city court budget shall be established by the city council. (Adopted June 7, 2012)

### **Section 5 - Disposition of fines, penalties and fees**

All fines, penalties and fees collected by the city judge shall be paid monthly to the properly designated officer of the city authorized to receive them.

### **Section 6 - Power of City Judge to issue writs and processes and to hear cases; nature of writs and processes; records to be kept; duty of police to execute, serve and make proper return of writs and processes**

For the proper carrying out of the jurisdiction vested in said city judge, he shall be entitled and authorized to issue and cause to be served any and all writs and processes, and he shall have full authority to hear and determine all matters properly coming before him and coming within his jurisdiction herein specified. The writs and processes to be used shall be similar to those used by justices of the peace in cases of a similar nature, and proper records shall be kept of the issuance of writs and processes and returns, and of any kind of all other actions taken relative thereto, and the actions of the court thereon. The police of the city are hereby authorized and directed to execute and serve any and all writs and processes issued out of said city court by said judge, and proper return shall be made by such officer to the same extent as required of constables and sheriffs in the service and execution of similar papers.

### **Section 7 - Ordinances to give effect**

The council shall pass all necessary ordinances to give effect to the provisions of this article not otherwise herein provided.

### **Section 8 - Discontinuance or Reinstatement of City Court**

Upon provisions by state law or amendment to the state constitution whereby the duties and responsibilities described above may be otherwise fulfilled to the satisfaction of

**ARTICLE XI, Section 8 - (Continued):**

the council, the council may, by appropriate ordinance, abolish, reinstate or make other arrangements in the office of city court. (Adopted May 18, 1976)

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **FRANCHISE AND PUBLIC UTILITIES**

#### **Section 1 - Elections for approval of franchises**

A person or entity desiring to obtain any utility franchise shall present the franchise desired to the City Council of the City and it shall be filed among its records. If the council deems the granting of the franchise beneficial and in the public interest, it shall pass a resolution recommending the franchise and shall thereafter submit the question to qualified voters. In the event the council shall determine the franchise is not beneficial and in the public interest the council shall pass a resolution not recommending the franchise. No franchise shall be granted, extended or renewed by the city without the approval of a majority of the qualified electors residing within its corporate limits voting thereon at a primary, general or special election; the council shall submit any matter for approval or disapproval to such election at any primary or general election or call a special election for such purposes at any time upon thirty (30) days notice; and the council shall require, before calling any such election, that the estimated expense thereof (to be determined by the council) shall be first deposited by the applicant for such franchise with the city clerk, The applicant shall be responsible for payment of all actual expenses and costs associated with such franchise election.

If a majority of the votes cast are in favor of granting the franchise the proposed franchise shall be granted in such form as determined and approved by the City Council and in compliance with applicable State and Federal laws. (Amended November 2, 2010)

#### **Section 2 - Establishment of municipally owned and operated utilities**

The city shall have power to own and operate any public utility, to construct and install all facilities that are reasonably needed, and to lease or purchase any existing utility properties used or useful to public service. The city may also furnish service to adjacent and nearby territories which may be conveniently and economically served by the municipally owned and operated utility, subject to the limitations of the provisions of the general laws of this state. The council may provide by ordinance for the establishment of such utility and provide for its regulation and control and the fixing of rates to be charged. The council may by ordinance provide for the extension, enlargement or improvement of existing utility, and provide reasonable reserves for such purpose.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Section 1 - Publicity of records**

All records and accounts of every office, department or agency of the city shall be open to inspection by any citizen, any representative of a citizens' organization or any representative of the press at all reasonable times and under reasonable regulations established by the city council, except records and documents the disclosure of which would tend to defeat the lawful purpose which they are intended to accomplish.

#### **Section 2 - Official bonds**

All elected and appointed officers and such other employees as the council may by general ordinance require to do so, shall give bond in such amount and with such surety as may be approved by the council. The premiums on such bonds shall be paid by the city.

#### **Section 3 - Oath of office**

Every officer of the city, whether elected or appointed under the provisions of this charter, or under any ordinance of the city, shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, take and subscribe an oath of office, in the form of the official oath required by the constitution.

#### **Section 4 - Insurance**

- (a) General Insurance. The city is empowered to insure any of its property against such risks as it may determine.
- (b) Liability Insurance. The council shall procure liability insurance covering the city and its officers, agents, and employees while engaged in governmental or proprietary capacities. The premiums on such insurance shall be paid by the city.
- (c) Group Insurance. The city may participate to the extent determined by the council in the cost of group insurance programs for city officers and employees. (Amended January 14, 1969)

#### **Section 5 - Short title**

This charter, adopted by the people of the City of Prescott, shall be known and may be cited as the Council-Manager Form of Government of the City of Prescott. (Amended December 11, 1979)

## **ARTICLE XIII (Continued):**

### **Section 6 - Separability clause**

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

### **Section 7 - Violations of charter and city ordinances; imprisonment of violators**

The violation of any provisions of this charter shall be deemed a misdemeanor and the violation of any ordinance of the city may be deemed a civil violation, a misdemeanor or a petty offense, and such violations may be prosecuted by the authorities of the city in the name of the State of Arizona. (Amended September 21, 1993)

### **Section 8 - Plenary and implied powers of the council**

The council shall have plenary powers to enact and make all proper and necessary ordinances, resolutions and orders to carry out and give effect to the express, as well as the implied powers granted in this charter to the end that a complete, harmonious and effective municipal government may be initiated, installed, operated and maintained in the city, and thereby protect and safeguard the rights, interests, safety, morality, health and welfare of the city and its inhabitants.

## ARTICLE XIV

### SUCCESSION IN GOVERNMENT

#### Section 1 - Right of officers and employees preserved

Nothing in this charter contained, except as specifically provided, shall affect or impair the rights or privileges of officers or employees of the city or of any office, department or agency existing at the time when this charter shall take effect, or any provision of law in force at the time when this charter shall take effect and not inconsistent with the provisions of this charter, in relation to the personnel, appointment rank, grades, tenure of office, promotion, removal, pension and retirement rights, civil rights or any other rights or privileges of officers or employees of the city or any office, department or agency.

#### Section 2 - Continuance of present officers

All persons holding executive and administrative office at the time this charter takes effect shall continue in office and in the performance of their duties until provisions shall have been made in accordance therewith for the performance of such duties or the discontinuance of such office.

#### Section 3 - Continuance of present offices, departments or agencies

Any office, department or agency provided for in this charter to be named or with powers and duties the same or substantially the same as those heretofore existing, shall be deemed a continuation of such office, department or agency and shall have powers to continue any business proceedings or other matters within the scope of the powers and duties prescribed by this charter. Any office, department or agency not provided for in this charter, heretofore existing, shall continue to exercise powers and duties as the same were heretofore exercised and shall have the power to continue any business proceedings or other matters within the scope of its regular powers and duties until such office, department or agency shall be changed or abolished by the council as heretofore provided in this charter.

The powers conferred and the duties imposed upon any office, department or agency of the city by the laws of this state shall, if such office, department or agency be abolished by this charter or under its authority, be thereafter exercised and discharged by the office, department or agency designated by the council, unless otherwise provided herein.

#### Section 4 - Continuance of appointive boards and commissions

All appointive boards and commissions heretofore existing shall continue and shall exercise such powers and duties as were granted them until such boards and commissions shall be changed or abolished by the council, as heretofore provided in this charter.



## **ARTICLE XIV (Continued):**

### **Section 5 - Transfer of records and property**

All records, property and equipment whatsoever of any office, department or agency or part thereof, all the powers and duties of which are assigned to any other office, department or agency by this charter or under its authority, shall be transferred and delivered to the office, department or agency to which such powers and duties are so assigned.

### **Section 6 - Continuance of contracts**

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.

### **Section 7 - Pending actions and proceedings**

The adoption of this charter shall not abate or otherwise affect any action or proceeding, civil or criminal, pending when it takes full effect, brought by or against the city or any office, department, agency or officer thereof.

### **Section 8 - Ordinances to remain in force**

All ordinances, resolutions and regulations of the city in force at the time this charter takes effect, and not inconsistent with the provisions thereof, are hereby continued in force until the same shall be duly amended or repealed.

### **Section 9 - Inauguration of government under this charter**

If a majority of the qualified electors of the city, voting on the question, vote to ratify this charter, the provisions of this charter shall go into effect for all purposes immediately upon the approval of the governor as provided by the constitution of this state.

**ARTICLE XV**

**AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1 - Method of amendment**

This charter, or any part or article or section thereof, may be amended in the manner provided by the constitution of this state.

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