

Section 302. - General powers and duties.

- (a) All powers of the city shall be vested in the city council, to be also known as "council," except as provided by law or this Charter.
- (b) Three (3) councilmembers shall be considered a quorum and may carry out all functions according to law as if all members were present.
- (c) At the first council meeting after each regular city election and annually thereafter, the council shall elect one of its members as vice-mayor. The mayor shall preside at meetings of the council and shall be considered a member of the council, shall be recognized as head of city government for all ceremonial purposes, by the governor for purposes of military law, for service of process, execution of contracts, deeds and other documents and agreements with other governmental entities or certifications to other governmental entities. He shall annually prepare a state of the city message, prepare an annual budget message, set forth the agenda for all meetings of the council, name committees of the council and appoint members of the city boards with the approval of the council. He shall have no other administrative duties except as required to carry out the responsibilities herein. The vice-mayor shall act as mayor during the absence or disability of the mayor. In case of the death, resignation or removal of the mayor, the vice-mayor shall serve as mayor until the next regular or special election when the office shall be filled. In case of the death, resignation or removal of the vice-mayor or his assumption of the office of mayor, the council shall elect one of its members to serve the unexpired term of the vice-mayor.
- (d) The council shall have the authority by ordinance to set the annual salary of the mayor, councilmembers and its members.

(Ord. No. A-444, § 1, 2-18-80)

Section 304. - Vacancies, forfeiture of office; filling of vacancies.

- (a) *Vacancies.* The office of a councilmember shall become vacant upon his death, resignation, removal from office in any manner authorized by law or forfeiture of his office, such forfeiture to be declared only by the remaining members of the council.
- (b) *Forfeiture of office.* The council shall declare a council seat forfeited if the council by majority vote finds that a council member:
  - (1) Lacks at any time during his or her term of office any qualification for the office prescribed by this Charter, or by law;
  - (2) Violates any express prohibition of this Charter;
  - (3) Is absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the council without being excused by the council;
  - (4) Is guilty of committing a felony;
  - (5) Is guilty of engaging in conduct which violates acceptable standards of moral behavior where such conduct involves moral turpitude or would constitute a crime under the laws of Florida, or if such conduct was engaged in by a judge of any of the state courts would cause such judge to be removed from office.
- (c) *Filling of vacancies.* A vacancy in the office of mayor-councilmember should be filled as follows:
  - (1) If more than eight (8) months remain in the term of office, the council shall schedule a special election to be held not sooner than sixty (60) days nor more than ninety (90) days following the occurrence of the vacancy.
  - (2) If less than eight (8) months remain in the term of office, the council shall, within sixty (60) days from the date the vacancy occurred, by a majority vote of the remaining members, choose a successor to serve said unexpired term of the vacated council seat. If the vacated seat is that of the vice-mayor, upon appointment or election of the new councilmember, whichever first occurs, the council shall elect one of their members to hold the position so vacated. Under no circumstances shall the service of the vice-mayor in the capacity of mayor during an interim vacancy in the office of mayor be deemed to create a vacancy in the council seat occupied by said vice-mayor. A vacancy in the office of councilmembers other than mayor shall be filled as follows:
    - (1) If more than two (2) years and sixty (60) days remain in the term of office, the council shall forthwith call a special election to be held at the next regular city election where said seat shall be filled for the remaining term.
    - (2) If less than two (2) years and sixty (60) days remain in the term of office, the council shall within sixty (60) days from the date the vacancy occurred, by a majority vote of the remaining members, choose a successor to serve said unexpired term of the vacated council seat.If the vacated seat is that of the vice-mayor, upon appointment or election of the new councilmember, whichever first occurs, the council shall elect one of their members to hold the position so vacated.
- (d) *Extraordinary vacancies.* In the event that all members of the council are removed by death, disability, law or forfeiture of office, the governor shall appoint an interim council that shall call a special election to be held not sooner than sixty (60) days nor more than ninety (90) days following the appointment of the interim council. Said interim council may, by emergency ordinance, establish procedures for said election, where in their opinion, the same are necessary to effectuate the intention of this Charter.

(Ord. No. A-444, § 1, 2-18-80; Ord. No. A-496, § 1, 8-16-82; Ord. No. 2002-957, § 1(b), 7-15-2002)