

### Section 1. - Short title

This, together with any future amendments thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the "City of Westlake Charter," hereinafter referred to as "the Charter."

### Section 2. - Legislative intent

The electors of the City of Westlake hereby find and declare that:

- A. The Westlake area in Palm Beach County includes a compact and contiguous community of interest susceptible to urban services, and constitutes a community amenable to separate municipal government.
- B. It is in the best interests of the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Westlake area to form a separate municipality for the Westlake area with all the powers and authority necessary to provide adequate and efficient municipal services to its residents.
- C. It is intended that this Charter and the incorporation of the Westlake area will provide residents with greater control over the theme, design and ambiance of the overall community.
- D. It is the intent of this Charter and the incorporation of the Westlake area that innovative public-private partnerships be set as the guiding principal for implementation of infrastructure improvements and economic development within the City.

### Section 3. - Incorporation of municipality; corporate limits

There is hereby created, effective June 20, 2016, in Palm Beach County, a new municipality to be known as the City of Westlake, which shall have a council-manager form of government. The corporate boundaries of the City of Westlake, hereinafter referred to as "City," are described as follows:

All of Sections 1 and 2, that part of Section 3 situated Southerly and Eastwardly of the Canal "M" right of way, and Section 12 except the East Half (E ½) of the Southeast Quarter (SE ¼) thereof, all in Township 43 South, Range 40 East.

All of Sections 5 and 6, the North Half (N ½) of Section 7 and the North Half (N ½) of Section 8, Township 43 South, Range 41 East.

All in the County of Palm Beach, State of Florida.

#### Section 4. - Municipal powers

The City shall be a body corporate and politic and shall have all the powers of a municipality under the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, as fully and completely as though such powers were specifically enumerated in this Charter, unless otherwise prohibited by or contrary to the provisions of this Charter. The City shall have all governmental, corporate, and proprietary powers necessary to enable it to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions, and render municipal services, and may exercise any power for municipal services unless expressly prohibited by law. The powers of the City shall be liberally construed in favor of the City.

#### Section 5. - Transitional Council

At least two (2) members of the City Council shall be residents of Palm Beach County. Until the first elections shall be held under the provisions of this Charter, and until their successors shall be elected and qualified

Mayor	Roger Manning
Seat 1	John Stanavitch
Seat 2	Kara Crump
Seat 3	Philip Everett
Seat 4	Anthony Fritz

are hereby appointed as and to be Mayor and members of the City Council and shall constitute the first City Council thereof.

#### Section 6. – First Elections

The selection of members of the City Council shall be by groups to be known as Seats 1, 2, 3 and 4. At the first annual election to be held in March, 2020, Councilmen in Seats 1 and 3 shall be elected to a four-year term, and every four years thereafter Councilmen shall be elected in said seats for a 4-year term. At the election to be held in March, 2022 the Mayor and Councilmen in Groups 2 and 4 shall be elected to a 4-year term every four years thereafter the Mayor and Councilmen in said groups shall be elected to four year terms.

#### Section 7. – Oath of Office

Each person appointed or elected as a member of the City Council of said municipality, before entering upon the discharge of the duties of the office, shall take and subscribe the following oath before some officer authorized to administer oaths under the laws of the State of Florida: “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and protect and defend the Constitution and government of the United States and of the State of Florida against all enemies, domestic or foreign, and that I will bear true faith, loyalty

and allegiance to the same; and that I am entitled to hold office under the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and Laws of the State of Florida, and that I will faithfully perform all the duties of the office of [Mayor] [Councilman] of City of Westlake, Florida, upon which I am about to enter, so help me God.” This oath may be spread upon the minutes of the City Council.

## Section 8. - City Council

### A. *City council; composition; qualifications of councilmembers.*

1. There shall be a five-member City council, consisting of a mayor and four councilmembers each elected from and representing the City at large.
2. There shall be five separate seats to be designated as mayor, seat 1, seat 2, seat 3, and seat 4. Candidates must qualify for mayor and council elections by seat, and the councilmembers elected to those seats shall hold the seat of mayor and seats 1 through 4, respectively.
3. To qualify for office:
  - a. Each candidate for the office of City council shall be a registered voter in the State of Florida and a resident of the City.
  - b. At the time of qualification, each candidate for mayor or a council seat shall have maintained his or her domicile within the boundaries of the City for a period of one year before qualifying and, if elected, shall maintain such residency throughout his or her term of office. Candidates for office shall qualify as provided in section 8.C.

B. *Term of office.* The term of office for mayor and councilmembers shall be four years. The mayor and each councilmember, including any member of the Transitional Council, shall remain in office until a successor is elected and assumes the duties of the position, except as otherwise provided herein. The office of mayor and the office of council member shall be considered separate offices for purposes of this section.

### C. *The mayor; powers and duties*

1. One member of the council shall be the mayor, who shall be elected to the office in the manner provided in section 8.A of this Charter, except as provided in this article for the filling of a vacancy in the office of mayor. The mayor shall have the same legislative powers and duties as any other councilmember, except as provided in section 8.C.2.
2. In addition to carrying out the regular duties under section 8.C.1., the mayor shall preside at the meetings of the council and shall be

recognized as the head of City government for service of process, ceremonial matters, and the signature or execution of ordinances, contracts, deeds, bonds, and other instruments and documents. The mayor shall have no administrative duties other than those necessary to accomplish these actions, or such other actions as may be authorized by the City council, consistent with general or special law.

D. *The vice-mayor.*

1. The City council, at its first regular meeting after the fourth Tuesday of each March, shall elect from its membership a vice-mayor who shall serve at the pleasure of the City council and who shall have the same legislative powers and duties as the mayor or any other councilmember.
2. The vice-mayor shall serve as acting mayor during the absence or disability of the mayor. In the absence of the mayor and the vice-mayor, the remaining councilmembers shall select a councilmember to serve as acting mayor.

E. *Compensation and expenses.*

1. The Transitional Council as elected pursuant to section 5 shall be compensated at the rate of \$3,400 per month for as long as they remain in office including any holdover terms, and shall be entitled to receive reimbursement in accordance with Florida Statutes for authorized travel and per-diem expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. The Transitional Council may not elect to provide for an increase in compensation by ordinance.
2. The Mayor and City councilmembers appointed in Section 6 or any election thereafter shall be compensated at the rate of \$1,000 per month, and shall be entitled to receive reimbursement in accordance with Florida Statutes for authorized travel and per-diem expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. The City council may not elect to provide for an increase in compensation by ordinance.

F. *General powers and duties of council.* Except as otherwise prescribed herein or provided by law, legislative and police powers of the City shall be vested in the council. The council shall provide for the exercise of its powers and for the performance of all duties and obligations imposed on the City by law.

G. *Vacancies; forfeiture of office; suspension; filling of vacancies.*

1. *Vacancies.* A vacancy in the office of mayor or any councilmember shall occur upon the death of the incumbent, removal from office as authorized by law, resignation, appointment to other public office

which creates dual office holding, judicially determined incompetency, or forfeiture of office as described in section 8.G.2.?

2. *Forfeiture of office.* The mayor or any councilmember shall forfeit his or her office upon determination by the council, acting as a body, at a duly noticed public meeting that he or she:

- a. Lacks at any time, or fails to maintain during his or her term of office, any qualification for the office prescribed by this Charter or otherwise required by law;
- b. Is convicted of a felony, or enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a crime punishable as a felony, even if adjudication is withheld;
- c. Is convicted of a first-degree misdemeanor arising directly out of his or her official conduct or duties, or enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere thereto, even if adjudication of guilt has been withheld;
- d. Is found to have violated any standard of conduct or code of ethics established by law for public officials and has been suspended from office by the Governor, unless subsequently reinstated as provided by law; or
- e. Is absent from three consecutive regular council meetings without justifiable reason, or for any other reason established in this Charter.

3. *Suspension from office.* The mayor or any councilmember shall be suspended from office upon return of an indictment or issuance of any information charging the mayor or any councilmember with any crime which is punishable as a felony or with any crime arising out of his or her official duties which is punishable as a first degree misdemeanor. Pursuant thereto:

- a. During the period of suspension, the mayor or any councilmember shall not perform any official act, duty, or function, or receive any pay, allowance, emolument, or privilege of office.
- b. If the mayor or any councilmember is subsequently found not guilty of the charge, or if the charge is otherwise dismissed, reduced, or altered in such a manner that suspension would no longer be required as provided herein, the suspension shall be lifted and the mayor or any councilmember shall be entitled to receive full back pay and such other emoluments or allowances

as he or she would have been entitled to had the suspension not occurred.

4. *Filling of vacancies.*

- a. If a vacancy occurs in the office of mayor, and less than 180 days remain in the term of the mayor, then the vice-mayor shall serve as mayor until a new mayor is elected and assumes the duties of his or her office. If a vacancy occurs in the office of mayor and 180 days or more remain in the term of the mayor, then the remaining councilmembers shall, within 30 days following the occurrence of such vacancy, by majority vote, appoint a person to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- b. If any vacancy occurs in the office of any councilmember and the remainder of the unexpired term is less than 2 years and 81 days, the remaining councilmembers shall, within 30 days following the occurrence of such vacancy, by majority vote, appoint a person to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term. If, however, the remainder of the unexpired term exceeds 2 years and 81 days, the remaining councilmembers shall, within 30 days following the occurrence of such vacancy, by majority vote, appoint a person to fill the vacancy until the next regularly scheduled City election.
- c. Other than for a vacancy occurring in the Transitional Council, any person appointed to fill a vacant seat on the council shall be required to meet the qualifications of the seat to which he or she is appointed.

H. *City council meetings.* The council shall conduct regular meetings at such times and places as the council shall prescribe by resolution. Such meetings shall be public meetings within the meaning of F.S. § 286.011 and shall be subject to notice and other requirements of law applicable to public meetings. Pursuant thereto:

1. Special meetings may be held at the call of the mayor, or in his or her absence, at the call of the vice-mayor. Special meetings may also be called upon the request of a majority of the council members. Unless of an emergency nature, the person or persons calling such a meeting shall provide not less than 72 hours' prior notice of the meeting to the public.

2. The elected or re-elected mayor and councilmembers shall be inducted into office at the first regularly scheduled meeting following certification of their election.
3. A majority of the council shall constitute a quorum. No action of the council shall be valid unless adopted by an affirmative vote of the majority of the councilmembers in attendance, unless otherwise provided by law. All actions of the City council shall be by ordinance, resolution, or motion.
  - I. *City records.* The council shall, in a properly indexed book kept for the purpose, provide for the authentication and recording in full of all minutes of meetings, and all ordinances and resolutions adopted by the council, and the same shall at all times be a public record. The council shall further maintain a current codification of all ordinances. Such codification shall be printed and shall be made available for distribution to the public on a continuing basis. All ordinances or resolutions of the council shall be signed by the mayor, or vice-mayor in the absence or disability of the mayor, or by the acting mayor in the absence or disability of both the mayor and the vice-mayor, and attested to by the City clerk.
  - J. *Adoption of codes.* The council may adopt any standard code of technical regulations by reference thereto in an adopting ordinance and may amend the code in the adopting ordinance or later amendatory ordinance. The procedures and requirements governing such an adopting ordinance shall be as prescribed for ordinances generally, except that:
    1. Requirements regarding distribution and filing of copies of the ordinance shall not be construed to require distribution and filing of copies of the adopted code of technical regulations, except as provided in Section 8.J.2.
    2. A copy of each adopted code of technical regulations, as well as of the adopting ordinance, shall be authenticated and recorded by the City clerk.
  - K. *Limitation of employment of councilmembers.* Neither the mayor nor any councilmember shall be in the employment of the City while in office, nor shall any former mayor or councilmember be employed by the City until after the expiration of one year from the time of leaving office.
  - L. *Noninterference by City council.* Except for the purposes of inquiry and information, the mayor and councilmembers are expressly prohibited from interfering with the performance of the duties of any employee of the City government who is under the direct or indirect supervision of the City manager or City attorney. Such action shall be malfeasance within the meaning of Sections 112.317 and 112.51, Florida Statutes.

## Section 9. - Budget and Appropriations

- A. *Fiscal year.* The City shall have a fiscal year which shall begin on October 1 of each year and end on September 30 of the succeeding year.
- B. *Budget adoption.* The council shall by resolution adopt a budget on or before the 30th day of September of each year, following a minimum of two public hearings on the proposed budget. A resolution adopting the annual budget *shall* constitute appropriation of the amounts specified therein as expenditures from funds indicated.
- C. *Appropriation amendments during the fiscal year.*
  - 1. *Supplemental appropriations.* If, during the fiscal year, revenues in excess of those estimated in the budget are available for appropriation, the council by resolution may make supplemental appropriations for the year in an amount not to exceed such excess.
  - 2. *Reduction of appropriations.* If, at any time during the fiscal year, it appears probable to the City manager that the revenues available will be insufficient to meet the amount appropriated, the City manager shall report same to the council without delay, indicating the estimated amount of the deficit, any remedial action taken, and recommendations as to any other steps that should be taken. The council shall then take such further action as it deems necessary to prevent or minimize any deficit and, for that purpose, the council may by resolution reduce one or more appropriations accordingly.
  - 3. *Limitations; effective date.* No appropriation for debt service may be reduced or transferred, and no appropriation may be reduced below any amount required by law to be appropriated, or by more than the unencumbered balance thereof. Other provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding, the supplemental and emergency appropriations and reduction or transfer of appropriations authorized by this section may be made effective immediately upon adoption.

#### Section 10. - Charter Officers

- A. *Designation.* The City manager and the City attorney are designated as Charter officers; the offices of City manager or City attorney shall be contracted to a qualified individual or firm as to the former or an attorney or law firm as to the latter and shall not be City employees.
- B. *Appointment; removal; compensation; filling of vacancies.*
  - 1. The Charter officers shall be appointed by a majority vote of the full council and shall serve at the pleasure of the council.
  - 2. The Charter officers shall be removed from office only by a majority vote of the full council. Upon demand by a Charter officer, a public hearing shall be held prior to such removal.



3. The compensation of the Charter officers shall be fixed by the City council.
  4. The City council shall begin the process to fill a vacancy in a Charter office within 90 days of the vacancy. An acting City manager or an acting City attorney may be appointed by the council during a vacancy in such Charter office.
  5. The Charter officers shall not be a candidate for City council while holding their Charter officer position.
- C. *City manager.* The City manager shall be the chief administrative officer of the City.
1. *Qualifications.* The City manager shall be selected on the basis of experience, expertise, and management ability as it pertains to running municipal government.
  2. *Powers and duties.* The City manager shall:
    - a. As the chief administrative officer of the City, direct and supervise the administration of all departments, offices, and agencies of the City, except the offices of City attorney, and except as otherwise provided by this Charter or by law.
    - b. Appoint, suspend, or remove any employee of the City or appointive administrative officer provided for, by, or under this Charter, except the office of City attorney, and except as may otherwise be provided by law, this Charter, or personnel rules adopted pursuant to the Charter. The City manager may authorize any administrative officer who is subject to his or her direction and supervision to exercise these powers with respect to subordinates in that officer's department, office, or agency.
    - c. Ensure that all laws, provisions of this Charter, and acts of the council are faithfully executed.
    - d. Prepare and submit the annual budget, and capital program to the council in the form prescribed by ordinance.
    - e. Attend meetings of the City council.
    - f. Draw and sign vouchers upon depositories as provided by ordinance, and keep, or cause to be kept, a true and accurate account of same.

- g. Sign all licenses issued by the City, and issue receipts for all moneys paid to the City, and deposit said moneys in the proper depositories on the first banking day after receipt. The City manager may delegate the responsibilities of this subparagraph to an appropriate City employee who shall be bonded.
- h. Provide administrative services in support of the official duties of the mayor and the council.
- i. Keep the council advised as to the financial condition and future needs of the City and make recommendations to the council concerning the affairs of the City.
- j. Submit to the council, and make available to the public, a complete report on finances and administrative activities of the City as of the end of each fiscal year.
- k. Sign contracts on behalf of the City to the extent authorized by ordinance.
- l. I. Perform such other duties as are specified in this Charter or as may be required by the council.

D. *City attorney.* The City attorney shall be the chief legal officer of the City.

- 1. *Qualifications.* The City attorney shall be a member of The Florida Bar in good standing.
- 2. *Powers and duties.* The City attorney:
  - a. Shall serve as chief legal advisor to the City council, the Charter officers, and all City departments, offices and agencies.
  - b. May hire such assistants as may be required, when approved by the City council.
  - c. Shall attend City council meetings unless excused by the City council, and shall perform such professional duties as may be required by law or by the council in furtherance of the law.
  - d. Shall prepare an annual budget for the operation of the office of the City attorney and shall submit this budget to the City manager for inclusion in the annual City budget, in accordance with uniform City procedures.

## Section 11. - Elections

- A. *Electors.* Any person who is a resident of the City, who has qualified as an elector of this state, and who registers in the manner prescribed by law shall be an elector of the City.
- B. *Nonpartisan elections.* All elections for the City councilmembers shall be conducted on a nonpartisan basis without any designation of political party affiliation.
- C. *Qualifying for office.* Any resident of the City who wishes to become a candidate for a City elective office shall qualify with the City clerk no sooner than noon on the last Tuesday in January nor later than noon on the second Tuesday in February of the year in which the election is to be held.
- D. *Schedule for general elections.* The regular City election shall be the second Tuesday in March of each election year. Such City elections shall be general City elections. In the event no candidate for an office receives a minimum of Fifty (50%) percent of the votes cast for said office, then a second election shall be held on the fourth Tuesday in March.
- E. *Schedule for other elections.*
1. An election to fill the remainder of an unexpired term shall be held as provided in section 11.D.
  2. Special municipal elections shall be held in the same manner as regular elections, except that the City council, by ordinance, shall fix the time for holding of such elections.
- F. *Determination of election to office.* If only one candidate qualifies for an office, said candidate shall be deemed to be elected. If two or more candidates qualify for an office, the names of those candidates shall be placed on the ballot at the general election. In every election to any office the candidate receiving the highest percentage of the vote equal to or in excess of fifty (50%) percent of the votes validly cast for that office shall be declared elected. If in any election no candidate receives a minimum of fifty (50%) percent of the votes validly cast for that office, then the two candidates for the office receiving the highest vote in the general election shall run again in election, provided that:
1. If more than two candidates for an office receive an equal and highest number of votes, the name of each candidate shall be placed on the second election ballot.
  2. In any contest in which there is a tie for second place, the name of the candidate placing first and the name of each candidate tying for second shall be placed upon the second election ballot. The candidate

receiving the highest number of votes cast for the office in the second election shall be elected to such office. If the vote at the second election results in a tie, the outcome shall be determined by lot.

- G. *City canvassing board.* The City canvassing board shall be composed of those members of the City council who are not candidates for reelection and the City clerk, who shall act as chairperson. At the close of the polls of any City election, or as soon thereafter as practicable, the canvassing board shall meet at a time and place designated by the chairperson and shall proceed to publicly canvass the vote as shown by the returns then on file in the office of the City clerk, and then shall publicly canvass the absentee elector ballots. The canvassing board shall prepare and sign a certificate containing the total number of votes cast for each candidate or other measure voted upon. The certificate shall be placed on file with the City clerk.
- H. *Recall of City councilmembers.* Any member of the City council may be removed from office by the electors of the City following the procedures for recall established by general law.

#### Section 12. - Transition Schedule

- A. *Creation and establishment of City.* For the purpose of compliance with F.S. § 200.066, relating to assessment and collection of ad valorem taxes, the City is hereby created and established effective \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. *First year expenses.* The City council, in order to provide moneys for the expenses and support of the City, shall have the power to borrow money necessary for the operation of City government until such time as a budget is adopted and revenues are raised in accordance with the provisions of this Charter.
- C. *Transitional ordinances and resolutions.* The City council shall adopt ordinances and resolutions required to effect the transition. Ordinances adopted within 60 days after the first council meeting may be passed as emergency ordinances. These transitional ordinances, passed as emergency ordinances, shall be effective for no longer than 90 days after adoption, and thereafter may be readopted, renewed, or otherwise continued only in the manner normally prescribed for ordinances.
- D. *Transitional comprehensive plan and land development regulations.*
  - 1. Until such time as the City adopts a comprehensive plan, the applicable provisions of the Comprehensive Plan of Palm Beach County, as the same exists on the day the City commences corporate existence, shall remain in effect as the City's transitional comprehensive plan. However, all planning functions, duties, and authority to administer shall thereafter be vested in the City Council of Westlake which shall be deemed the local planning agency until the council establishes a separate local

planning agency. Nothing in this Charter will divest any landowner in the City of development rights under existing zoning and land use approvals

2. All powers and duties of the planning commission, zoning authority, any boards of adjustment, and the County Commission of Palm Beach County, as set forth in these transitional zoning and land use regulations, shall be vested in the City Council until such time as the City council delegates all or a portion thereof to another entity.
3. Subsequent to the commencement of the City's corporate existence, no amendment of the comprehensive plan or land development regulations enacted by the Palm Beach County Commission shall be deemed as an amendment of the City's transitional comprehensive plan or land development regulations or otherwise take effect within the City's corporate limits unless approved by the City council.

E. *State shared revenues.* The City of Westlake shall be entitled to participate in all shared revenue programs of the State of Florida effective immediately on the date of incorporation. Initial population estimates for calculating eligibility for shared revenues shall be determined by the University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research. Should the bureau be unable to provide an appropriate population estimate, the Palm Beach County Planning Division estimate should be utilized.

F. *Gas tax revenues.* The City of Westlake shall be entitled to receive local option gas tax revenues beginning as provided by law. The amount of said revenues distributed to the City of Westlake shall be determined pursuant to Ordinance [No.] 86-23 of Palm Beach County.

### Section 13. - Continuation, Merger, and Dissolution of Existing Districts

- A. *Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Municipal Service Taxing Unit; continuation.* Notwithstanding the incorporation of the City, that portion of the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Municipal Service Taxing Unit, a special taxing district created by the Palm Beach County Commission that lies within the boundaries of the City, is authorized to continue in existence, until the City adopts an ordinance to the contrary. However the City shall not establish a City fire department without a referendum.
- B. *Law enforcement.* Law enforcement services will be provided by contract with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, or contracted with other law enforcement agencies, until the City adopts an ordinance to the contrary. The City shall not establish a City police department without a referendum.
- C. *Palm Beach County Library Taxing District; continuation.* Notwithstanding the incorporation of the City, that portion of the Palm Beach County Library Taxing District, a dependent district of Palm Beach County created by Laws of Fla., ch.

67-1869, as amended, that lies within the boundaries of the City, is authorized but not required to continue in existence.

- D. *Palm Beach County Municipal Service Taxing Unit B.* That portion of Palm Beach County Municipal Service Taxing Unit B, a dependent district of Palm Beach County created by the Palm Beach Commission that lies within the boundaries of the City, shall cease to exist within the municipal boundaries of the City on the effective date of incorporation.
- E. *Palm Beach County Municipal Service Taxing Unit C.* [check applicability] That portion of Palm Beach County Municipal Service Taxing Unit C, a dependent district of Palm Beach County created by the Palm Beach County Commission that lies within the boundaries of the City of Westlake, shall cease to exist within the municipal boundaries of the City on the effective date of incorporation.
- F. *Palm Beach County Municipal Service Taxing Unit F.* [check applicability] That portion of Palm Beach County Municipal Service Taxing Unit F, a dependent district of Palm Beach County created by the Palm Beach County Commission that lies within the boundaries of the City, shall cease to exist within the municipal boundaries of the City on the effective date of incorporation.
- G. *Seminole Improvement District continuation and transfer.* The Seminole Improvement District, an independent special district created by a special act of the Legislature, shall become a dependent district of the City of Westlake on the earlier to occur of thirty (30) years after the effective date of this Charter, or the date mutually agreed to by the City and the District (the "Transition Date"). All special acts of the Seminole Improvement District shall become Ordinances of the City of Westlake on the Transition Date.
  - 1. Effective on the Transition Date, the assets, liabilities, and written contracts of the Seminole Improvement District, including all rights, obligations, duties and relationships now existing by law or agreement, shall be unaffected and shall remain in full force and effect and shall be those of the district as a dependent district of the City of Westlake. All rights, obligations, duties, and relationships now existing by law or agreement shall remain in full force and effect and shall be those of the district as a dependent district of the City. All rights, claims, actions, orders, and all contracts of the special district and all legal or administrative proceedings involving the district shall continue in full force and effect under the jurisdiction of the district as a dependent district of the City.
  - 2. Effective on the Transition Date, at 7 p.m., the terms of office of the Board of Supervisors of the Seminole Improvement District shall terminate, and the City councilmembers of the City of Westlake shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Supervisors.

3. To the extent not inconsistent with this Charter, all resolutions and policies of the Seminole Improvement District shall remain in effect until amended, revised, or repealed by the City council.
  4. Additional provisions which are necessary to effect this transition and to provide for the operation of the Seminole Improvement District as a dependent district of the City shall be adopted by ordinance.
- H. *Non-Duplication of Services.* The City shall not exercise any function or provide any service being performed by or provided by Seminole Improvement District at any time prior to the Transition Date. This provision does not impair the ability of the City to contract for fire rescue or law enforcement services as provided in Sections 13.A and 13.B, above.
- I. *Non-Duplication of Regulatory Programs.* The City shall not adopt any ordinance governing an activity which is subject to review or permitting by a state or federal regulatory program.

#### Section 14. - General Provisions

- A. *Charter amendments.* This Charter may be amended in accordance with the provisions for Charter amendments as specified in the Municipal Home Rule Powers Act, F.S. ch. 166, as the same may be amended from time to time, or its successor, or as may otherwise be provided by general law. The form, content, and certification of any petition to amend shall be established by ordinance.
- B. *Standards of conduct.* All elected officials and employees of the City shall be subject to the standards of conduct for public officers and employees set by general law. In addition, the City council shall, no later than 6 months from the effective date of incorporation, establish by ordinance a code of ethics for officials and employees of the City which may be supplemental to general law, but in no case may such an ordinance diminish the provisions of general law. The intent of this provision of the Charter is to require more stringent standards than those provided under general law.

#### Section 15. - Severability

If any provisions of this Charter, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Charter are declared severable.

#### Section 16. - Effective Dates

This Charter shall take effect only upon its approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors residing within the proposed corporate limits of the proposed City of Westlake voting in a referendum election to be held on June 20, 2016, in accordance with the provisions of law relating to elections currently in force.