

MISCELLANEOUS (Draft Language Based on Caro Charter Chapter 15)

Section 1 LIABILITY OF CITY; PROCEDURE FOR FILING CLAIM

The city shall have all the governmental immunities from claims for damages for injury to persons or property as may be permitted by state law. The procedures in regard to filing of claims and disposition of the same shall be as permitted by state law.

Section 2 RECORDS

All records of the city shall be made available to the general public in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and shall be kept in city offices except when required for official reasons or for purpose of safe keeping to be elsewhere.

Section 3 ESTOPPEL AGAINST CITY

No estoppel may be created against the city.

Section 4 PROCESSES AGAINST CITY

All processes against the city shall run against the city in the corporate name thereof, and may be served by delivering a true copy to the mayor or city clerk.

Section 5 TRUSTS FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES

All trusts established for any municipal purpose shall be used and contained in accordance with the terms of such trust subject to the cy pres doctrine. The council may in its discretion receive and hold any property in trust for any municipal purpose and shall apply the same to the execution of such trust and for no other purposes, except in cases where the cy pres doctrine shall apply.

Section 6 QUORUM GENERALLY

Except as provided otherwise in this charter, a quorum of any board or commission created by and pursuant to this charter shall be a majority of the members of such board or commission in office at the time, but not less than two (2) members.

Section 7 SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS OR CITY HOLIDAYS

Whenever the date fixed by this charter for the doing or completion of any act falls on a Saturday, Sunday or city holiday, such act shall be done or completed on the next succeeding day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or city holiday.

Section 8 CHAPTER, SECTION AND SUBSECTION HEADINGS OF CHARTER

The chapter, section and subsection headings used in this charter are for convenience only, and shall not be considered as part of the charter.

Section 9 AMENDMENT OF CHARTER

This charter may be amended at any time in the manner provided by statute. Should two (2) or more amendments adopted at the same election have conflicting provisions, the one (1) receiving the largest affirmative vote shall prevail as to those provisions.

Section 10 SEVERABILITY OF CHARTER PROVISIONS

Should any provision or section, or portion thereof, of this charter be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, illegal, or unconstitutional, such holding shall not be construed as affecting the validity of this charter as a whole or of any remaining portion of such provision or section, it being hereby declared to be the intent of the charter commission, and of the electors who voted thereon, that such unconstitutionality or illegality shall not affect the validity of any other part of this charter.

Section 11 DEFINITIONS - GENERALLY

Except as otherwise specifically provided or indicated by the context or is further extended and defined:

- (a) All words used in this charter indicating the present tense shall not be limited to the time of the adoption of this charter, but shall extend to and include the time of the happening of any event or requirement for which provision is made herein.
- (b) The singular number shall include the plural, the plural number shall include the singular.
- (c) The word "person" may extend and be applied to an individual, partnership, corporation, association, other legal entities, or a combination of them.
- (d) The word "printed" and "printing" shall include reproductions by printing, engraving, stencil duplicating, lithographing or any similar reproduction method.
- (e) Except in reference to signatures, the words "written" and "in writing" shall include printing and typewriting and any other currently acceptable similar method.
- (f) The word "officer" shall include the mayor and other members of the council and administrative officers.
- (g) The word "employee" shall mean those persons not holding elective or appointive office, one who is generally subordinate to the officer and performs only those duties specifically assigned by a contract, department head, or other governmental body.
- (h) The word estoppel shall mean "as being estopped or prevented from denying or asserting something, on the ground that to do so contradicts what has already been admitted or denied, either explicitly in words or implicitly by actions."
- (i) The word "default" shall include being delinquent in payment of taxes or municipal utility charges for more than thirty (30) days unless the default is being tested in a court or tribunal.

- (j) The word “statute” shall denote the Public Acts of the State of Michigan and any amendments thereto in effect at the time the provision of the charter containing the word “statute” is to be applied.
- (k) All references to specific Public Acts of the State of Michigan shall be to such acts as are in effect at the time the reference to such act is to be applied.
- (l) The words “state law” shall denote the statutes of the State of Michigan and the applicable common law.
- (m) All reference to section numbers shall refer to section numbers of this charter.
- (n) The word “city” shall mean the City of Dexter.
- (o) The word “council” shall mean the council of the City of Dexter.
- (p) The words “public utility” shall include all common carriers in the public streets; water; sewage disposal; electric light and power; gas; telephone and telegraph lines and systems; cable television; garbage and refuse collection and disposal and reduction plants; and such other and different enterprises as the council may determine or designate.
- (q) For the purpose of this charter, the offense of “misconduct in office” includes doing a wrongful act, doing a lawful act in a wrongful manner, and failure to perform an act required by the duties of the office or by rule established by the city council.
- (r) “Public record” means any writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by a public body in the performance of an official function, from the time it is created. Public record does not include computer software. A Public record is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.
- (s) The word “family” shall include: spouse, child, grandchild, father, mother, grandmother, grandfather, sister, half-sister, brother, half-brother and spouse of any of them, and all such relationships arising from adoption, or as recognized by state law.
- (t) The term “member of the council” shall mean all elected or appointed members of the council.
- (u) The word “situs” shall mean where the property is treated as being located for legal purposes.
- (v) The word “cy pres” shall mean “as near as possible” or “as near as may be.”
- (w) “Department Head” shall include any Police Chief, any Fire Chief, any Public Safety Director, any DPW Superintendent, any WWTP Superintendent, any Planning and Zoning Administrator, and the head of any other department established by the council.

Section 12 DEFINITION OF PUBLICATION AND MAILING OF NOTICES

Unless as otherwise required by law, the requirement contained in this Charter for the publishing or publication of notices, ordinances or proceedings of city council or other city boards, commissions or authorities, shall be met by publishing (a) at least once in a newspaper published in the English language for news of general character, with general circulation at regular intervals in the city for at least one (1) year immediately prior to the publication of the notice (b) by posting in at least three (3) conspicuous places within the city, or (c) by posting on the City's web site, cable site and/or the internet. Prima facie evidence of such publication shall be in the form of an affidavit of the printer or publisher of the newspaper, or his or her foreman or principal clerk attached to a copy of the notice.

In the case in which the charter requires the mailing or posting of notices around the city or on the internet, the affidavit of the officer or employee responsible for such mailing or posting, that such notice was mailed or posted shall be prima facie evidence of such mailing or posting.

Section 13 VESTED RIGHTS

After the effective date of this charter, the city shall be vested with all the property, moneys, contracts, rights, credits, effects and the records, files, books and papers belonging to the Village of Dexter. No right or liability, either in favor or against the village, existing at the time of this charter becomes effective and no suit or prosecution of any character shall in any manner be affected by any change, resulting from the adoption of this charter, but the same shall stand or proceed as if no change had been made. All debts and liabilities of the village shall be the debts and liabilities of the city and all fines and penalties imposed at the time of such change shall be collected.