

PART I - CHARTER  
ARTICLE II. THE COUNCIL

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**ARTICLE II. THE COUNCIL**

**Sec. 2-1. Councilmen; number; qualifications.**

- A. There shall be a city council of eight (8) members, which shall consist of two (2) councilmen from each of the four (4) wards of the city.
- B. Only qualified electors of the city who reside in the respective wards from which they are elected or appointed to fill a vacancy, and who have resided within the city for at least one year at the time of their election or appointment to fill a vacancy, shall be qualified for the offices of councilmen.
- C. A councilman may not hold any administrative office or position in the city government (other than vice-mayor); provided, that nothing in this charter shall prohibit councilmen who are already volunteer firemen when elected or appointed from continuing to serve as volunteer firemen and being paid as such.

**Sec. 2-2. Presiding officer of the council.**

The mayor, or, in his absence, the vice-mayor, shall preside at meetings of the council. In the absence of both the mayor and the vice-mayor, the council may elect a president pro tem to preside over a meeting of the council.

**Sec. 2-3. Mayor and councilmen; compensation; expenses.**

- A. The compensation of the mayor and councilmen shall continue as it is at the time this charter goes into effect until the compensation of the mayor and/or councilmen is changed by ordinance other than an emergency ordinance.
- B. An ordinance changing the compensation of the mayor and/or councilmen shall not change the compensation of any such officer:
  - 1. For his current term of office during which the ordinance is adopted, nor;
  - 2. For the succeeding term of the office when such succeeding term begins within less than three (3) months after adoption of the ordinance.

Such an ordinance, unless it is an initiated ordinance, shall be published in full in a newspaper of general circulation within the city within ten (10) days after its final passage.

- C. The mayor and councilmen may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties.

**Sec. 2-4. Council; powers.**

Except as otherwise provided in this charter, all powers of the city shall be vested in the council. Without limitation of the foregoing, the council shall have power, subject to the state constitution, law, and this charter:

- 1. By ordinance, to enact municipal legislation on any and all subjects and matters within the competence of the city to legislate;
- 2. To adopt the budget, raise revenue, and make appropriations, and to regulate bond elections, the issuance of bonds, sinking funds, the refunding of indebtedness, salaries, wages, and other compensation of officers and employees, and all other fiscal and business affairs of the city;
- 3. To inquire into the conduct of any office, department, or agency of the city government, and to investigate municipal affairs, and for this purpose, to subpoena witnesses, take testimony, and require the production of evidence; and when making such an inquiry or investigation, to elect one of its members president pro tem to preside during such time, if it chooses to do so;
- 4. To appoint or elect and remove its own subordinates, the members of the personnel board, the members of the planning commission, the members of the board of adjustment, and other quasi-legislative, quasi-judicial, or advisory personnel, now or when and if established; or to prescribe the method of appointing or electing and removing them;
- 5. To regulate elections and the recall; and
- 6. To create, change, and abolish all offices, departments, and agencies of the city government other than the offices, departments, and agencies created by this charter; and to assign additional powers and duties consistent with this charter to offices, departments, and agencies created by this charter.

**Sec. 2-5. City clerk; appointment; powers and duties.**

- A. The mayor, with approval of the council, shall appoint, and may remove, the city clerk, unless the council by ordinance provides that the city treasurer shall be city clerk ex officio. The city clerk serves for an indefinite term, and unless his services are sooner terminated, until his successor is appointed and qualifies.
- B. The city clerk shall serve as clerical officer of the council. He shall keep the journal of its proceedings, and shall enroll in a book or books kept for the purpose all ordinances and resolutions passed by it; shall be

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custodian of such documents, records, and archives as may be provided by applicable law or ordinance; shall be custodian of the seal of the city, and shall attest, and affix the seal to, documents when required in accordance with applicable law or ordinance; and shall have such other powers and duties consistent with this charter as may be prescribed by ordinance or applicable law.

**Sec. 2-6. Council; meetings.**

The council shall hold at least one regular meeting every month, at such time and place as it may prescribe by ordinance or otherwise. The mayor or any five (5) councilmen may call special meetings. All meetings of the council, except as otherwise authorized by law, shall be open to public inspection.

**Sec. 2-7. Mayor and councilmen; absences to terminate membership.**

If the mayor or any councilman is absent from more than one-half (½) of all the meetings of the council, regular and special, held within any period of four (4) consecutive calendar months, he shall thereupon cease to hold office.

**Sec. 2-8. Mayor and councilmen; removal.**

The mayor or any councilman may be removed from office for any cause specified by applicable state law for the removal of officers, and by the method or methods prescribed thereby; and may be removed by recall as provided in this charter.

**Sec. 2-9. Mayor and councilmen; vacancies.**

- A. The council, by majority vote of its remaining members, shall fill vacancies in its own membership and in the office of mayor, for the unexpired terms or until successors are elected as provided in this section.
- B. If a vacancy occurs before the beginning of a regular filing period for candidates for councilmen, and the unexpired term extends beyond the time when the terms of councilmen elected that year begin, then a mayor or a councilman for that office, as the case may be, shall be elected at the elections of that year to serve the rest of the unexpired term beginning at the time when he is elected and certified.

**Sec. 2-10. Council; quorum; rules; roll call; vote required.**

A majority of all the members of the council shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may adjourn or recess from time to time. The council may determine its own rules. On the request of the mayor or of any councilman, the vote on any question shall be by roll call, and shall be entered in the journal. The mayor may vote only in case of a tie. Except in cases where the charter or applicable law provides otherwise, an affirmative vote of a majority of those voting on a question shall be sufficient to pass or adopt any resolution, motion, or other action of the council.

**Sec. 2-11. Ordinances; enacting clause.**

The enacting clause of all ordinances passed by the council shall be, "Be it ordained by the Council of the City of Bristow, Oklahoma," and of all ordinances proposed by the voters under their power of initiative, "Be it ordained by the People of the City of Bristow, Oklahoma."

**Sec. 2-12. Ordinances; passage; notice of consideration.**

- A. Every proposed ordinance shall be read in full or by title. At least five (5) affirmative votes are required for the passage of an ordinance; and the five (5) votes may be the affirmative votes of five (5) councilmen or,

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when the councilmen are all present and voting and there is a tie, of four (4) councilmen and the mayor. The vote on passage of every ordinance shall be by roll call, and shall be entered in the journal.

- B. No ordinance except an emergency ordinance passed by unanimous vote of the councilmen present in accordance with Section 2-15 C., shall be passed by the council unless a notice of a time and place of consideration of the proposed ordinance has appeared in a newspaper of general circulation within the city at least twenty-four (24) hours before the consideration.

**Sec. 2-13. Ordinances; veto by mayor.**

- A. The mayor shall have power to veto ordinances. Within seven (7) days after the council passes an ordinance, the mayor shall return it to the council or to the city clerk for transmittal to the council, with or without his approval or with his veto. If he vetoes an ordinance, he shall return with the ordinance and his veto a written statement of the reasons for his veto.
- B. If the mayor approves an ordinance within such seven (7) days, it is deemed to be finally passed as of the time he approves it.
- C. If the mayor vetoes an ordinance, the council may reconsider it; and the council, within not more than five (5) weeks after the mayor returns the ordinance with his veto and the statement of the reasons for his veto to the council or to the city clerk, may pass the ordinance, notwithstanding the mayor's veto, by a vote of at least six (6) councilmen. An ordinance passed over the mayor's veto is deemed to be finally passed when the council passes it over his veto.
- D. If the mayor neither approves nor vetoes an ordinance within seven (7) days after the council passes it, it is deemed to be finally passed as of the time of expiration of the seven (7) days or as of the time when he returns the ordinance to the council or to the city clerk, whichever occurs first.

**Sec. 2-14. Ordinances; publication; when in effect.**

- A. Within ten (10) days after its final passage, every ordinance shall be published in full or by number and title in a newspaper of general circulation within the city.
- B. Every ordinance except an emergency ordinance, so published, shall become effective thirty (30) days after its final passage unless it specifies a later time; provided, that a franchise for a public utility shall not go into effect until the ordinance granting it has been published in full in a newspaper of general circulation within the city and has been approved at an election by a vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting on the question.

**Sec. 2-15. Ordinances; emergency.**

- A. An emergency ordinance is an ordinance which in the judgment of the council is necessary for the immediate preservation of peace, health, or safety, and which should become effective prior to the time when an ordinary ordinance would become effective.
- B. Every such ordinance shall contain, as a part of its title, the words, "and declaring an emergency;" and in a separate section, herein called the emergency section, shall declare the emergency.
- C. An affirmative vote of at least six (6) councilmen shall be required for the passage of an emergency ordinance; provided, that, if notice of consideration of an emergency ordinance has not been published as provided in section 2-12 B., the ordinance must also receive the affirmative vote of each councilman present.
- D. An emergency ordinance shall take effect upon its final passage and publication unless it specifies a later time.

**Sec. 2-16. Ordinances; adoption by reference.**

The council by ordinance may adopt by reference, with or without modification, codes, standards, and regulations relating to building, plumbing, electrical installations, milk and milk products, and other matters which it has power to regulate otherwise. Such code, standard, or regulation so adopted need not be enrolled in the book of ordinances; but a copy shall be filed and kept in the office of the city clerk.

**Sec. 2-17. Ordinances; codification.**

The permanent, general ordinances of the city shall be codified and published in book or pamphlet form at least every ten (10) years unless the council, by use of a loose-leaf or supplement system, provides for keeping this Code up-to-date. The ordinances and parts of ordinances included in this Code may be revised, rearranged, and reorganized; and this Code may contain new matter and this charter. A copy of the published Code shall be filed in the office of the city clerk after the council adopts the Code by ordinance, but this Code need not be enrolled in the book of ordinances.

**Sec. 2-18. Initiative and referendum.**

The powers of the initiative and referendum are reserved to the people of the city. In the exercise of these powers, the requirements of the state constitution and law shall be observed.