



CITY CHARTER

City of Justin, Texas

Submitted and prepared by the
CITY CHARTER COMMISSION

For submission to the voters at the
November 2022 uniform election date



Home Rule Charter – Frequently Asked Questions

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What is Home Rule and how does it differ from General Law?

In general terms, the specific powers of General Law cities are spelled out in the State statutes. These cities are restricted to performing the services and exercising the regulatory powers spelled out in the State law books including the Government Code and the Local Government Code. If there is no State law authorizing or specifically implying authority for a particular General Law city action, none may be taken. The reverse is true for Home Rule cities. Unlike General Law cities, which look to the State to tell them what they may do, Home Rule cities look to the Texas Constitution and State laws to see what they are forbidden to do.

Home Rule was established by Texas voters in 1912 and enabling legislation was passed in 1913.

What is a City Charter?

Home Rule cities must write and adopt a Charter. The Charter is akin to a municipal constitution that is written and adopted by an election of the citizens. The Charter defines and limits the powers, duties and responsibility of local government based on local preferences and desires. It defines the form of local government and establishes organizational provisions. The citizens determine the necessary controls over their city government such as elections, referendums, initiatives, and recall, and define the procedures to amend the Charter. Essentially, the Charter describes and defines local government based on local preferences and controls as opposed to general laws written by the Texas legislature.

- 1) Home Rule is self-governance in its ultimate form. The Charter is written by the citizens, adopted by the citizens and defines the local government. Unlike the general laws of the State, which may address a multitude of conditions faced in many Texas communities, Home Rule Cities define for themselves how they want to be governed.
- 2) Home Rule communities have a variety of tools available to manage the affairs of city government. The Charter provides a local response to the form of government desired by citizens; defines the structure of city government; establishes controls over city finances; and limitations on the powers of city government.

- 3) Initiative, Referendum and Recall are three separate facets of direct democracy reserved for exclusive use by local voters that provide direct remedies in unusual situations. These powers are unique to Home Rule Cities and not available to voters at any other level of government.
 - a) An initiative petition asks the City Council to act on a specific issue when it has not done so previously. If valid, the Council must adopt the petition or submit it to a vote of the people.
 - b) A referendum petition asks the City Council to reverse an action already taken or proposed. The Council can rescind the ordinance that is the subject of the referendum petition or submit it to a vote of the people.
 - c) A recall petition asks the City Council to call an election for a vote to remove one or more Councilmembers and/or the Mayor from office. The targeted official may resign or stand for the recall election.
- 4) As communities grow, they must deal with increasingly complex issues and require flexibility in addressing those issues. The Home Rule Charter provides the flexibility to address the complexity of local government. It is no coincidence that the vast majority of Texas cities that have reached the 5,000-population threshold have elected to pursue their own Home Rule Charter as opposed to remaining a General Law City.
- 5) Once a Charter is adopted, the citizens retain control over the Charter through the amendment process. This ensures the citizens are always in a position to determine the form, power, and authority of their city government.

The following are frequently asked questions to help learn more about a proposed Home Rule Charter.

Why add an additional Council Member?

- Adding a council member expands elected representation to residents, and positions Justin for the growth we're experiencing.
- 6 is the national average of City Council seats, or place numbers.
- There are fewer committees and departments in Justin than a larger city and the city councilmembers thus have a higher workload.
- So that the Mayor can be a voting member and maintain an odd number for voting.

Why majority vote instead of plurality vote?

- To avoid a nominee winning a seat with a minority of the votes cast. For example, a nominee in a field of 3 could win with 34% of the votes.
- A majority vote addresses the issue by ensuring that the number of votes to win must be above 50%.
- This was decided with an eye toward the future. At some point Justin may want to have geographical-represented Council seats; having a majority vote approach to elections positions us to make that move if residents decide in a future review of the HRC to move in that direction.

Why election by place number?

- This relates to the majority/plurality vote question. Having Council positions numbered helps us moving forward since we will be electing half of the positions in any election cycle.
- At-Large place numbers allow councilmembers to be more impartial and rise above the limited perspective of a single district or area and concern themselves with the problems of the whole community.
- If the community becomes larger and more diverse, and a need arises to have councilmembers represent underrepresented districts, some of the place numbers could be changed to districts and some places could remain at large.
- To enable majority voting.

Why a 3-year term for Mayor?

- To provide stability on the council since 1/2 of the council members are up for reelection every two years.
- A better question is why a Council-Manager form of government? (so that the administration of the city is removed from politics; greater attention can be given to appointing a qualified and professional manager; and bad managers can be more easily replaced than recalling a bad Mayor.)
- The Mayor position is crucial to forecasting, visioning and leading Justin to be it's best.
- The Mayor is the face of Justin and by giving that position a longer term than other Council members allows that forecasting, visioning and leadership to develop.

Why a 2-year term for Council Members?

- This mirrors what we currently have, 2-year terms.
- The reasoning for 2 years is to keep the council members close to community interests by requiring them to hear from the voters every two years.

Why term limits? 3 terms for Mayor, 4 terms for Council?

- To increase diversity and encourage new leadership.
- Importantly, terms give more opportunity for a larger group of residents to participate. This helps Justin take advantage of fresh ideas that newly elected representation brings.

Why a 3-year limit on an elected official retaining employment or contract with the City?

- This helps Justin have transparency in government and avoid conflicts of interest.
- Whether it is 3 years or 1 year, there should be some limit to maintain distance between elected officials and contractors. It would avoid a situation where a council member was involved in initiating a project and then jumped off the council and capitalized on a contract with the city.

Why should Council affirm chairperson for the Planning and Zoning Commission?

- Because the P & Z is an important committee and there is a need to make sure it is run professionally by someone experienced.
- As cities grow, adjustments to how Boards and Commissions relate are often made, this adjustment helps provide for a better working relationship while preserving the autonomy of Council and Planning & Zoning.

Why submit a background for candidacy?

- The Committee felt this would verify that a candidate is eligible to serve.
- To screen out those 'moral turpitude' cases. The background check goes a step further than a sworn application statement from the candidate - assuming that a candidate who is morally turpitudinous will lie on the application form about prior convictions, or mental incapacitation, or other qualifications.

Why do we need a Board of Ethics?

- Although there is state law and several provisions in the charter that prohibit unethical conduct related to conflicts of interest, disclosures of financial interests, and sets forth the penalties for those found in violations, it was felt by some that there needs to be a board to allow citizens to bring forth complaints against city officials and to have the complaints investigated.
- In addition, a good board could help train city officials on the soon-to-be-adopted ethics ordinance, especially with new council members and other officials.
- Also, a good board could issue advisory opinions and propose amendments to the ordinance as needed over time.
- The Committee viewed this to hold elected representatives accountable, in a timely manner, should unethical behavior occur.

August 15, 2022

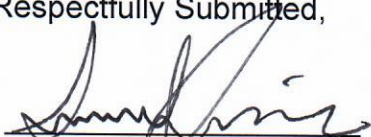
City of Justin City Council
415 N College Avenue
Justin, Texas 76247

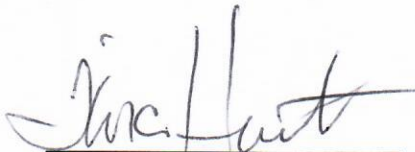
Re: Submission of City Charter

Dear City Council,

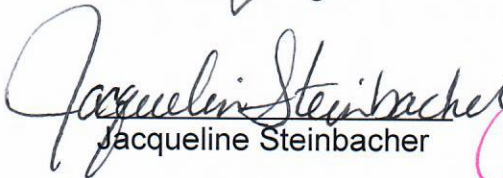
We, the undersigned members of the City of Justin Charter Commission heretofore duly selected by the Mayor of the City of Justin to prepare a Charter for the City of Justin, Texas, do hereby certify that this publication constitutes a true copy of the proposed Charter for the City of Justin, Texas, as adopted by the members thereof.

Respectfully Submitted,


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Tina Huett


Bailey Acosta


Jacqueline Steinbacher


Jennifer Green

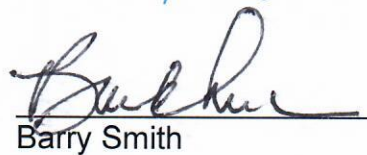

David Beck

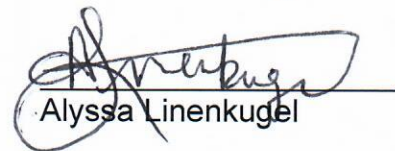

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PREAMBLE

Recognizing that effective government is a government of law, we the people of Justin, Texas establish this Charter as the basic law of our City. This Charter will provide a home rule government which will recognize and protect individual freedom, encourage interest and participation by citizens, serve on behalf of the general welfare, and uphold the Constitution of the United States of America.

ARTICLE I. FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND BOUNDARIES

Section 1.01 Form of government.

The municipal government provided by this Charter, shall be known as the "Council-Manager Government." Pursuant to its provisions, and subject only to the limitations imposed by the State Constitution, state statutes, and by this Charter, all powers of the City shall be vested in an elective council, hereinafter referred to as the "City Council," which shall enact local legislation, adopt budgets, determine policies, and appoint the City officials as noted in this Charter, including the City Manager, who in turn, shall be held responsible to the City Council for the execution of the laws and the administration of the government of 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, the State Constitution, or by state statutes.

Section 1.02 The boundaries.

The citizens of the City of Justin, Denton County, Texas, residing within its corporate limits, excluding its extraterritorial jurisdiction, are hereby constituted and shall continue to be a municipal body politic and corporate, in perpetuity, under the name of the "City of Justin," with such powers, privileges, rights, duties, authorities, and immunities, as are herein provided. The City shall maintain an official map of its boundaries in accordance with state law.

Section 1.03 Extension and reduction of boundaries.

- (1) The city may annex and disannex property by following the procedure and requirements of state law contained in the Texas Local Government Code and other applicable state statutes, as may be from time to time amended.
- (2) Whenever, in the opinion of the City Council, there exists within the corporate limits of the City any territory, either inhabited or uninhabited, not

suitable or necessary for City purposes, or upon a petition signed by a majority of the qualified voters residing in said territory, the Council may, upon a public hearing and by ordinance duly passed, discontinue said territory as part of the City. The City shall comply with all applicable procedural rules and notice requirements set forth in state law.

ARTICLE II. POWERS OF THE CITY

Section 2.01 General powers of the City.

The City shall be an incorporated Home Rule City, and shall have power to ordain and establish such acts, laws, rules, regulations, resolutions and ordinances not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of Texas or this Charter, as shall be needful for the government, interests, health, welfare and good order of said City and its inhabitants. Under the name of the City of Justin, it shall be known in law and have succession and be capable of contracting and being contracted with, suing and being sued, impleading and being impleaded, answering and being answered in all courts and tribunals in all amounts whatsoever, subject to the laws of the State of Texas currently in effect or which shall hereafter be passed.

Section 2.02 Rights reserved.

All suits, taxes, penalties, fines, forfeiture and all other rights, claims and demands of every kind and character which have accrued under the law in favor of the City of Justin shall belong to and vest in said City and shall not abate by reason of the adoption of this Charter, and shall be prosecuted and collected for the use and benefit of the City of Justin and shall not be in any manner affected by the adoption of this Charter; but as to all of such rights, the laws under which they shall have accrued shall be deemed to be in full force and effect.

Section 2.03 Local self-government.

The City of Justin shall possess and may exercise the full power of local self-government. It may hold by gift, deed, devise or otherwise, any character of property, including any charitable or trust fund, and subject to and within the limits superior law may act in perpetual succession as a body politic.

Section 2.04 Specific powers and enabling authority.

The purpose of this Charter is to enlarge the power extended by the general laws of cities incorporated under charter, and to secure to the City of Justin all the powers conferred by the Constitution and laws of this state upon cities having more than five thousand inhabitants. For greater certainty, the following are hereby

especially enumerated and referred to as being among the other powers which are hereby conferred upon and which may be exercised by the City of Justin, to-wit:

- (1) All of the powers conferred upon cities and towns by the laws of the State of Texas and this Charter, except as may hereafter be denied, limited or extended, are hereby conferred upon the City of Justin as fully and completely as if such powers were herein separately enumerated.
- (2) All powers, privileges and immunities conferred upon cities of more than five thousand inhabitants by Article XI, Section 5, of the Texas Constitution and other applicable law hereby conferred upon the city of Justin as fully and completely as if each of said mentioned powers were herein separately enumerated; however, enumeration of special powers herein, or in the statutes referred to, shall not be held or construed to preclude the City from exercising all powers of local government not inhibited by the Constitution, by the laws of the State of Texas, or by this Charter.

Section 2.05 Power to Acquire Property Inside or Outside the City

The City shall have the full power to sell and to acquire by any lawful means, including condemnation, purchase, or exchange, private or public property located inside or outside its corporate limits. The City shall have the full right, power, and authority to exercise the power of eminent domain when necessary for a public purpose and to carry out any of the powers conferred upon it by this Charter or by the Constitution or laws of the State of Texas. The power of eminent domain hereby conferred shall include the right of the City to take fee title and easement interest in the lands so condemned. An affirmative three-fourths vote of the entire membership of the City Council shall be required to authorize the use of eminent domain.

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Section 3.01 Composition, selection, and term.

- (1) The City Council shall be composed of a Mayor and six (6) Councilmembers who are elected by majority vote from the City at large. Each of the six Councilmembers shall be elected to and occupy a place on the City Council with such places being numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.
- (2) The Mayor shall hold office for a three-year term. Each Councilmember shall hold office for a two-year term.
- (3) The Mayor shall be elected at the regular municipal election to be held May 2023 and at each regular municipal election at three-year intervals thereafter.

- (4) Council Place 1, Council Place 2, and Council Place 3 shall be elected at the regular municipal election to be held May 2023 and at each regular municipal election at two-year intervals thereafter.
- (5) Council Place 4, Council Place 5, and Council Place 6 shall be elected at the regular municipal election to be held May 2024 and at each regular municipal election at two-year intervals thereafter.

Section 3.02 Limitation of terms.

- (1) Any person who has served as a Councilmember, regardless of place, for four total terms shall not again be eligible to become a candidate for, or to serve as, a Councilmember. Terms served as Mayor are not included in the calculation of terms under this section.
- (2) Any person who has served as Mayor for three total terms shall not again be eligible to become a candidate for, or to serve as, the Mayor. Terms served as Councilmember are not included in the calculation of terms under this section.
- (3) Terms served to fill a mid-term vacancy shall not be included in the calculation of terms this section.
- (4) Terms served prior to the adoption of this Charter are included in the calculation of terms under this section.
- (5) Terms currently being served at the time of adoption of this Charter are included in the calculation of terms under this section.

Section 3.03 Qualifications of City Council.

In addition to any other qualifications prescribed by law, the Mayor and each Councilmember shall meet the qualifications set forth in Article VI of this Charter while in office.

Section 3.04 Compensation.

Compensation for City Councilmembers shall be \$75.00 per council meeting for which the Councilmember is present, not to exceed \$150.00 per month. The compensation of the Mayor shall be \$125.00 per council meeting for which the Mayor is present, not to exceed \$250.00 per month. For council meetings during which the Mayor Pro-Tem acts as Mayor, that person shall receive \$125.00. The Mayor and City Councilmembers shall be entitled to receive for the conduct of City business the same technological devices which are provided to the City Manager, City Secretary, and/or City department heads. In addition, the City Council shall

also be entitled to reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in the performance of official duties, and other compensation, as may be authorized by the City Council at a regular council meeting.

Section 3.05 Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem.

- (1) The Mayor shall attend and preside at meetings of the City Council. The Mayor shall participate in the discussion of and vote on all matters coming before the City Council. The Mayor shall also represent the City in intergovernmental relationships, present an annual state of the City message, and perform other duties specified by the City Council and/or imposed by this Charter and by ordinances and resolutions passed in pursuance thereof. Additionally, the Mayor may sign, after authorization by the City Council, all contracts and conveyances made or entered into by the City and all bonds, warrants and any other obligation issued under the provisions of this Charter, in the manner prescribed in the ordinance or resolution authorizing the signing of any such obligation. The Mayor shall be recognized as head of the City government for all ceremonial purposes, and by the Governor for purposes of military law, but shall have no regular administrative duties.
- (2) The Mayor Pro-Tem shall be a Councilmember elected annually by the City Council at the first regular meeting after each election of Councilmembers and/or Mayor, or at the first regular meeting in June. The Mayor Pro-Tem shall act as Mayor during the disability or absence of the Mayor, and in this capacity shall have the rights conferred upon the Mayor.

Section 3.06 Vacancies, forfeiture and filling of vacancies.

- (1) The office of a Councilmember or the Mayor shall become vacant upon his or her death, resignation, forfeiture of, or removal from office by any manner authorized by law.
- (2) If any member of the City Council is absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings or 50 percent of the regular council meetings within a 3-month period, the Mayor shall call a hearing of the City Council to determine whether the office of such Councilmember should be declared vacant. The public hearing may be held at a regularly scheduled City Council meeting. The City Secretary shall notify the Councilmember subject of the hearing of the date and time of the hearing. The hearing may not take place less than seven days after the date the Councilmember is notified of the hearing. At the public hearing, such Councilmember shall have the opportunity to present evidence to justify any absences. After the hearing, a majority of the remaining members of the City Council may declare, by resolution, the office vacant.

- (3) Any person on the City Council who ceases to possess the required qualifications for office or who is convicted of any felony, or of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or is convicted of violating any state laws regulating conflicts of interest of municipal officers shall immediately forfeit his or her office.
- (4) If there is a vacancy in the office of Mayor, a new Mayor shall be elected by special election within one hundred twenty (120) days after such vacancy occurs, in accordance with the Texas Constitution and the Texas Election Code, as amended. Vacancies filled by special election shall be for the remainder of the term that was vacated.
- (5) If a vacancy occurs in an office of Councilmember, the City Council shall, at a public hearing, appoint a person to the vacant office by a majority vote of all remaining Councilmembers. A person appointed to a vacated office under this subsection may serve until the next regular municipal election, at which point the vacated office will be filled by election of the voters. Any person who is elected to a vacated Councilmember office midterm shall serve only the remainder of the regular term. A person appointed by this subsection shall meet all requirements and qualifications of the Charter as stated in this article.

Section 3.07 Powers of the City Council.

All powers of the City and the determination of all matters of policy shall be vested in the City Council. Except where in conflict with and otherwise expressly provided by this Charter, the City Council shall have all powers authorized to be exercised by the Constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Texas. Without limitation of the foregoing and among the other powers that may be exercised by the City Council, the following are hereby enumerated for greater certainty:

- (1) appoint and remove the City Manager;
- (2) appoint and remove the Municipal Judge(s) of the Municipal Court;
- (3) appoint and remove the City Attorney;
- (4) designate items to appear on a future agenda of a City Council meeting for consideration and/or discussion;
- (5) establish administrative departments;
- (6) adopt the budget of the City;
- (7) collectively inquire into the conduct of any office, department or agency of the City and make investigations as to municipal affairs;

- (8) provide for a Planning and Zoning Commission, a Board of Adjustment and other boards and commissions as deemed necessary, and appoint the members of all such boards and commissions. Such boards and commissions shall have all powers and duties now or hereafter conferred and created by this Charter, by City ordinance or by law;
- (9) adopt and modify the official map of the City;
- (10) adopt, modify, and carry out plans in cooperation with the Planning and Zoning Commission for the replanning, improvement and redevelopment of specific areas of the City;
- (11) adopt, modify, and carry out plans in cooperation with the Planning and Zoning Commission for the replanning, reconstruction or redevelopment of any area or district which may have been destroyed in whole or part by disaster;
- (12) regulate, license, and fix the charges or fares made by any person owning, operating or controlling any vehicle of any character used for the carrying of passengers for hire on the public streets and alleys of the City;
- (13) provide for the establishment and designation of fire limits and prescribe the kind and character of buildings or structures or improvements to be erected therein; provide for the erection of fireproof buildings within certain limits; and provide for the condemnation of dangerous structures, dangerous buildings or dilapidated buildings or buildings determined to increase the risk of fire hazard, and for the manner of their removal or destruction;
- (14) fix and regulate rates and charges of all utilities and public services;
- (15) approve plats, unless the City Council votes to vest this authority to the Planning and Zoning Commission or City Staff; and
- (16) retain exclusive domain, control and jurisdiction in, upon, over, and under all highways, alleys, streets, gutters and sidewalks, situated in the City, subject to the limitations of the Texas Transportation Code, including, but not limited to, the power to layout, establish, open, alter, widen, lower, extend, grade, drain, abandon, and improve highways, streets, alleys, sidewalks, squares, parks, public places, and bridges and regulate the use thereof including, among other things, by establishing regulations relating to vehicle speed as permitted by State law.

Section 3.08 Prohibitions.

- (1) Except where authorized by law or by this Charter, no Mayor or Councilmember shall hold any other City office or City employment during his or her term as Mayor or Councilmember. No former Mayor or Councilmember shall hold:
 - (A) any compensated appointive office or City employment that is directly appointed by the City Council until three (3) years after the expiration of the term for which they were elected or appointed to the City Council; or
 - (B) any compensated appointive office or City employment that is not directly appointed by the City Council until one (1) year after the expiration of the term for which they were elected or appointed to the City Council.
- (2) For a period of three (3) years after the expiration of the term of office, no former Mayor or Councilmember shall be eligible to enter into a contract for the purchase of real property, personal property, or services with the City if the former Mayor or Councilmember has a substantial interest, as defined by State law, in the business entity or real property subject of the contract. This prohibition applies to the extent that state law would have required the official to abstain from voting on approval of the contract while in office because of such substantial interest.
- (3) Members of the City Council shall not in any way dictate the appointment or removal of the City administrative officers or employees appointed by the City Manager or any of the City Manager's subordinates. The City Council, at a meeting called for that purpose, may express its views and fully and freely discuss with the City Manager anything pertaining to appointment and removal of such officers and employees.
- (4) Except for the purpose of inquiries and investigations as provided by this Charter, the City Council shall deal with City officers and employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the City Manager solely through the City Manager. The City Council shall not give orders to any such officer or employee, either publicly or privately, except as otherwise provided in this Charter.

Section 3.09 Meetings of the City Council.

- (1) The City Council shall hold at least one (1) regular meeting each month, and as many additional meetings as it deems necessary to transact the business of the City. The City Council may set the date and time of the meetings by ordinance.

- (2) Special meetings of the City Council shall be held at the call of the Mayor or three Councilmembers upon provision of public notice in accordance with state law.
- (3) Except as provided by state law, all City Council meetings shall be open to the public and shall be held and notice given in accordance with state law.

Section 3.10 Quorum.

Four (4) members of the City Council, including the Mayor and Councilmembers, shall constitute a quorum to do business. No action of the City Council, except as specifically provided in this Charter, shall be valid or binding unless adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the City Council present and qualified to act. A number less than a quorum may adjourn from time to time and compel the attendance of absent members. If the City Council is reduced to less than four (4) members on account of vacancies or other disqualifications, the remaining members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transaction of business.

Section 3.11 Conflict of interest.

Should any person on the City Council have a conflict of interest pursuant to any state laws and/or City ordinances regulating conflicts of interest of municipal officers with an agenda item then before the City Council, he or she shall openly declare same before discussion proceeds, and he or she is thereby prohibited from discussing the item or voting on the question.

Section 3.12 Abstention.

Unless there is a declared and recorded statutory conflict of interest, every person on the City Council shall vote on all issues.

Section 3.13 Rules of procedure.

The City Council shall determine, which may be done by ordinance, resolution or otherwise, its own rules of order and business. The City Council shall provide that the citizens of the City shall have a reasonable opportunity to clearly hear and be heard at public hearings with regard to specific matters under consideration. The City Council shall provide for minutes to be taken and recorded for all public meetings as required by law. Such minutes shall be a public record and shall be kept and maintained by the City Secretary.

Section 3.14 Passage of ordinances in general.

- (1) The City Council shall legislate by ordinance only, and the enacting clause of every ordinance shall read "Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of

Justin, Texas...” Each proposed ordinance shall be introduced in the written or printed form required for adoption. All ordinances shall contain a title or caption that fairly and accurately identifies the subject(s) addressed in the ordinance. General appropriation ordinances may contain various subjects and accounts for which monies are to be appropriated. After adoption, an ordinance shall not be amended or repealed except by the adoption of another ordinance amending or repealing the original ordinance. Copies of any proposed ordinance, in the form required for adoption, shall be furnished to the City Council. Copies of the proposed ordinance, in the form required for adoption, shall be available at the City offices and shall be furnished to citizens upon request to the City Secretary from and after the date on which such proposed ordinance is posted as an agenda item for a City Council meeting and, if amended, shall be available and furnished in amended form for as long as the proposed ordinance is before the City Council.

- (2) Unless it be declared on its face an emergency measure adopted pursuant to this section, each ordinance shall be considered and passed at two (2) sessions of the City Council. A reading by descriptive caption only shall be sufficient. An emergency ordinance may be adopted at any City Council meeting at which it is introduced and become effective upon its adoption only if such emergency ordinance:
 - (A) is necessary to meet public emergencies affecting life, health, property, or the public peace;
 - (B) does not levy taxes, regulate land use, grant or renew or extend a franchise, or regulate the rate charged by any public utility for its services; and
 - (C) is plainly designated in the title as an emergency ordinance and contains after the enacting clause a declaration stating that an emergency exists and describing the emergency in clear and specific terms.
- (3) Unless otherwise required by law, every ordinance shall become effective upon adoption or at any later time(s) specified in the ordinance, except that every penal ordinance imposing any penalty, fine or forfeiture shall become effective only after having the descriptive title or caption of the same published at least one time after final passage on the City’s official website and in a newspaper designated as the official newspaper of the City.
- (3) If a majority of the City Council present at a City Council meeting request that the ordinance title and caption or its entirety be read, it must be read.

Section 3.15 Authentication, recording, codification, printing, and distribution.

- (1) All ordinances and resolutions adopted by the City Council shall be authenticated by seal and signature of the person performing the duties of the City Secretary and numbered consecutively as adopted. They shall be properly indexed and placed in a book kept open for public inspection.
- (2) The City Council may codify the ordinances of the City. If adopted, the codification shall be known and cited as “Code of Ordinances, City of Justin, Texas” and shall be in full force and effect without the necessity of such code or any part thereof being published in any newspaper. The caption, descriptive clause, and other formal parts of the ordinances of the City may be omitted without affecting the validity of such ordinances when codified. Every general ordinance enacted subsequent to such codification shall be enacted as an amendment to the code. For the purpose of this section, general ordinances shall be deemed to be those ordinances of a permanent or continuing nature which affect the residents of the City at large. Copies of the code shall be furnished to City Officers, placed in City offices, and made available for purchase by the public at a reasonable price to be determined by the City Council, not to exceed the costs permitted by state law.
- (3) The City Council shall cause all ordinances and amendments to this Charter to be printed promptly following their adoption. A copy of each ordinance and Charter amendment shall be placed in appropriate City offices for public reference. Printed ordinances and Charter amendments shall be sold to the public at a reasonable price to be determined by the City Council, not to exceed the costs permitted by state law.

Section 3.16 Investigations by the City Council.

The City Council by the affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the City Council shall have the power to inquire into the official conduct of any department, agency, office, officer, or employee of the City. For that purpose, the City Council shall have the power to administer oaths, subpoena witnesses and compel the production of books, papers, or other evidence material to the inquiry. Minutes and records created and collected during the course of investigation shall be kept in the City’s usual course of business. The City Council shall provide, by ordinance, penalties for contempt for failing or refusing to obey any such subpoena or to produce any such books, papers, or other evidence, and shall have the power to punish any such contempt in the manner provided by the ordinance.

Section 3.17 Bond.

The City Council shall require bonds of all municipal officers and employees who receive or pay out any monies of the City. The amount of the bonds shall be determined by the City Council and the cost shall be borne by the City.

Section 3.18 Interim government.

- (1) The Mayor and members of the City Council holding office at the time of passage of this Charter shall continue to hold their respective offices until the respective term for which they were elected expires.
- (2) From and after the date of the adoption of this Charter and until the completion of the first city election under this Charter, the present qualified and acting Mayor and five Councilmembers shall constitute the City Council of the City of Justin for all purposes under this Charter. During such time, the Mayor will only vote on matters in case of a tie.

ARTICLE IV. CITY ADMINISTRATION

Section 4.01 City Manager.

- (1) The City Council shall appoint, upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the City Council, a City Manager who shall serve as Chief Administrative Officer of the City. The City Manager shall be responsible to the City Council for administration of all the affairs of the City, with only those exceptions that are named in this Charter. The City Manager shall be appointed solely upon the City Manager's executive, administrative, and educational qualifications. The City Manager need not be a resident of the City when appointed, but shall within a reasonable time after such appointment, not to exceed twelve (12) months, reside within the City or the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction during the balance of the tenure of his or her appointment.
- (2) The City Council shall fix the compensation of the City Manager, and the City Manager's compensation may be amended, from time to time, in accordance with the City Manager's experience, qualifications, and performance.
- (3) The City Manager shall be appointed for an indefinite term, and may be removed, with or without cause (subject to any contractual arrangements that may exist between the City and the City Manager), at the discretion of the City Council by the affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the City Council. Upon decision to remove the City Manager, written notice of such decision shall be furnished to him or her.

- (4) In case of the absence, disability, or suspension of the City Manager, the City Council may designate a qualified administrative officer of the City to perform the duties of the office.
- (5) The City Manager shall:
 - (A) appoint, suspend, and remove all City employees and appointive administrative officers provided for in this Charter, except as otherwise provided by law, this Charter or personnel rules adopted pursuant thereto;
 - (B) have the authority to delegate the appointment, suspension, or removal of City employees and appointive administrative officers to department heads;
 - (C) direct and supervise the administration of all departments, offices, and agencies of the City, except as otherwise provided by law or this Charter;
 - (D) see that all state laws and City ordinances are effectively enforced;
 - (E) attend all City Council meetings, with the right to take part in discussion, but the City Manager shall not vote;
 - (F) prepare and accept, or designate an appropriate department head or City employee to prepare and accept, items for inclusion in the official agenda of all City Council meetings and meetings of all boards and commissions;
 - (G) prepare and recommend to the City Council the annual budget and capital program, and administer the budget as adopted by the City Council;
 - (H) keep the City Council fully advised at least quarterly as to the financial conditions and future needs of the City;
 - (I) make such recommendations concerning the affairs of the City, as the City Manager or the City Council deems desirable or necessary;
 - (J) make reports as the City Manager or the City Council may require concerning the operations of the City departments, offices, or agencies subject to the City Manager's direction or supervision;
 - (K) perform such other duties as are specified in this Charter or may be required by the City Council, and are consistent with this Charter or state or federal law; and
 - (L) prepare personnel rules subject to the approval of the Council.

Section 4.02 City Secretary.

- (1) The City Manager shall appoint or remove, with or without cause, the City Secretary.
- (2) The City Manager is authorized to appoint a qualified interim City Secretary when necessary.
- (3) The City Manager shall fix the compensation of the City Secretary, and the City Secretary's compensation may be amended, from time to time, in accordance with the City Secretary's experience, qualifications, and performance.

- (4) The City Secretary shall:
- (A) give notice of all official public meetings of the City Council in a manner consistent with this Charter and state laws;
 - (B) attend all public meetings and hearings of the City Council;
 - (C) keep the minutes of the proceedings of all public official meetings and hearings of the City Council in a manner prescribed by the City Council consistent with applicable law;
 - (D) act as custodian of all official records of the City Council;
 - (E) hold and maintain the seal of the City and affix this seal to all appropriate documents;
 - (F) authenticate by signature and seal and record all ordinances, resolutions, and proclamations of the City; and
 - (G) perform such other duties as may be required by the City Manager consistent with this Charter and the laws of the State of Texas.

Section 4.03 Municipal Court.

- (1) There shall be established and maintained a Municipal Court. The Court shall have all the powers and duties as are now, or as may be, prescribed by the laws of the State of Texas.
- (2) The City Council shall appoint by the affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the City Council such Municipal Judge(s) and Alternate Municipal Court Judge(s) of the Municipal Court as may be necessary, all of whom shall be competent, duly qualified attorneys licensed and practicing for at least two (2) years in the State of Texas, except as provided in this charter. The Municipal Judge(s) of the Municipal Court(s) shall be appointed to a term of two (2) years and may be appointed to additional consecutive terms upon completion of the term of office. The appointment of the Municipal Judge(s) may be terminated, with or without cause, at any time by the affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the City Council. The Municipal Judge(s) shall receive compensation as may be determined by the City Council.
- (3) The Court Administrator and Deputy Clerks of the Municipal Court(s) shall have the power to administer oaths, certify affidavits, make certificates, affix the seal of the Court, and perform all usual and necessary clerical acts in conducting the business of the Court(s), including but not limited to, the keeping of records and accounts of the Municipal Court(s).

Section 4.04 City Attorney.

- (1) The City Council shall appoint by the affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the City Council a competent, duly qualified licensed and practicing attorney in the State of Texas who shall serve as the City Attorney.

- (2) The City Attorney shall:
 - (A) serve as the legal advisor to the City Council and City Manager;
 - (B) represent the City in litigation and legal proceedings as directed by the City Council and the City Manager; and
 - (C) review and provide opinions as requested by the City Council or City Manager on contracts, legal instruments, ordinances of the City, and other City business.
- (3) The City Council shall have the right to retain special counsel at any time that it may deem necessary and appropriate.
- (4) The City Attorney and Special Counsel shall receive compensation as may be determined by the City Council.
- (5) The City Attorney, with approval of the City Council, may select additional attorneys to act for the City in representation and/or litigation.
- (6) The City Attorney may be removed, with or without cause, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the City Council.

Section 4.05 Administrative departments, offices and agencies.

- (1) The City Council may, after hearing recommendations of the City Manager, establish, abolish, redesignate, and/or combine departments, offices or agencies in addition to those provided for by this Charter, and may prescribe the functions and duties of such departments, offices, and agencies.
- (2) Except as provided elsewhere in this Charter, all departments, offices, and agencies of the City shall be under the direction and supervision of the City Manager, and shall be administered by officers appointed by and subject to the direction and supervision of the City Manager. The City Manager may, with the consent of the City Council, serve as the head of one (1) or more City departments, offices, or agencies or appoint one (1) person as head of two (2) or more of them.
- (3) The City Manager may appoint a City Tax Collector, whose duties and functions shall be those usual to the office and consistent with existing or future laws of the State of Texas as they may apply to City or County Tax Collectors. The City Manager may recommend that the City Council enter into an outside contract for such services.

Section 4.06 Personnel system.

- (1) Personnel rules shall be prepared by the City Manager and presented to the City Council, who may adopt them by ordinance, with or without amendment. The adopted rules shall establish the City as an Equal Opportunity Employer and shall govern the equitable administration of the personnel system of the City.
- (2) The adopted rules shall provide for the following requirements:
 - (A) a pay and benefit plan for all City employment positions;

- (B) a plan for working hours, attendance policy and regulation, and provision for sick and vacation leave;
 - (C) procedure for the hearing and adjudication of grievances;
 - (D) additional practices and procedures necessary to the beneficial and equitable administration of the City's personnel system;
 - (E) a plan for annual oral and written evaluation based on a job description for all City employees by their immediate supervisor, including evaluation of the City Manager, Municipal Judge, and City Attorney by the City Council; and
 - (F) a clear and concise statement that all City employees are at-will employees.
- (3) The only City employee who may have an employment agreement with the City, subject to the discretion of the City Council, is the City Manager.
- (4) The City shall provide public notice announcing the resignation or termination of the following positions:
- (A) City Manager;
 - (B) City Secretary;
 - (C) any department head;
 - (D) Chief of Police;
 - (E) City Attorney;
 - (F) Fire Chief; and
 - (G) Municipal Court Judge.

ARTICLE V. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Section 5.01 General authority compose

- (1) The City Council shall create, establish, or appoint boards, commissions, and committees as it deems necessary to carry out the functions and obligations of the City. The City Council shall, by ordinance or resolution, prescribe the purpose, composition, function, duties, accountability, and tenure of each board, commission, and committee where such are not prescribed by law or this Charter.
- (2) All boards, commissions, or committees of the City shall keep and maintain minutes of any proceedings held and shall promptly submit the minutes of such proceedings to the City Council.
- (3) No officer or employee of the City or any person who holds a compensated appointive position with the City shall be appointed to any board, commission, or committee

created or established by state law or this Charter other than in an advisory and/or ex officio capacity.

Section 5.02 Planning and Zoning Commission.

- (1) There is hereby established a Planning and Zoning Commission, which shall consist of at least seven (7) members who shall be appointed by the City Council to staggered terms of two (2) years in accordance with any ordinance adopted by the City Council. The Commission members shall be registered voters who reside within the City. Any vacancy occurring during the unexpired term of a member shall be filled by the City Council for the remainder of the unexpired term. In January of each year, the Commission shall elect from its members a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, who shall serve in those roles for one (1) year beginning in January. The City Council shall affirm by majority vote the selection of the chairperson. Members of the Commission may be removed, with or without cause, by an affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the City Council.
- (2) The Commission shall meet at least once a month. The Commission shall keep minutes of its proceedings which shall be of public record. Minutes will be recorded. The Commission shall serve without compensation.
- (3) A majority of the full membership of the Commission members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transaction of business. No action or recommendation of the Commission, except as specifically provided in this Charter, shall be valid or binding unless adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Commission members present. The Chairman shall be a voting member of the Commission. If the Vice-Chairman presides over the meeting in the Chairman's absence, the Vice-Chairman shall vote.

Section 5.03 Planning and Zoning Commission – duties and powers.

- (1) The Commission shall be responsible to and act as an advisory board to the City Council. The Commission shall:
 - (A) review all current and proposed ordinances and amendments pertaining to planning and zoning and make recommendations to the City Council for action to be taken;
 - (B) make proposals to the City Council to amend, extend and add to the Comprehensive Plan for the physical development of the City;
 - (C) keep public records of its resolutions, findings, and determinations; and
 - (D) review plats and zoning requests and make recommendations to the City Council for their final approval of same.
- (2) The Commission shall have full power to:

- (A) exercise the authority of the Commission as provided by state law, this Charter, and City ordinances;
- (B) make reports and recommendations relating to the Comprehensive Plan and development of the City; and
- (C) approve plats, site plans, and landscape plans if it has been given that authority by the City Council.

Section 5.04 Planning and Zoning Commission – procedure.

- (1) All rules and regulations adopted by the Commission shall be forwarded in writing to the City Manager who shall submit them to the City Council with the City Manager's recommendations. The City Council may amend, adopt, or reject any such rules or regulations. If any rules or regulations should be rejected, the Commission may modify them and submit such modified rules and recommendations to the City Council.
- (2) Should any person on the Commission have a conflict of interest pursuant to any state laws and/or City ordinances regulating conflicts of interest of municipal officers with an agenda item then before the Commission, such person shall disclose the conflict to the other members of the Commission and is thereby prohibited from discussing or voting on the item.
- (3) Should any person on the Commission present at meeting choose to abstain from voting on any question before the Commission, where no conflict of interest exists, the person's vote shall be recorded as a negative vote in the official minutes of the meeting.

Section 5.05 The comprehensive plan: procedure and legal effect.

- (1) The Comprehensive Plan shall include, but not be limited to, the Future Land Use Plan and the Thoroughfare Plan. The existing Comprehensive Plan for the physical development of the City contains recommendations for the growth, development, and beautification in the City and in its extraterritorial jurisdiction. Additions to and amendments of the Comprehensive Plan shall be by ordinance. Before any revision of the Comprehensive Plan, the Commission shall hold at least one (1) public hearing on the proposed action.
- (2) A copy of the proposed revisions to the Comprehensive Plan shall be forwarded to the City Manager who shall submit the proposal to the City Council, together with the currently approved Comprehensive Plan and the City Manager's recommendations, if any. The City Council shall hold a public hearing, and shall adopt or reject such proposed revision or any part thereof as submitted within sixty (60) days following its submission by the City Manager. If the proposed revisions or any part thereof are rejected by the City Council, the City Council may request the Commission to make other modifications and again forward it to the City Manager for submission to the City Council.

- (3) Following the adoption by the City Council of the Comprehensive Plan, and any revisions thereto, it shall serve as a guide to all future City Council action concerning land use and development regulations and expenditures for capital improvements.

ARTICLE VI. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 6.01 City elections.

- (1) All City elections shall be conducted in accordance with the Texas Election Code, as amended.
- (2) The regular City election shall be held annually on the May uniform election date or such other date as required by the Texas Election Code, as amended. The City Council shall be responsible for specification of places for holding such elections.
- (3) The City Council may by resolution or ordinance order a special election for purposes consistent with this Charter and laws of the State of Texas. The City Council will fix the time and places for such a special election, and provide all means for holding same.
- (4) Municipal elections shall be conducted by election officials appointed by the City Council, or as prescribed by law. Sample ballots identical in format to those used in the specific election shall be posted in the voting place(s) for the purpose of voter orientation.
- (5) All municipal elections shall be publicized in accordance with the Texas Election Code, as amended.
- (6) A sample ballot shall be published as required by law, provided on the City's official website, and posted at City Hall such that it is readily accessible to the general public.

Section 6.02 Filing for office.

- (1) Candidates for elective City offices shall file for office in accordance with the Texas Election Code, as amended.
- (2) Candidates for elective City offices shall:
 - (A) be at least eighteen (18) years of age at the time of the election for which they are filing;
 - (B) meet all requirements to be a qualified voter set forth in the Texas Election Code at the time of the election for which they are filing;
 - (C) have resided within the corporate limits of the City, or recently annexed territory, for at least twelve (12) months immediately preceding election day;
 - (D) not have been finally convicted of a felony offense or a misdemeanor offense involving moral turpitude from which the person had not been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disability (for purposes of this Home Rule

Charter, a crime of moral turpitude shall mean a criminal offense involving fraud, deceit, dishonesty or a criminal offense that is inherently immoral); and

(E) comply with all other City ordinances or resolutions that may be applicable.

- (3) No employee of the City shall continue in such position after filing for an elective office provided for in this Charter.
- (4) No candidate may file in a single election for more than one (1) office or position as provided by this Charter.
- (5) A candidate must provide along with the application for office consent for a background investigation. Such investigation shall be limited in scope to confirm compliance with this section.

Section 6.03 Official ballots.

- (1) The name of each candidate seeking elective office, except those who have withdrawn, died, or become ineligible and who are authorized to have their names removed from the ballot consistent with state law, shall be printed on the official ballot in the form designated by the candidate in accordance with the Texas Election Code, as amended. If two (2) or more candidates have the same surname, each of those candidates may have printed a brief distinguishing description or title, not to exceed four words, following the candidate's name. Such description may only refer to the candidate's residence addresses, or present or former profession, occupation, or position.
- (2) The order of the names of the candidates on the ballot shall be determined by lot in a public drawing to be held under the supervision of the City Secretary in accordance with the Texas Election Code, as amended.
- (3) Procedures for voting by absentee ballot shall be consistent with the Texas Election Code, as amended.
- (4) An ordinance, bond issue, or Charter amendment to be voted on by the voters of the City shall be presented for voting by a clear, concise statement of the proposition that is approved by the City Council and describes the substance of the measure without argument or prejudice.
- (5) Procedures for write-in votes shall be consistent with the Texas Election Code, as amended.

Section 6.04 Official results.

- (1) The candidate for elective office receiving more than fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast shall be declared the winner. In the event that no candidate receives more than fifty percent (50%) of all votes cast for the office of Mayor or Councilmember place, the City Council shall, upon completion of the official canvass of the ballots, issue a call for a runoff election to be held within thirty (30) days following the issuance of such call, or in accordance with the Texas Election Code, as amended. At such runoff

election, the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes (or three (3) persons in case of tie for second place) for such office in the general election shall be voted for again.

- (2) The returns of every municipal election shall be handled in accordance with the Texas Election Code, as amended. These returns shall be delivered from the election judges to the City Secretary and the Mayor at City Hall as soon as possible after the closing of the polls. Election returns, general and special, shall be presented to the City Council at its next meeting following the election, at which time the City Council shall canvass and declare the results of the election, which shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Section 6.05 Taking of office.

- (1) Each newly elected person to the City Council shall be inducted into office at the first regular City Council meeting following the election.
- (2) At such meeting the oath shall be in accordance with state law.

ARTICLE VII. RECALL, INITIATIVE, AND REFERENDUM

Section 7.01 Basis for recall.

Specific acts of malfeasance, incompetence, moral turpitude, or ethical failures, as defined by Texas law, conviction of violations of criminal law, excluding Class C misdemeanors and traffic violations, or failure to comply with the provisions of this Charter constitute basis for a recall. The basis for recall shall be specifically stated in the petition and be in sufficient detail so as to allow the official who is the subject of the recall petition to be informed as to the allegations against him or her. A separate petition is required for the recall of each elected official. The statement of the basis for recall must be accompanied by all factual supporting documents relied upon by the petitioner to justify recall.

Section 7.02 Petitions for recall.

Before the question of recall of a Councilmember or Mayor may be submitted to the registered voters of the City, a petition demanding such question must be signed by either thirty percent (30%) of the number of ballots cast in the last general Municipal election for that position or three hundred fifty (350) registered voters, whichever is greater.

Section 7.03 Form of recall petition.

A recall petition submitted pursuant to this article must be addressed to the City Council and must distinctly and specifically point to each of the grounds upon which the petition for removal is predicated with sufficient certainty so as to give the officer notice of the matters with which the officer is charged. Each signer of a recall petition shall

provide all requisite information as required by the Texas Election Code, as amended, and this Charter. The petition shall be verified by oath in the following form:

State of Texas County of

I, _____, being first duly sworn, on oath depose and say that I am one of the signers of the above petition, that I reside at _____, that the statements made therein are true, and that each signature appearing thereto was made in my presence on the day and date it purports to have been made, and I solemnly swear that the same is the genuine signature of the person it purports to be.

Signature

Sworn and subscribed before me this ____ day of _____, 20____.

Signed
Notary Public in and for
State of Texas

Section 7.04 Various papers constituting recall petition.

The petition may consist of one (1) or more copies, or subscription lists, circulated separately, and the signatures thereto may be upon the paper or papers containing the form of petition, or upon other paper attached thereto. Verifications provided for in Section 7.03 of this Article may be made by one (1) or more petitioners, and the several parts of copies of the petition may be filed separately and by different persons. No signatures to such petition shall remain effective or be counted which were placed thereon more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of such petition or petitions with the City Secretary. All papers comprising a recall petition shall be filed with the City Secretary on the same day, and the City Secretary shall immediately notify, in writing, the officer so sought to be removed, by mailing such notice to the officer's City address.

Section 7.05 Review and presentation of petition.

The City Secretary shall review the sufficiency of all recall petitions and verify the number of valid signatures. If the City Secretary verifies that a recall petition meets all of the requirements of this article, the City Secretary shall present such petition to the City Council within twenty-one (21) days after the date the papers constituting the recall petition were filed.

If the City Secretary deems that a petition is insufficient, the city secretary shall, within twenty-one (21) days after the date of the papers constituting the recall petition were filed,

notify in writing each person who verified the petition. Such notification must identify the reasons why the petition failed to meet the requirements of this article. Nothing in this article prevents a citizen from resubmitting a recall petition that corrects the errors or omissions identified by the City Secretary.

Section 7.06 Public hearing to be held.

The officer whose removal is sought may, within seven (7) days after such recall petition has been presented to the City Council, request that a public hearing be held to permit him or her to present the facts pertinent to the charges specified in the recall petition. In this event, the City Council shall order such public hearing to be held, not less than five (5) days nor more than fifteen (15) days after receiving such request for a public hearing.

Section 7.07 Calling of recall election.

If the officer whose removal is sought does not resign, then the City Council shall order an election and set the date for holding such recall election. The date selected for the recall election shall be in accordance with the Texas Election Code, as amended. If after the recall election date is established, the officer vacates his or her position, the election shall be cancelled.

Section 7.08 Ballots in recall election.

Ballots used at recall elections shall conform to the following requirements:

- (1) With respect to each person whose removal is sought, the question shall be submitted:

“Shall _____ be removed from the office of _____ by recall?”

- (2) Immediately below each such question there shall be printed the following words, one above the other, in the order indicated:

“Yes”

“No”

Section 7.09 Result of recall election.

If a majority of the votes cast at a recall election are “No”, that is against the recall of the person named on the ballot, the officer shall continue in office for the remainder of the unexpired term, subject to recall as before. If a majority of the votes cast at such election are “Yes”, that is for the recall of the person named on the ballot, the officer shall, regardless of any technical defects in the recall petition, be deemed removed from office and the vacancy shall be filled by the City Council as provided in this Charter. Elected officials thus removed shall not be allowed to succeed themselves.

Section 7.10 Recall, restrictions thereon.

No recall petition shall be filed against any officer of the City within six (6) months after the officer's election, nor within three (3) months after an election for such officer's recall.

Section 7.11 Failure of the city council to call a recall election.

When all the requirements of this Charter have been met and the City Council fails or refuses to receive the recall petition, or order such recall election, or discharge any other duties imposed on the City Council by the provisions of this Charter with reference to such recall, then a citizen may file with the appropriate court for a writ of mandamus to order the execution of the duties herein provided to be discharged by the City Secretary or by the City Council.

Section 7.12 Power of initiative and referendum.

The registered voters of the City shall have the power of direct legislation by initiative and referendum, except as follows.

- (1) Initiative: Such power shall not extend to the budget, the capital program, any ordinance not subject to initiative as provided by state law, the appropriation of money, the issuance of bonds, the levy of taxes, personnel matters, rates and charges for utilities, zoning amendments, and amendments of the City's comprehensive plan.
- (2) Referendum: Such power shall not extend to the budget, the capital program, any emergency ordinance, any ordinance not subject to referendum as provided by state law, the appropriation of money, the issuance of bonds, the levy of taxes, rates and charges for utilities, zoning amendments, and amendments of the City's comprehensive plan.

Section 7.13 Initiative.

Following a review by the City Attorney for enforceability and legality, registered voters of the City may initiate legislation by submitting a petition addressed to the City Council which requests the submission of a proposed ordinance or resolution to a vote of the registered voters of the City. Initiative petitions are subject to the limitations of Section 7.12 and must be signed by twenty percent (20%) of the registered voters of the City, or five hundred (500), whichever is greater, and each copy of the petition shall have attached to it a copy of the proposed legislation. The petition shall be signed in the same manner as recall petitions are signed, as provided in this Article, and shall be verified by oath in the manner and form provided for recall petitions in this Article. The petition may consist of one (1) or more copies as permitted for recall petitions. Such petition shall be filed with the City Secretary.

The City Secretary shall review the sufficiency of all initiative petitions and verify the number of valid signatures. If the City Secretary verifies that an initiative petition meets

all of the requirements of this article, the City Secretary shall, within twenty-one (21) days after the filing of such petition, present said petition and proposed ordinance or resolution to the City Council. Upon presentation to the City Council, it shall become the duty of the City Council, within two (2) regularly scheduled City Council meetings after the receipt thereof, to pass and adopt such ordinance or resolution without alteration as to meaning or effect in the opinion of the persons filing the petition, or to call a special election to be held on the next uniform election date as provided by the Texas Election Code, as amended, at which the registered voters of the City shall vote on the question of adopting or rejecting the proposed legislation. Any election order so issued shall comply fully with the Texas Election Code, as amended. Unless otherwise provided by law, any election for an initiative under this Charter shall be held on the first authorized uniform election date that occurs after the sixty-second (62nd) day after the petition was presented to the City Council.

If the City Secretary deems that a petition is insufficient, the city secretary shall, within twenty-one (21) days after the date the initiative petition was filed, notify in writing the persons who filed the petition. Such notification must identify the reasons why the petition failed to meet the requirements of this article. Nothing in this article prevents a citizen from resubmitting an initiative petition that corrects the errors or omissions identified by the City Secretary.

Section 7.14 Referendum.

Subject to the limitations of Section 7.12, Registered voters of the City may require that an ordinance or resolution passed by the City Council be submitted to the voters of the City for approval or disapproval by submitting a petition for this purpose within thirty (30) days after final passage of said ordinance or resolution. Said petition shall be addressed, signed, and verified as required in this Charter and shall be submitted to the City Secretary. Said petition must be signed by twenty percent (20%) of the registered voters of the City, or five hundred (500), whichever is greater.

The City Secretary shall review the sufficiency of all referendum petitions and verify the number of valid signatures. If the City Secretary verifies that a referendum petition meets all of the requirements of this article, the City Secretary shall, within twenty-one (21) days after the filing of such petition, present said petition to the City Council. Thereupon the City Council shall immediately reconsider such ordinance or resolution. If the City Council does not entirely repeal the same, the City Council shall submit it to popular vote as provided in this Charter. Pending the holding of such election, each ordinance or resolution shall be suspended from taking effect. An ordinance or resolution subject to a vote under this section shall not take effect until and unless a majority of the registered voters vote in favor of said ordinance or resolution. Unless otherwise provided by law, any election for a referendum under this Charter shall be held on the first authorized uniform election date that occurs after the sixty-second (62nd) day after the petition was presented to the City Council.

If the City Secretary deems that a petition is insufficient, the city secretary shall, within twenty-one (21) days after the date the referendum petition was filed, notify in writing the

persons who filed the petition. Such notification must identify the reasons why the petition failed to meet the requirements of this article. Nothing in this article prevents a citizen from resubmitting an referendum petition that corrects the errors or omissions identified by the City Secretary.

Section 7.15 Voluntary submission of legislation by the city council.

The City Council, upon its own motion and by the affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the City Council, may submit to popular vote at any election for adoption or rejection any proposed ordinance or resolution or measure, or may submit for repeal any existing ordinance, or resolution, or measure, in the same manner and with the same force and effect as provided in this Article for submission of petition, and may at its discretion call a special election for this purpose.

Section 7.16 Form of ballots.

The ballots used when voting upon a proposed and referred ordinance, resolutions, or measures, shall set forth their nature sufficiently to identify them and shall also set forth upon separate lines the words:

“For the Ordinance” or

“Against the Ordinance” or

“For the Resolution” or

“Against the Resolution”

Section 7.17 Publication of proposed and referred ordinances.

The City Secretary of the City shall publish at least once in the official newspaper of the City and on the City’s official website, the proposed or referred ordinance or resolution within fifteen (15) days before the date of the election, and shall give such other notices and do such other things relative to such election as are required by law in municipal elections and by the ordinance or resolution calling said election.

Section 7.18 Adoption of ordinances.

If a majority of the registered voters voting on any proposed ordinance or resolution or measure shall vote in favor thereof, it shall thereupon or at any time fixed therein become effective as a law or as a mandatory order of the City Council.

Section 7.19 Inconsistent ordinances.

If the provisions of two (2) or more proposed ordinances or resolutions approved at the same election are inconsistent, the ordinance or resolution receiving the highest number of votes shall prevail.

Section 7.20 Ordinances passed by popular vote, repeal or amendment.

No ordinance or resolution which may have been passed by the City Council upon a petition or adopted by popular vote under the provisions of this Article shall be repealed or amended except by the City Council in response to a referendum petition or by submission as provided by Section 7.15 of this Charter.

Section 7.21 Further regulations by the City Council.

The City Council may pass ordinances or resolutions providing other and further regulations for carrying out the provisions of this Article consistent herewith.

Section 7.22 Failure of the City Council to call an election-initiative or referendum.

When all of the requirements of this Charter have been met and the City Council fails or refuses to receive the initiative or referendum petition, or order such initiative or referendum election, or discharge any other duties imposed on the City Council by the provisions of this Charter with reference to such initiative or referendum, then a citizen may file with the appropriate court for a writ of mandamus to order the execution of the duties herein provided to be discharged by the City Secretary or by the City Council.

ARTICLE VIII. FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

Section 8.01 Fiscal year.

The fiscal year of the City shall begin on the first day of October and end on the last day of September on the next succeeding year. Such fiscal year shall also constitute the budget and accounting year.

Section 8.02 Duties of the City Manager.

- (1) The City Manager shall:
 - (A) prepare the budget annually;
 - (B) submit the proposed budget to the Council in compliance with state law;
 - (C) be responsible for the administration of the budget after it is adopted; and
 - (D) keep the City Council advised of the financial condition and future needs of the City and make such recommendations as may seem desirable.
- (2) The budget shall provide a complete financial plan for the fiscal year. The budget must meet all state law requirements and shall contain, but not be limited to the following:
 - (A) a budget message that consists of an outline explaining the proposed financial policies of the City for the upcoming fiscal year;

- (B) a consolidated statement of anticipated receipts and proposed expenditures of all funds;
- (C) tax levies and tax collections from the previous fiscal year;
- (D) an itemized budget of expenses by department;
- (E) a revenue and expense statement for all types of bonds; and
- (F) other such information as may be required by City Council.

Section 8.03 Anticipated revenues compared with other years in budget.

The City Manager in the preparation of the budget shall place in parallel columns opposite the various items of revenue all of the following:

- (A) the actual amount of each item of revenue for the last completed fiscal year;
- (B) the estimated amount for the current fiscal year; and
- (C) the proposed amount for the ensuing fiscal year.

Section 8.04 Proposed expenditures compared with other years.

The City Manager in the preparation of the budget shall place in parallel columns opposite the various items of expenditures:

- (A) the actual amount of each expenditure for the last completed fiscal year;
- (B) the estimated amount for the current fiscal year; and
- (C) the proposed amount for the ensuing fiscal year.

Section 8.05 Public record.

The budget and all supporting schedules shall be filed with the City Secretary and submitted to the City Council. The budget shall be a public record and a copy of the budget shall be made available to any person upon request.

Section 8.06 Notice and public hearing on budget.

At the meeting of the City Council at which the budget is submitted, the City Council shall determine the time and place of a public hearing on the budget. The Council shall cause a notice of the hearing, setting forth the time, place and date, to be published as required by law. At the time and place set forth in the notice or at any time and place to which such public hearing shall from time to time be adjourned, the City Council shall hold a public hearing on the budget submitted and all interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard for or against any item or the amount of any item therein contained.

Section 8.07 Proceeding on adoption of budget.

After public hearing, the City Council shall analyze the budget, making any additions or deletions which they feel appropriate, and shall, prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year, adopt the budget by the affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the City Council. Should the City Council take no final action on or prior to such day, the current budget shall be in force on a month-to-month basis until a new budget is adopted.

Section 8.08 Budget, appropriation and amount to be raised by taxation.

On final adoption, the budget shall be in effect for the budget year. Final adoption of the budget by the City Council shall constitute the official appropriations as proposed by expenditures for the current year and shall constitute the basis of official levy of the property tax as the amount of tax to be assessed and collected for the corresponding tax year. Unused appropriations may be transferred to any item required for the same general purpose.

Section 8.09 Transfer of appropriations.

During the fiscal year, the City Council shall have the power to transfer funds allocated by the budget to one activity, function, or department to another activity, function, or department, and to re-estimate revenues and expenditures.

Section 8.10 Amending the budget.

Under conditions which may arise and which could not reasonably have been foreseen in the normal process of planning the budget, the City Council may, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the City Council, amend or change the budget to provide for any additional expense in which the general welfare of the citizenry is involved. These amendments shall be by ordinance, and shall become an attachment to the original budget.

Section 8.11 Certification; copies made available.

A copy of the budget, as finally adopted, shall be filed with the City Secretary, and such other places required by state law, and as the City Council shall designate. The final budget shall be printed or otherwise reproduced and sufficient copies shall be made available for the use of all offices, agencies, and for the use of interested persons and civic organizations.

Section 8.12 Defect shall not invalidate the tax levy.

Errors or defects in the form or preparation of the budget or the failure to perform any procedural requirements shall not nullify the tax levy or the tax rate.

Section 8.13 Lapse of appropriations.

Every appropriation, except an appropriation for a capital expenditure, shall lapse at the close of the fiscal year to the extent that it has not been expended or encumbered.

An appropriation for a capital expenditure shall continue in force until the purpose for which it was made has been accomplished or abandoned. The purpose of any such appropriation shall be deemed abandoned if three (3) years pass without any disbursement from or encumbrance of the appropriation. Any funds not expended, disbursed, or encumbered shall be deemed excess funds.

Section 8.14 Borrowing.

The City shall have the power to borrow money on the credit of the City and to issue or incur bonds and other evidences of indebtedness to finance public improvements or for any other public purpose not prohibited by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas and to issue refunding bonds to refund outstanding bonds and other evidences of indebtedness of the City previously issued. All such bonds and other evidences of indebtedness shall be issued in conformity with the laws of the State of Texas and may be secured by or paid, in whole or in part, from ad valorem tax revenues, revenues derived from other taxing powers of the City, revenues derived by the City from any fee or service charge, including revenues derived from the operations of any public utilities, utility systems, recreational facilities, or any other municipal function to the extent not prohibited by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas. Such bonds or evidences of indebtedness may be a charge upon and payable from the properties, or interest therein pledged, or the income therefrom, or both to the extent not prohibited by the Constitution or laws of the State of Texas. The proceeds of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness issued or incurred by the City shall be used only for the purpose for which the bonds or other indebtedness was issued or incurred.

Section 8.15 Purchasing.

- (1) The City Council may by ordinance, give the City Manager general authority to contract for expenditures without further approval of the City Council for all budgeted items not exceeding limits set by the City Council within the ordinance.
- (2) All contracts for expenditures or purchases involving more than the limits must be expressly approved in advance by the City Council. All contracts or purchases involving more than the limits set by the City Council shall be awarded by the City Council, in accordance with state law.
- (3) Emergency contracts as authorized by law and this Charter may be negotiated by the City Council or City Manager if given authority by the City Council, without competitive bidding, and in accordance with state law. Such emergency shall be declared by the City Manager and approved by the City Council, or may be declared by the City Council.

Section 8.16 Depository.

All monies received by any person, department, or agency of the City for or in connection with the affairs of the City shall be deposited promptly in the City depository or depositories. The City depositories shall be designated by the City Council in

accordance with such regulations and subject to the requirements as to security for deposits and interest thereon as may be established by ordinance and law. Procedures for withdrawal of money or the disbursement of funds from the City depositories shall be prescribed by ordinance.

Section 8.17 Independent audit.

At the close of each fiscal year, and at such other times as may be deemed necessary, the City Council shall call for an independent audit to be made of all accounts of the City by a certified public accountant. The certified public accountant selected shall have no direct or indirect personal interest in the financial affairs of the City or any of its officers. The report of audit, with the auditor's recommendations will be made to the City Council. Copies of the completed audit shall be placed on file in the office of the City Secretary, and shall be a public record.

Section 8.18 Power to tax.

- (1) The City shall have the power to levy, assess, and collect taxes of every character and type for any municipal purpose not prohibited by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, as amended.
- (2) The City shall have the power to grant tax exemptions in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas.

Section 8.19 Office of Tax Collector.

There shall be an office of taxation to collect taxes, the head of which shall be the City Tax Collector. The City Council may contract for such services.

Section 8.20 Taxes; when due and payable.

- (1) All taxes due in the City shall be payable at the office of the City Tax Collector, or at such location or locations as may be designated by the City Council, and may be paid at any time after the tax rolls for the year have been completed and approved. Taxes for each year shall be paid before February 1 of the next succeeding year, and all such taxes not paid prior to that date shall be deemed delinquent, and shall be subject to penalty and interest as the City Council shall provide by ordinance. The City Council may provide discounts for the payment of taxes prior to January 1 in amount not to exceed those established by the laws of the State of Texas.
- (2) Failure to levy and assess taxes through omission in preparing the appraisal rolls shall not relieve the person, firm, or corporation so omitted from obligation to pay such current or past due taxes as shown to be payable by recheck of the rolls and receipts for the years in question, omitting penalty and interest.

Section 8.21 Tax liens, liabilities, and suits.

- (1) All taxable property located in the City on January 1 of each year shall stand charged from that date with a special lien in favor of the City for the taxes due. All persons

purchasing any such property on or after January 1 in any year shall take the property subject to the liens provided above. In addition to the liens herein provided, on January 1 of any year, the owner of property subject to taxation by the City shall be personally liable for the taxes due for that year.

- (2) The City shall have the power to sue for and recover personal judgment for taxes without foreclosure, or to foreclose its lien or liens, or to recover both personal judgment and foreclosure. In any such suit where it appears that the description of any property in the City appraisal rolls is insufficient to identify such property, the City shall have the right to plead a good description of the property to be assessed, to prove the same, and to have its judgment foreclosing the tax lien or for personal judgment against the owners for such taxes.

ARTICLE IX. UTILITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE FRANCHISES AND LICENSES

Section 9.01 Authority.

The City shall have the power to buy, own, sell, construct, lease, maintain, operate, and regulate public services and utilities and to manufacture, distribute, and sell the output of such services and utility operations. The City shall not supply any utilities service outside the City limits, except by a written contract. The City shall have such regulatory and other power as it may now or hereafter be granted under the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas.

Section 9.02 Ordinance granting franchise.

No franchise shall be granted for a term of more than twenty (20) years from the date of the grant, renewal or extension of any franchise.

Section 9.03 Transfer of franchise.

No public service or utility franchise is transferable, except with the approval of the City Council. However, the franchisee may pledge franchise assets as security for a valid debt or mortgage.

Section 9.04 Franchise value not to be allowed.

Franchises granted by the City are of no value in fixing rates and charges for public services or utilities within the City or in determining just compensation to be paid by the City for property which the City may acquire by condemnation or otherwise.

Section 9.05 Right of regulation.

In granting, amending, renewing, and extending public service and utility franchises, the City reserves unto itself all the usual and customary rights, including, but not limited to, the following rights:

- (1) to repeal the franchise by ordinance for failure to begin construction or operation within the time prescribed, or for failure to comply with terms of the franchise;
- (2) to require all extensions of service within the City limits to become part of the aggregate property of the service and operate subject to all obligations and reserved rights contained in this Charter (any such extension is considered included in the terms of the original grant of franchise and shall be terminable at the same time and under the same conditions as the original grant);
- (3) to require expansion and extension of facilities and services and to require maintenance of existing facilities to provide adequate service at the highest level of efficiency;
- (4) to require reasonable standards of service and quality of product and prevent rate discrimination;
- (5) to impose reasonable regulations and restrictions to insure the safety and welfare of the public;
- (6) to examine and audit accounts and records and to require annual reports on local operations of the public service or utility as may be allowed by law;
- (7) to require the franchisee to restore, at franchisee's expense, all public or private property to a condition as good as or better than before disturbed by the franchisee for construction, repair or removal of facilities;
- (8) to require the franchisee to furnish to the City, within a reasonable time following request of the City, at franchisee's expense a general map outlining current location, character, size, length, depth, height and terminal of all facilities over and under property within the City and its extraterritorial jurisdiction;
- (9) to require compensation, rent or franchise fees to be paid to the City as may be permitted by the laws of the State of Texas;
- (10) to require the franchisee to give notice to any subscriber to its services prior to permanent or temporary discontinuance of such service by the franchisee, except in cases of emergency, and to require that no officer, agent, servant or employee of the franchisee nor any vehicles under their control shall make use of, go upon or cross any private property without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant, except in cases of emergency, and to provide a penalty for the violation of such requirements.;
- (11) to require every franchisee to indemnify and hold harmless the City against any liability, claims or damages (including attorney's fees and expenses) for injury to persons, including death, or damages to any property, arising out of any intentional

or negligent act or omission of the franchisee, or any of its officers, agents, or employees, in connection with the franchisee's construction, maintenance and operation of the franchisee's facilities in the City.

Section 9.06 Regulation of rates.

- (1) The City Council has the power to fix and regulate the rates and charges of all utilities and public services, consistent with state statutes.
- (2) Upon receiving written request from a utility or public service requesting a change in rates, or upon a recommendation from the City, that rates for services provided by or owned by the City be changed, the City Council shall call a public hearing for consideration of the change.
- (3) A holder of a franchise to provide a public service or utility in the City must show the necessity for the change in rates by any evidence required by the City Council, including but not limited to, the following:
 - (A) cost of its investment for service to the City;
 - (B) amount and character of expenses and revenues connected with rendering the service;
 - (C) copies of any reports or returns filed with any state or federal regulatory agency within the last three (3) years; or
 - (D) demonstration that the return on investment, if any, is within state and federal limitations.
- (4) If not satisfied with the sufficiency of evidence, the City Council may hire rate consultants, auditors and attorneys to investigate and, if necessary, litigate requests for rate changes, the expense of which shall be reimbursed to the City by the franchisee.

Section 9.07 Licenses.

The City shall have the power to license, levy, and collect fees in order to license any lawful business, occupation or calling subject to control pursuant to the police powers of the State of Texas and for any other purpose not contrary to the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas.

ARTICLE X. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 10.01 Public records.

All records of the City shall be open to inspection in accordance with state law.

Section 10.02 Official newspaper.

The City Council shall declare an official newspaper of general circulation in the City. All ordinances, notices and other matters required by this Charter, City ordinance, or the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas shall be published in the official newspaper, posted at City Hall such that it is readily accessible to the general public, and as required by state law.

Section 10.03 Oaths.

All elected and appointed officers of the City shall take and sign:

- (A) an oath of office as prescribed for state elective and appointive offices in the Constitution of the State of Texas; and
- (B) an oath to adhere to the City's Code of Ethics.

Section 10.04 Severability.

If any section or part of this Charter is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not invalidate or impair the validity, force, or effect of any other section or part of this Charter.

Section 10.05 Wording interpretation.

The gender of the wording throughout this Charter shall always be interpreted to mean either sex. All singular words shall include the plural and all plural words shall include the singular. All references to the state law or laws of the State of Texas, however expressed in this Charter, shall mean "as presently enacted or as may be amended or superseded". The use of the word "City" in this Charter shall mean the City of Justin, Texas, and the use of the word "Charter" shall mean this Home Rule Charter. Any reference to the word "day" or "days" herein shall mean calendar day or calendar days, respectively, unless otherwise expressly provided.

ARTICLE XI. LEGAL PROVISIONS

Section 11.01 Assignment, execution and garnishment.

- (1) Property, real and personal, belonging to the City shall not be liable to be sold or appropriated under any writ of execution or cost bill. Funds belonging to the City in the hands of any person, firm, or corporation, shall not be liable to garnishment, attachment, or sequestration; nor shall the City be liable to garnishment, attachment, or sequestration; nor shall the City be liable to garnishment on account of any debt it may owe or funds or property it may have on hand owing to any person. Neither the City nor any of its officers or agents shall be required to answer any such writ of garnishment on any account whatsoever.

- (2) The City shall not be obligated to recognize any assignment of wages or funds by its employees, agents or contractors, except as provided by the laws of this State or the United States of America.

Section 11.02 Security and bond.

It shall not be necessary in any action, suit, or proceeding, in which the City is a party, for any bond, undertaking, or security to be demanded or executed by or on behalf of the City. All such actions shall be conducted in the same manner as if such bond, undertaking, or security had been given as required by law.

Section 11.03 Notice of claim.

The City shall not be held liable on account of any claim for the death of any person or injuries to any person or damage to any property unless the person making such complaint or claiming such damages shall, within sixty (60) days after the time at which it is claimed such damages were inflicted upon such person or property, file with the City a written statement, under oath, stating the nature and character of such damages or injuries, the extent of the same, the place where same happened, the circumstances under which same happened and the condition causing same, with a detailed statement of each item of damages and the amount thereof, giving a list of any witnesses known by the claimant to have seen the accident.

Section 11.04 Power to settle claims.

The City Council shall have the power to compromise and settle any and all claims and lawsuits of every kind and character, in favor of, or against, the City, including suits by the City to recover delinquent taxes.

Section 11.05 Service of process against the City.

All legal process against the City shall be served upon either the City Secretary or the City Manager.

Section 11.06 Judicial notice.

This Charter shall be deemed a public act, may be read in evidence without pleading or proof, and judicial notice shall be taken thereof in all courts and places.

Section 11.07 Pending matters.

All rights, claims, actions, orders, contracts, and legal or administrative proceedings shall continue except as modified pursuant to the provisions of this Charter and in each case shall be maintained, carried on or dealt with by the City department, office or agency appropriate under this Charter.

Section 11.08 Property not exempt from special assessments.

No property of any kind, by whomsoever owned or held or by whatsoever institution, agency, political subdivision or organization, owned or held, whether in trust or by non-profit organization, or corporation, or by foundation, or otherwise, (except property of the City), shall be exempt in any way from any of the special taxes, charges, levies and assessments, authorized or permitted by this Charter for local improvements for the public welfare.

Section 11.09 City Council may require bonds.

In addition to any provisions contained herein, the City Council may require any City official, department director, or City employee, before entering upon his or her duties, to execute a good and sufficient bond with a surety company doing business in the State of Texas and approved by the City Council. The premium of such bond shall be paid by the City.

Section 11.10 Disaster clause.

In case of disaster, when a legal quorum of the City Council cannot otherwise be assembled due to multiple deaths or injuries, the surviving members of the City Council, highest surviving City official, and the County Judge of Denton County or his/her designee, must within twenty-four (24) hours of such disaster, appoint a five (5) member commission, which would include any surviving elected City officials, to govern the City, respond to the emergency, and call a City election within fifteen (15) days of such disaster, or as provided in the Texas Election Code, as amended, for election of a required quorum, if for good reasons it is known a quorum of the present City Council will never again meet.

Section 11.11 No waiver of immunity.

Nothing in this Charter is intended to waive the City’s governmental immunity from suit and/or damages.

ARTICLE XII. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Section 12.01 Effective date.

This Charter or any amendments hereto shall take effect immediately following adoption by the voters, as prescribed by state law.

Section 12.02 Continuation of operation.

All City ordinances, bonds, resolutions, rules and regulations in force on the effective date of this Charter shall remain in force until altered, amended, or repealed by the City

Council, and all rights of the City under existing franchises and contracts are preserved in full force and effect.

Section 12.03 Officers and employees.

Except as specifically provided, nothing in this Charter shall affect or impair the rights or privileges of persons who are City officers or employees at the time of its adoption. Upon adoption of this Charter, the person then serving as the City Manager shall be deemed to be the City Manager.

Section 12.04 Persons serving on boards.

Persons serving on any board at the time of the adoption of this Charter shall continue to serve on the board to which they were appointed until their terms shall have expired or until their successors shall have qualified.

Section 12.05 Municipal Court Judge.

The Municipal Court Judge serving at the time of the adoption of this Charter shall be qualified to serve as the presiding Municipal Court Judge until such time that he is removed or replaced as the Presiding Judge.

Section 12.06 Councilmember Offices.

Upon the adoption of this charter, the places for City Council offices shall be assigned to the Councilperson, or the person who was elected or appointed to replace such Councilperson, as follows:

- (A) Place 1: vacant until May 2023 election.
- (B) Place 2: the Councilmember who received the highest number of votes for Councilmember in the May 2021 election.
- (C) Place 3: the Councilmember who received the second-highest number of votes for Councilmember in the May 2021 election.
- (D) Place 4: the Councilmember who received the highest number of votes for Councilmember in the May 2022 election.
- (E) Place 5: the Councilmember who received the second-highest number of votes for Councilmember in the May 2022 election.
- (F) Place 6: the Councilmember who received the third-highest number of votes for Councilmember in the May 2022 election.

ARTICLE XIII. ETHICS, PROHIBITIONS, AND PENALTIES

Section 13.01 Nepotism.

No person related within the second degree by affinity or within the third degree by consanguinity to the City Manager or any elected official shall be employed by the City. The nepotism prohibition shall not apply to the following:

- (1) any person employed by the City for six (6) months prior to a close relative related within the prohibited degree being appointed to City Manager; or
- (2) any person who serves in an unpaid capacity with the City.

Section 13.02 Equality of rights.

Equality of rights under state and federal law shall not be denied, abridged, or compromised with respect to appointment to or removal from any position.

Section 13.03 Wrongful influence.

No person who seeks appointment or promotion with respect to any City position shall directly or indirectly give, render, or pay any money, service, or other valuable thing to any person for, or in connection with, such person's test, appointment, or promotion.

Section 13.04 Wrongful interference.

No person shall willfully make any false statement, certificate, mark, rating or report in regard to any test, certification or appointment or attempt to commit any fraud preventing the impartial execution of the personnel provisions, rules and regulations of this Charter.

Section 13.05 Employee's political activities.

No person who holds any compensated non-elective City position shall make, solicit, or receive any contribution for any candidate for public office in the City, or take part in the management, affairs, or political campaign of such candidate. Such person may exercise his or her rights as a citizen to express his or her opinion and cast his or her vote.

Section 13.06 Conflict of interest.

No officer, whether elected or appointed, or any employee, whether full or part-time, of the City shall have a substantial financial interest, direct or indirect, in any contract, other than employment contracts, with the City; or have a substantial financial interest, direct or indirect, in the sale to the City of any land, materials, supplies or services, except on behalf of the City as an officer or employee, except as allowed by state law. Any willful violation of this section shall constitute malfeasance in office and any officer or employee found guilty thereof shall thereby forfeit his or her office or position. Any violation of this section with the knowledge, express or implied, of the person or the corporation

contracting with the governing body of the City shall render the contract involved voidable by the City Manager or the City Council.

Section 13.07 Penalties.

Any person who willfully engages in and is found in violation of any of the activities prohibited by this Article shall thereafter be ineligible for appointment or election to any position of the City. If the person is an officer or employee of the City at the time of the violation, he or she shall immediately forfeit his or her office or position, if found in violation.

Section 13.08 Code of Ethics; Board of Ethics.

- (1) The City Council shall adopt a code of ethics. The ethics ordinance shall prohibit the use of public office for private gain and shall incorporate the conflict of interest standards that appear in state law as presently exist or may be hereafter amended or adopted. The Council may adopt more stringent standards than those that appear in state law, but the ethics ordinance shall at a minimum include the following components:
 - (A) definition of a prohibited improper economic interest and personal gain;
 - (B) definition of recusal and improper participation when a potential conflict of interest is present;
 - (C) avoidance of appearance of conflict of interest; and
 - (D) administration and enforcement of ethics ordinance, including the power to subpoena witnesses and documents, coupled with strong and meaningful remedies for infraction.
- (2) No more than 30 days after the May 2023 regular City election, the City Council shall create a Board of Ethics, which shall consist of five regular members and up to three alternate members. Each board member shall be appointed by the affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the City Council. Any person wishing to serve as a board member must meet the eligibility requirements for elected office under this charter and shall submit to the City Council an application that demonstrates such person's qualifications to serve.
- (3) Any person may file a complaint asserting a violation of the code of ethics. The Board shall have jurisdiction to conduct investigations and make recommendations on any complaint filed.

ARTICLE XIV. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT OF CHARTER

Section 14.01 Amending the Charter.

Amendments to this Charter may be framed and submitted to the voters of the City in the manner provided by Chapter 9 of the Texas Local Government Code, as amended, but not more often than once every two (2) years, as provided by the laws of the State of Texas.

Section 14.02 Charter Review Commission.

The City Council may appoint a Charter Review Commission, composed of nine (9) registered voters of the City of Justin, Texas, which shall not include any past or present member of the City Council.

Section 14.03 Review of the Charter.

A regular review of this Charter will begin no later than May 1, 2024, and at least every six (6) years thereafter.